

J&K WEATHER ALERT

MET Warns Of Heavy Rainfall, Disruptions



File Photo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Meteorological Department (MET) on Wednesday issued a weather advisory predicting light to moderate rain and thunderstorms across Jammu & Kashmir, with heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated to scattered places, particularly in the Jammu Division, over the next 48 hours. Director MET, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad said that from July

23-24, districts including Poonch, Rajouri, Ramban, Reasi, Udhampur, Jammu, and Kathua are expected to receive intense showers. "A few areas in the Kashmir Division may also experience moderate to intense rainfall," he said.

From July 25-27, the weather is expected to turn hot and humid, with only brief showers at isolated places. However, from July 28-30, intermittent light to moderate rain | [More on P6](#)

2 Killed In Reasi Landslide

Two men were killed after a landslide triggered by heavy rains hit their tent in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said on Wednesday. The incident took place near a shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva in the Badora mountainous belt of Mahore tehsil during the intervening night of Tuesday and | [More on P6](#)

Mudslides Block NH-44

Torrential rains triggered mudslides at multiple locations in Jammu's Ramban district on Wednesday, leading to the temporary closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) and leaving hundreds of commuters, including Amarnath pilgrims, stranded. Officials said a major mudslide struck near the Magerkote viaduct tunnel, followed by another at Seri, blocking the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir to | [More on P6](#)

CAT Allows 7 Candidates To Participate In J&K CC Mains

M Ahmad

Srinagar, July 22: Central Administrative Tribunal has directed Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission to provisionally allow at least seven candidates to appear in J&K Combined Competitive (Mains) Examination.

A Bench of M. S. Latif (Member-J) and Prasant Kumar (Member-A) passed the orders after hearing counsel for the parties, perusal of the material and an order passed by Jammu bench of CAT, giving similar relief to a batch of candidates.

"We, accordingly, order that the respondents (JKPSC) will provisionally permit the petitioners to participate in the J&K Combined Competitive



Mains Examination, 2024 and the respondents, shall, accordingly accept their application forms."

In its objections, JKPSC submitted that in terms of rule 10-C of the J&K Public Service Commission Conduct of Examination Rules, 2022, the provisional Answer Keys for General Studies Paper - I and Paper - II were uploaded on

the official website of JKPSC on 23 February 2025 and immediately after the conduct of examination, objection were invited from the candidates within three days.

It said that the experts recommended changes in certain answers and JKPSC, as per rules and established procedure, accepted the recommendations and accordingly notified the Final Answer Key.

The JKPSC contended that change in merit position of the candidates about the final answer key cannot be termed as arbitrary and mala fide and the initial answer keys were clearly notified as 'Provisional' and subject to objections/review.

Counsel for JKPSC on being confronted by the bench if the representations | [More on P6](#)

J&K'S DRUG CRISIS

Over 1.12 Lakh Kg Drugs Seized, 10,000 Arrested Since 2018: Govt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a massive surge in drug seizures, arrests, and rehabilitation cases over the last seven years, according to a detailed response tabled in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the Union Territory has witnessed a persistent rise in narcotics trafficking, illegal cultivation, and substance abuse cases over the past five years.

Citing data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the minister said drug seizures saw a sharp rise from 2018 to 2020, followed by a gradual decline in subsequent years. In 2018, authorities seized 19,353 kilograms of narcotics, 87,713



File Photo

units, and nearly 8,000 litres of psychotropic substances.

Seizures surged in 2019 and peaked in 2020, when over 27,000 kilograms of drugs and more than 40,000 litres of liquid narcotics were confiscated. From 2021 onwards, the volume of seized substances declined, though officials believe trafficking has continued through more concealed methods.

Arrests under | [More on P6](#)

- » 1.12 lakh+ kg narcotics seized since 2018
- » Peak seizure in 2020: 27,000+ kg & 40,000+ litres liquid drugs
- » Nearly 10,000 arrested under NDPS Act
- » Highest arrests in 2022: 3,453
- » 893 acres poppy destroyed in 2020
- » 900+ acres cannabis destroyed in 2023; nearly 1,000 in 2024
- » 83,208 treated at de-addiction centres since 2020
- » De-addiction cases rose: 1,500 (2020-21) 35,000+ (2024-25)
- » IMHANS treated 9,387 addiction cases since 2021
- » IMHANS registrations fell: 3,334 (2022-23) 1,389 (till Jan 2025)
- » 17 suicides linked to drug/alcohol use since 2018



Over 10K Visit Cave Shrine On Day 20

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Over 10,000 pilgrims on Wednesday paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir, taking the total number of devotees to 3,42,657, officials said.

A total of 10,828 pilgrims had darshan at the 3800-metre high holy cave shrine on Wednesday, they said.

The officials said the yatris included 8,461 men, 1,802 women, three transgenders, 89 children, 56 sadhus, two sadhvis, and 415 security forces personnel.

So far, a total of 3,42,657 pilgrims have visited the cave shrine since the yatra started on July 3, they added.

While the footfall at the shrine remained | [More on P6](#)

Assault On SMHS Doctor Sparks Protest, Patient Care Paralyzed

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Tensions ran high at Srinagar's Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital on Wednesday after a violent assault on a resident doctor triggered a dramatic protest by medical staff, who shut the hospital's main gates and brought patient services to a grinding halt. The action led to scenes of chaos and despair, with ambulances stranded and hundreds of patients left unattended.

The flashpoint came after Dr. Shah Nawaz, a resident doctor, was allegedly attacked by a patient's attendant.

"The incident took place at around 12:15 am on Tuesday. I was at the medical reception



File Photo

when the patient was brought in. After assessing the patient, his vitals were not recorded, and he was sent to the triage room for further investigation. Unfortunately, the patient later died," Dr. Shah Nawaz said.

Following the death, tensions escalated. "An attendant

in his 40s came and kicked me. There are no consultants, CMOs, or security personnel present at night, making it extremely risky for us to work under such conditions," he added.

Calling for concrete safeguards, he continued: "We want a clear | [More on P6](#)

No J&K Voice In VP Poll As RS Seats Vacant

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir will have no voice in the election of India's 15th Vice President, as all four of its Rajya Sabha seats continue to lie vacant, a status unchanged for the past four years.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned on July 21 citing health reasons, creating a vacancy during the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament. Just two days later, the Election Commission of India initiated the process for electing his successor.

The Vice President is elected by an electoral college comprising 788 members of both Houses of Parliament, 543 from the Lok Sabha and 245 from the Rajya Sabha, as per Articles 63 to 71 of the Constitution and the Vice-President (Election) Rules, 1974. However, due to existing vacancies, only 782 members will participate in this election. With one Lok Sabha and five Rajya Sabha seats vacant, the winning candidate will require 392 votes. | [More on P6](#)

EC Begins VP Poll Prep

The Election Commission on Wednesday said it has begun the process of holding the vice presidential election, two days after Jagdeep Dhankhar's surprise resignation from the post. The poll authority said it has started constituting the electoral college comprising MPs of both Houses of Parliament. | [More on P6](#)

2 Pharma Firms Convicted For Poor-Quality Drugs

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Jammu has pronounced conviction in the Case titled State through Drugs Inspector, Jammu V/s Mahajan & Mahajan Medical Agency related to sale and supply of a drug declared to be Not of Standard Quality by Government Analyst. The accused have been convicted under section 18 (a) read with section 27(d) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 with fine amounting to Rs 80,000/- & the imprisonment till rising of the court.

In another similar matter, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Poonch in the case titled Drug Control Officer District Poonch vs. M/s Affine Formulations, Tehsil Nalagarh, District Solan (H.P.) convicted accused no 1-3

with a fine amounting to Rs 60,000/- & the imprisonment till rising of the Court.

The proceedings in the twin matters were initiated against the accused firms after following the due procedure laid down under Drugs & Cosmetics Act related to lifting of statutory samples by Drug Inspectors. The samples were sent to Government Drug Testing Laboratories for framing of opinion w.r.t identity, purity & strength. The Government Analyst has reported certain discrepancies in the quality of the samples.

State Drugs Controller J&K Lotika Khajuria has urged all stakeholders in the pharmaceutical supply chain to strictly comply with regulatory norms & help the department to maintain high standards of medical treatment. She | [More on P6](#)

Students Tackle Hard Truths At Kashmir College Conference

At Srinagar's M.A. Road Women's College, students speak up on drug abuse, climate stress, and digital pressure, carrying forward a 75-year-old legacy of courage and change.

Ansar Hussain

Srinagar: Addiction is rising. The climate is shifting. Screens are taking over young lives. These weren't just talking points, they were lived realities voiced with urgency by students from across Kashmir.

At Srinagar's Government College for Women, M.A. Road, the auditorium turned into a forum of hard truths on Wednesday.

One after another, young speakers stood up to confront

the crises shaping their generation, turning a campus conference into something far more powerful: a glimpse of a future speaking for itself.

The college's Debating and Seminar Committee had titled the one-day student conference Here and Beyond, part of a yearlong celebration marking 75 years of the institution.

The event brought together voices from across the valley, many confronting the very issues shaping their generation.

"This college has always been

more than classrooms," said Principal Prof. (Dr.) Yasmeen Farooq. "It's a space where ideas grow, where girls become leaders."

The conference opened with izband smoke curling through the air, a traditional Kashmiri ritual to purify and protect.

A short film made by the journalism department played next, showcasing campus life. Then the debates began.

One by one, students stepped forward to speak on growing drug use among youth, the toll



of algorithm-driven platforms, and the rapid decline of the

environment.

A performance by the college's



I SAW FREEDOM HERE TODAY, IN SPEECH, PERFORMANCE, and in the way young men and women shared a stage."

drama club underscored these themes, drawing applause that echoed through the hall.

For some on the jury, the setting was familiar. Professor

Neerja Matoo, a respected educationist and former faculty member, returned to the college she joined as a student in the early 1950s.

"In 1950, this college gave Kashmiri women their first real freedom," she told the audience. "It freed them from silence and despair. It opened doors that had been shut for centuries."

Professor Naseem Shafai, poet and Sahitya Akademi awardee, recited a short poem and recalled her days on campus. "This place | [More on P6](#)

LG Manoj Sinha Reviews Preparations For Chinar Book Festival-2025

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Dr Amit Wanchoo, Chief Con- venger, Chinar Book Festival and Yuvraj Malik, Direc- tor, National Book Trust called on Lieutenant Gov- ernor Shri Manoj Sinha.

August at Srinagar. More than 300 publish- ers are expected to partici- pate in the book fest and the books will be available for students at discounted rate. This year major at- tractions also include ex- hibitions of Sharda script,



They discussed the upcoming Chinar Book Festival-2025 scheduled to be held from 2nd to 10th

focus on Kashmiri, Gojri and Dogri languages and special sessions on local dialects.

DIPR Organizes Awareness Prog On ‘Drug Menace’

Observer News Service

Srinagar: An awareness programme addressing the growing threat of drug abuse was held at Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Gulababagh under the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhi- yan, organized by the Cul- tural Unit Kashmir of De- partment of Information & Public Relations, Jammu and Kashmir (DIPR J&K). The event saw enthu-

siastic participation from students and staff, aimed at spreading awareness about the harmful conse- quences of drug addiction. A powerful and engag- ing skit was presented by the Yemberzal Youth Club, effectively highlighting the dangers of substance abuse. The play left a last- ing impression on the audience and served as a strong reminder of the urgent need to stay away from drugs.



CM Omar Reviews Functioning Of Cooperative Banks

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the functioning of Cooperative Banks across Jammu and Kashmir here at the Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Cooperatives Javid Ahmad Dar, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secre- tary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India (J&K and Ladakh), Principal Secretary Finance, Man- aging Director & CEO J&K Bank, Commissioner Secretary Coopera- tives and senior representatives from NABARD.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister reviewed the current sta- tus and functioning of various Co-

operative banks.

He acknowledged the im- proved financial performance of the Jammu and Anantnag District Central Cooperative Banks, which

and the formation of new M-PACS, both aimed at strengthening grass- roots-level credit delivery and fi- nancial inclusion.

The Chief Minister empha-


“The Chief Minister emphasized the need for sustained reforms to ensure institutional resilience, financial stability, and rural empowerment across Jammu and Kashmir.

have achieved operational profit- ability but called for other loss- making Cooperative banks to de- vise a roadmap for recovery which would be examined by the Govern- ment for appropriate intervention to revive these banks.

The meeting also reviewed key initiatives such as the ongo- ing PACS Computerisation Project

sized the need for sustained re- forms to ensure institutional re- sili- ence, financial stability, and rural empowerment across Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, Commissioner Secre- tary Cooperatives Babila Rakwal gave a detailed presentation on the functioning and progress of Coop- erative Banks in J&K.

- 

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
 - PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
 - PDD: 0194-2450213
 - FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
 - CAPD: 18001807011
 - SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
 - Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200


AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI

CALENDAR

28 Muharram


1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 57
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5: 33
Magrib	7:42
ISHA	9: 17

This Day In History

- 1783 - Georgia becomes a protectorate of tsarist Russia
- 1863 - Battle at Battle Mountain, Virginia
- 1880 - 1st commercial hydroelectric power plant in the world begins generating electricity in Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 1883 - Arabi Pasha declares a holy war in Egypt
- 1886 - China takes British protectorate of Burma
- 1902 - In Turkey, the Sultan Abdul-Hamid, under pressure from within the Ottoman Empire, appoints a commission to consider reforms that might pacify Macedonian revolutionaries
- 1905 - Tsar Nicholas II (Russia) and Emperor Wilhelm II (Germany) sign the Björkö Treaty, whereby each country agrees to come to the other's defense if attacked by European powers
- 1908 - After days of discussion with his ministers, Sultan Abdul Hamid of Turkey announces he is restoring the liberal constitution of 1876 and will become more responsive to demands of dissidents
- 1911 - American explorer Hiram Bingham discovers Machu Picchu, the Lost City of the Incas
- 1915 - Excursion ship Eastland capsizes in Lake Michigan, 852 die
- 1917 - Trial of Dutch exotic dancer Mata Hari begins in Paris for allegedly spying for Germany and thus causing the deaths of 50,000 soldiers
- 1923 - Allied Powers and Turkey sign peace treaty, Lausanne
- 1929 - US President Herbert Hoover proclaims Kellogg-Briand Pact which renounces war
- 1935 - 1st greetings telegram sent in Britain
- 1935 - The world's first children's railway opens in Tbilisi, USSR
- 1941 - FDR demands Japanese troops out of Indo-China
- 1942 - German troops occupy Rostov-on-Don in Southern Russia for the 2nd time
- 1943 - Operation Gomorrah: RAF begins bombing Hamburg (till 3rd August), creating a firestorm and killing 42,600 people
- 1944 - 300 allied bombers drop fire bombs on Allied/German positions
- 1944 - Soviet forces liberate concentration camp Majdanek
- 1944 - US troops land on Tinian
- 1946 - US performs atmospheric nuclear Test at Bikini Island
- 1952 - US President Harry Truman settles 53-day steel strike
- 1955 - Ali Sastroamidjojo of government resigns in Indonesia
- 1959 - US Vice President Richard Nixon argues with Nikita Khrushchev, known as "Kitchen Debate"
- 1969 - Mohammad Ali is convicted for refusing induction in US Army on appeal
- 1974- Supreme Court unanimously rules Nixon must turn over Watergate tapes
- 1981-Mohammed Ali Rajai elected president of Iran
- 1982- Heavy rain causes a mudslide that destroys a bridge at Nagasaki, Japan, killing 299.
- 1985-Rajiv Gandhi signs peace contract with Sikh leader Harchand Singh Longowal
- 1987-IBM-PC DOS Version 3.3 (updated) released
- 1987-USSR performs underground nuclear Test
- 1991- U of Manchester scientist announce finding a planet outside of solar system
- 1994-Bodo kills 37 Muslims in Bashbari NE India
- 2001- An Iranian warship in the Caspian Sea threatens a BP oil exploration ship off the coast of Azerbaijan
- 2014-116 people are killed after Air Algérie Flight 5017 crashed in Mali
- 2014- Fuad Masum is elected as the President of Iraq
- 2014-Over 10,000 Palestinians protest Israel's operation in Gaza; 2 Palestinianskilled after Al-Aqsa Brigades members fire at Israeli forces
- 2018- Wildfires near Athens, Greece, kill 91 with 104 injured, over 600 rescued from the coast by boats
- 2019- 10th million Mini car produced during its 60th anniversary year in Oxford, England
- 2019- Facebook agrees to pay \$5 billion fine, largest ever for violating consumer privacy, to the US Federal Trade Commission



SADAT MOSVI GULSHAN BAGH BEREAVED

Zakir Aga Syed Muhammad Mosvi passes away

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Zakir Aga Syed Muhammad Mosvi son of Late Aga Syed Ali Mosvi of Gulshan Bagh Upper Colony Botta Kadal, Srinagar who passed away on Tuesday 22 July 2025 after a brief illness at SMHS Hospital at 6:30 pm. His congregational Fateha Khawani will be held on Friday, 25th July 2025 at their ancestral graveyard at Gulshan Bagh Upper Colony Botta Kadal, Srinagar at 6:00 am. After that a daylong condolence meeting will be held at Imambara Gulshan Bagh Srinagar.

BEREAVED

Zakir Aga Syed Abass Mosvi , Zakir Aga Syed Tahir Mosvi, Aga Syed Ahmad Mosvi (Brothers)

Syed Yasoob Mosvi, Syed Ali Mosvi (Sons)

Syed Gazanfar Hussaini (Son-in-Law)

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR
KALANTRA/KREERI

Sub: Application of Bmsha Qayoom W/O Zubair Hamid Sofi R/o Kreeri for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar and Bakerwal) in favour of "self"

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST. In this connection, a report of Patwari Halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village Kreeri and belongs to the Bhat Caste and Gojer Community. The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

S No	Name of Individual	In-Relation with Applicant	Age	Occupation	Annual Income
1	Ab Sofi	HamidFather-in-law	60	Retired Employee	
2	Rafeeqa Ha-mid	Mother-in-law	60	Retired Employee	1456776
3	Zubair Ha-mid	Husband	35	Private Employee	
4	Bmsha Qay-oom	Self	30	Private Employee	
5	Taha Zubair	Son	Minor		
6	Sonia	Sister-in-law	25	Student	

Therefore, through this Public Notice, objections are being sought from the general public. If any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) positively from the date the notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

Sd/-
Naib Tehsildar
bmg_r

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

No: 235 /B&D/TZ/2025 Date: 22/07/25

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

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Tahir Shafi Hajam S/O Mohammad Shafi Hajam R/O Seloo , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of his ward namley Aatif Tahir Hajam who was Born on 02-07-2021 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Naib Tehsildar
Executive Magistrate
Bomai
fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that the name of my daughter has been wrongly recorded as Ayeesha Mudasir in her Date of Birth certificate. The correct name is Aisha Mudasir, and I have applied for the correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of the Municipal Council Baramulla within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Mudasir Ahmad Sheikh
Father of Aisha Mudasir (Date of Birth :16-10-2023)
Resident of Palhallan, Pattan
fko

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Notice Inviting Tender

Sr. DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 14.08.2025 at 15:00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

S. Tender N. No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (Rs.)	Cost of Tender form (Rs.)	Date & time for submission of tender	Earnest Money # (Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
1. 705-TRD-FZR-2025-26	Provision of new PSI equipments in place of overaged PSI gears / installations to improve the reliability of TRD assets over Firozpur division.	2,24,20,184.35	NIL	Upto 14.08.2025 15:00 Hrs	2,62,100/-	Twelve (12) Months	14.08.2025 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in
2. 708-TRD-FZR-2025-26	Provision of new assets in place of old/rusty/fault prone assets and OHE capacity enhancement in the electrified section over Firozpur division.	4,09,79,612.29	NIL	Upto 14.08.2025 15:00 Hrs	3,54,900/-	Twelve (12) Months	14.08.2025 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Similar Nature of work (applicable for both works): "Design, supply, erection testing & commissioning of 50Hz, single phase 25KV AC OHE". (Ref: OHE Works S.No. 1-t of Pr. CEE/NR's Letter No. 181-Elec/TRD/189/Pl.II, dated 29.07.2021).

Note:#
Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway. No.: 705 & 708-TRD-FZR-2025-26 Dated: 21.07.2025 2224/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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

KO VIEW

Starving Gaza

In Gaza, 21 children have died of malnutrition and starvation in just three days. The number, announced by the head of Gaza's largest hospital, is not just a statistic, but an indictment of the world's collective failure. When children are dying from enforced hunger, it is time that the world reckons with its silence.

It is baffling to see the world watching a livestreamed genocide on a day to day basis and appearing not to care. Or just confining its concern to intermittent condemnations and calls for ceasefire, which Israel dismisses contemptuously.

The United Nations calls the situation a "horror show", and yet, the horror deepens daily. More than 59,000 Palestinians, mostly civilians, have been killed since Israel's military campaign began in October 2023. Now, starvation is being used as a weapon against Palestinians.

The Israeli government claims it has facilitated aid. Videos are posted of trucks lined up. But the reality on the ground tells another story: people shot while trying to reach food, children dying in hospitals from starvation, and aid trickling through a system stripped of its UN backbone and handed to the controversial Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. That over a thousand Palestinians have reportedly been killed while simply trying to access food aid is unconscionable.

This isn't just about logistics or blockades. This is about intent. When far-right Israeli leaders meet in Jerusalem to discuss transforming Gaza into a "tourist-friendly Riviera" for 1.2 million Jewish settlers, even as bombs fall and bodies pile up, it's not difficult to understand what the people of Gaza fear: permanent displacement and erasure.

That's why the recent joint statement from 28 nations, including long-time Israeli allies such as the UK, Japan, and several EU states, matters. It marks the strongest unified call yet for an end to the war. Their message is unequivocal: the starvation, the mass civilian casualties, the obstruction of aid, and the demographic engineering must stop. They have also called for immediate ceasefire and humanitarian access besides accountability under international law.

That said, statements will not save Gaza. The territory needs food, medicine and a permanent ceasefire. Unfolding currently in Gaza is not just an unmitigated, everyday catastrophe where people, including children are killed like flies but a global moral crisis. Although, the parts of the world have started speaking in recent past, there is little that is being done in terms of action. It is good that Europe is waking up to the Gaza reality - albeit not forcefully enough - now it is time for the Global South to make its voice heard.

FINANCIAL FIX

The Insurance Trap

When agents vanish and paperwork stalls, consumers in Kashmir often lose more than they recover.

Irshad Mushtaq

Buying an insurance policy is common practice in Kashmir. But what follows too often is silence. Documents don't arrive. Agents stop answering. And the buyer is left chasing a refund they're legally entitled to during the policy's "free look period."

Many turn to consumer courts, hoping for justice. One Srinagar resident spent 50,000 on legal fees without getting a single penny back. His case isn't rare. It's a warning.

The real problem isn't just rogue agents. It's a system that doesn't tell consumers about simpler, faster solutions.

India's financial regulators offer direct complaint platforms. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) allows policyholders to lodge grievances online for free. So do SEBI and AMFI for investment-related fraud. These tools are quicker and often more effective than courtrooms.

But most Kashmiris don't know these channels exist. That's the gap.

Consumer empowerment doesn't require lawyers. It requires access to the right information. Schools, local bodies, and media in Kashmir must do more to spread awareness about financial rights and remedies.

When Kashmiris are informed, they don't waste time or money. They take action, and get results.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Kashmir's Café Craze

A wave of cafés is reshaping Kashmir's urban scene, but without data, planning, or innovation, is the bubble about to burst?



Malik Daniyal

The café scene in Kashmir is booming. With aesthetic interiors and Instagram-worthy corners, these hangouts have shaped urban culture and stir up economic dreams.

But behind the aroma of fresh brews and polished tabletops, a deeper question brews: is this growth sustainable, or are we chasing a bubble?

In the past few years, the valley has seen an explosion of new cafés. Srinagar alone has over 200 cafés operating as of May 2025, a dramatic leap from fewer than 30 a decade ago.

The pace of this growth has been startling. Many of these ventures are started by young aspirants, professionals returning home, or those keen to cash in on what looks like the trend of the moment.

The logic seems straightforward: "If others are doing it, I can too." But this thinking is flawed.

Even then, the trend feels particularly amplified in the valley.

The rush to open cafés is often driven more by Instagram aesthetics than sound business sense. Business plans are missing or shallow, focused more on likes than ledgers.

Few café owners seem to consider critical questions: Is there enough demand to justify this many cafés? Is the market already saturated? What happens when the tourist season ends?

Most of these ventures overlook essential factors, like inflation, interest rates, raw material costs, and consumer spending dips at the national or global level.

In a climate where optimism isn't backed by capital reserves, contingency planning, or supply chain strategy, even a promising boom can quickly spiral into a bust.

That exactly makes this café culture more than just a lifestyle shift. It actually becomes an economic experiment.

And like any experiment without a solid base, it's at risk of collapsing.

Instead of slowing down, the café wave has oddly gained momentum, spreading over the last three to four years beyond Srinagar into towns like Baramulla, Sopore, and Pulwama.

But experts now believe the market may be peaking.

Informal reports from local hospitality circles suggest that several cafés launched in the last 12-18 months have either shut down or scaled back significantly.

Many blame a critical difference between demand visibility and demand durability. Many cafés rely heavily on tourists, especially during spring and summer.

In early 2024, Kashmir received around 1.56

“

Kashmir's café economy sits on a knife-edge, caught between promising growth and unplanned sprawl. The future depends on the discipline of the entrepreneurs. If they begin to monitor market trends, consult financial experts, and innovate beyond the surface, cafés can anchor the region's services economy.

million tourists, yet over the full year, the valley accounted for only 13% of the 23.59 million visitors to the Union Territory. This shows how seasonal the demand is.

When tourism dipped in April 2025 following the Baisaran bloodbath, bookings dropped by over a million, and 48 resorts temporarily shut down.

This sudden disruption reduced footfall in the hospitality sector across the board. Many café owners, who project their revenue based on peak seasons, struggled to meet fixed monthly expenses like rent, often above 60,000, during the lean months.

Seasonal slumps are common in hospitality, but few Kashmiri cafés have the financial strategy to ride them out. Often, there's no expert consultation or market study at all.

Then there's the issue of rising costs. Most of these cafés don't operate on bulk procurement models or central supply chains. Ingredients are bought in small lots, equipment is imported at high prices, and utility bills soar due to harsh winters.

As a result, even popular cafés suffer from high per-unit costs and low operational efficiency.

Training gaps and labour inefficiencies add to the challenge. Without a structured supply ecosystem, cafés operate below optimal scale.

This erodes profits and increases risk, even when customer footfall is decent.

What's more, there's a striking sameness to the café experience.

From Edison bulbs to chalkboard menus and continental plates, the formula feels copy-pasted. The lack of innovation in concept or service dilutes customer loyalty and kills uniqueness.

For tourists, the novelty fades fast. For locals, it becomes forgettable.

This points to another serious concern: inefficient capital allocation.

When similar ventures pop up within a limited market, they undercut one another. The overall demand doesn't grow, only competition does. This squeezes margins and raises the risk of failure.

Easy access to informal loans only worsens the problem, allowing people to jump in without proper cost-benefit analysis.

Since 2022, dozens of cafés across the valley have either waned or vanished within a year of launch. In most cases, the issue was a lack of preparation than passion. There were no clear break-even plans, no data on customer acquisition costs, and no forecasted returns.

What we're seeing isn't just entrepreneurship. It's speculative risk-taking dressed as innovation.

If the café surge continues without checks, research, or innovation, the sector may implode. Economically, this resembles a consumption-led bubble.

These bubbles don't always start with financial speculation. Sometimes, they're born out of trend-chasing and social validation without a data-driven base.

Right now, Kashmir's café economy sits on a knife-edge, caught between promising growth and unplanned sprawl.

The future depends on the discipline of the entrepreneurs. If they begin to monitor market trends, consult financial experts, and innovate beyond the surface, cafés can anchor the region's services economy.

But if the current wave of copycat cafés continues, the so-called boom will fade. And with it, the hopes of many young business owners.

As any economist would say, trends driven by sentiment rarely last.

Whether Kashmir's cafés can endure will depend on whether their owners treat them as weekend hobbies, or serious, sustainable businesses.

The author is a final-year economics undergraduate at the University of Delhi. He can be reached at mdaniyal.054@gmail.com



Letter to Editor

Kashmir University's Mega Alumni Meet 2025

On July 27, the Convocation Complex of Kashmir University will come alive with stories of old classrooms, lifelong friendships, and the many journeys that began on that campus. This is no ordinary reunion.

The Mega Alumni Meet 2025 will bring together some of the most accomplished names in the country, including the Chief Justice of India, who will serve as the Chief Guest. He will be joined by other notable figures: Supreme Court judges, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, and the Union Cabinet Minister for Minority Affairs.

For those of us who once walked the same corridors, this moment feels personal.

I graduated from this university. Like many, I carry a strong sense of pride in how far some of our classmates and seniors have travelled, and what they have carried from this place.

Many of them went on to serve in public life with integrity and vision. Ghulam Nabi Azad, a former Chief Minister and senior national leader,

Mufti Mehbooba, another former Chief Minister. Farooq Kathwari, a business magnate. The late Khurshid Drabu, who became a respected barrister and judge in the UK. And of course, Agha Shahid Ali, the poet whose verses continue to echo in literary circles across the world. His early loss left a gap not just in literature, but in the lives of those who knew him and his remarkable father, Dr. Agha Ashraf Ali.

Founded in 1948, Kashmir University is one of the oldest institutions in the region. Over the decades, it has produced generations of leaders, officers in the IAS, IPS, KAS, engineers, doctors, scholars, artists. The list stretches across continents.

Today, under the leadership of Professor Neelofer Khan, the first woman Vice Chancellor of the university, it continues to uphold its legacy while embracing new aspirations. Professor Khan's tenure symbolizes how far we have come, and how much more remains to be done.

The Alumni Meet is a celebration of these journeys. It's also a re-

minder, of the sacrifices made along the way, and the names that must not fade. I think of Syed Mujtaba Ahmed Andrabi, for instance, a diplomat now serving as First Secretary in the US Foreign Service, posted in Beirut. His father, Professor Syed Mohd Amin Andrabi, left an indelible mark on Kashmiri scholarship. Today, the son carries that torch on global platforms. These stories are not only inspiring, they are rooted in the soil of this university.

Yet reunions also bring memory to the surface. I remember a painful moment from 1970. Two students, Zamarooda Habib and Brij Krishen, drowned at Aharbal Falls during a class picnic. Brij lost his life trying to save Zamarooda. The university community raised funds to erect a statue in their memory. I hope it still stands somewhere on campus, reminding students of courage, friendship, and sacrifice.

There are others whose memories must be honoured. Professors Mushir-ul-Haq and Abdul Ahad Wani, both former Vice Chancellors,

lost their lives during the turmoil that gripped our region. So did Abdul Ghani, a dedicated administrative officer. They were mentors, visionaries, and builders of the institution. Their absence still echoes in its halls.

As the university welcomes its alumni home, I hope their names will be spoken aloud. Their work deserves more than silence. They deserve a moment of reflection before the music begins and the speeches roll.

The theme of the Mega Meet is still under wraps. Whatever it may be, the real message is already clear: Kashmir University is not just an institution. It's a shared story. It's what binds a judge in Delhi, a diplomat in Beirut, a poet in America, and a student who once sat in the back of a lecture hall.

This weekend, we return not just to celebrate what we've become, but to remember where we began.

Sincerely,

Syed Nissar H Gilani
nisargilani57748@gmail.com

Kashmir's Alpha Generation

From Iqbal's vision to AI labs in Srinagar, a digital awakening is taking root in Kashmir. It's time to let go of outdated dreams and embrace the skills that build new worlds.

Aubaid Akhoon

Something is changing in the valley. You hear it in classrooms, see it in cafés, feel it in homes. Everyone is asking the same question now: What comes next?

For decades, the answer was simple: doctor or engineer. If you carried a stethoscope or a blue-print, you carried honour. These paths lifted entire families, built homes, paid bills, and brought dignity. And they still do.

But the world no longer looks the same.

We are standing at the edge of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. And this time, it's not just machines doing heavy lifting. It's code, data, and ideas.

Yet in too many Kashmiri homes, the dream map hasn't changed.

Young people, born into a digital world, still carry analog ambitions. We call them the Alpha Generation, children of the 21st century, raised on smartphones and global content, fluent in the language of the web. They learn on YouTube, chat across continents, and build in virtual labs. Their classrooms extend far beyond four walls. Their competition isn't next door. It's worldwide.

So why are we still guiding them with a career compass from 1985?

The truth is, today's success stories don't come only from surgeries or civil exams. They're coming from AI startups, app studios, and data labs.

Students in Kashmir can now sit by the Dal Lake and freelance for firms in Berlin. They can design websites for Dubai or teach Python to a kid in Paris from a single laptop, armed with the right skills.

This is not a fantasy. It's happening, slowly, but surely.

Modern campuses in Srinagar and other towns are starting to offer global-standard tech courses. Young people are enrolling in data science, cybersecurity, app development, cloud computing, digital marketing.

Certifications now come with industry mentorship. Learning happens in real time, not in theoretical silos.

And most importantly, opportunities are being created in Kashmir, not just away from it.

Iqbal, the philosopher-poet



whose verses once lit a fire in hearts across the subcontinent, understood this hunger for renewal. One of his most striking couplets remains as relevant as ever:

"Mashriq se ho bezar, na

The Alpha Generation is ready. They were born for this. They've already moved beyond borders in how they think, learn, and connect. All they need is our trust, and a little nudge toward the future.

Maghrib se hazar kar / Fitrat ka is-hara hai ke har shab ko sehar kar." (Don't turn away from the East, nor scorn the West / Nature itself calls us to turn every night into dawn.)

Iqbal saw change not as betrayal but as a blessing, the way forward. Our ancestors embraced new ideas, new inventions, and fresh possibilities. They took up the tools of their time: the quill, the telescope, the printing press. They adapted, so must we.

Today's tools are different: code, design, data, digital platforms. These are the new instruments of growth. Besides jobs, they offer independence.

Students who learn to build websites or analyze trends no longer wait in line for employment. They become their own employer. They build portfolios, startups, careers, sometimes before finishing college.

And this shift doesn't need to cost a fortune or happen far from home.

Online platforms, short-term bootcamps, government-supported programs, and local initiatives have made tech education more accessible than ever.

It's not about abandoning traditional dreams. It's about evolving them.

Even parents, many of whom grew up without computers, are now asking better questions. They want their children to have careers, with stability and flexibility, income and imagination, degrees that open doors, and skills that build new ones.

For Kashmir, this is more than economic. It's emotional and cultural.

The valley has long been known for poetry, philosophy, spirituality. What better way to carry that spirit into a new age than by creating, building, solving with our own hands and minds?

We are no longer limited by geography. The world is flat, and open. What we need now is a shift in mindset: from rote learning to critical thinking, from job-seeking to job-creating, from memorizing formulas to designing futures. The Alpha Generation is ready. They were born for this. They've already moved beyond borders in how they think, learn, and connect. All they need is our trust, and a little nudge toward the future.

The question remains: Are we the parents, teachers, and leaders - ready to let them go forward?

This isn't about careers. It's about renewing Iqbal's dream, not in rhyme, but in real life.

The author is an educator, motivational speaker, columnist, and coaching consultant.

Kashmir in the Feed

From job interviews to ad targeting, Kashmiris are discovering how deeply the web already knows them.

Maroof Lone

Sarah had told no one. And yet, as she scrolled through her Instagram one morning in Baramulla, her feed seemed to know the secret she hadn't shared: she was expecting a child.

Every few posts, there it was: ads for baby bottles, prenatal vitamins, sleep tips for new mothers. "It felt eerie," said Sarah, a 32-year-old schoolteacher. "I hadn't typed the word pregnant anywhere."

What gave her away wasn't a single search or status update. It was a series of small, seemingly harmless actions: a couple of late-night queries on morning sickness, a few seconds spent hovering over parenting forums, a click on a blog about first-trimester diets.

Those gestures, barely thoughts, were captured, stored, analyzed, and interpreted. They painted a picture, told a story, and did it more quickly than she ever imagined.

Across Kashmir, that sense of eerie recognition is becoming common. Students, teachers, professionals, and homemakers are discovering how their online behaviour is silently being turned into data.

That data, in turn, becomes a reflection of who they are, what they believe, what they want, and sometimes, what they fear.

What's surprising people isn't that the internet tracks them. It's how accurate, invasive, and predictive that tracking has become.

Everything we do online - swipe on a screen, pause over a reel, like or comment - leaves behind what technologists call a digital footprint.

This footprint is constantly being mapped, measured, and molded into a version of us that exists on the servers of companies we've never heard of.

And this version of us is being used to target us, with ads, content, or decisions that affect real life. In Kashmir's classrooms and coffee shops, that version often starts with cookies. These are not the type that come with chai. Cookies are tiny data files placed on your device by websites and apps.

Some serve basic functions, like remembering what's in your shopping cart. Others, known as third-party cookies, follow your trail across the internet, linking your searches on travel websites to your video recommendations on social media and your ad suggestions on news apps. They stitch together a digital diary



without your knowledge.

Those diaries don't just sit still. They're fed into algorithms: mathematical models that sort and serve content, ads, and information based on what they think will keep you hooked.

If you linger on a political post, expect more of the same. If you search for fitness routines, expect a flood of health products, diet tips, and protein shakes.

These systems don't just reflect preferences, they shape them. And slowly, your digital world becomes narrower, more predictable, and eerily self-reinforcing.

In Kashmir countryside, where conversations about digital rights are still rare, many users remain unaware of the power of these tools. What begins as convenience can turn into control.

In Kashmir countryside, where conversations about digital rights are still rare, many users remain unaware of the power of these tools. What begins as convenience can turn into control.

For instance, several young job seekers in Kashmir's private sector have reported interviewers bringing up old tweets or Ins-

stagram posts. Some were asked about jokes they'd shared years ago. A few lost offers without being told why.

In a job market as tight as Kashmir's, digital impressions are often all a recruiter needs.

And it doesn't stop at jobs.

Financial technology firms are piloting ways to assess loan risk using online behaviour. Your browsing habits, shopping patterns, and even the apps you download might soon help decide if you qualify for credit.

The phone you use, the websites you trust, and the time you spend online could affect your eligibility.

There are darker edges, too.

As data piles up, so do threats. In Kashmir, where surveillance anxiety already runs deep, the idea that personal data might be misused hits a nerve.

Digital rights activists warn that in politically sensitive regions, the consequences of a misinterpreted post or leaked location data can go far beyond embarrassment. They can mean questioning, intimidation, or worse.

Data, once exposed, is impossible to pull back. It lingers on invisible ledgers long after you've moved on.

Some Kashmiris are starting to push back. Aamir, a student from Shopian, began auditing his phone apps after noticing targeted ads for products he'd only mentioned in passing.

"I realized I'd given camera and microphone access to a note-taking app," he said. "It felt invasive. I deleted half my apps the same day."

Others are adjusting browser settings to block trackers, turning off location access, or shifting to encrypted messaging services.

Still, the tide is hard to resist. Social media rewards openness. E-commerce thrives on personalization. Streaming platforms compete to know you best. And every convenience asks for a small trade-off: your preferences, habits, and attention.

Piece by piece, the picture fills out.

For many in Kashmir, where digital access has only recently stabilized after years of blackouts and slow speeds, the shift has been especially stark. People who once struggled to load a webpage now find themselves inside highly curated digital bubbles. Their feeds are faster, smarter, and more manipulative than anything they've experienced before.

Sarah, the teacher from Baramulla, says she's more cautious now. Her son is four months old, and her feed has evolved with him: diaper discounts, parenting hacks, first-toy suggestions.

She rarely clicks, clears her browser history, and thinks twice before searching anything too personal.

But the sense that something is always watching hasn't gone away.

"I never said I was pregnant," she repeated. "But somehow, the internet knew. And that still unsettles me."

The author is a student with a focus on technology. He can be reached at hello@marooflone.com

Bhaleessa's Blooming Heart

Far from the crowds and camera flashes, Bhal Padri in Jammu and Kashmir offers travellers a vivid, sacred escape into alpine meadows, tribal life, and a rare kind of silence.

Sadaket Ali Malik

The road to Bhal Padri doesn't reveal its secret all at once. It unravels slowly, like a whispered story, beginning in the bustling center of Gandoh and snaking through pine forests, sleepy hamlets, and hills painted in green.

There comes a time when the asphalt turns patchy, the air grows colder, and somewhere between the sound of cowbells and wind slipping through trees, the world begins to feel softer.

Then the meadow appears.

Wide and wild, Bhal Padri stretches out like a dream: rolled in flowers, framed by forests, and crowned by distant snowy peaks.

For a moment, it feels as though time has folded in on itself. There are no hotels or tour buses, no phone signals or souvenir stalls. Only colours - lavenders, whites, golds - scattered across the grass like offerings to the sky.

Tucked into the Changa region of Bhaleessa in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, Bhal Padri sits silently at 2,500 meters above sea level, untouched by the noise of modern travel.

Known to those who live around it as Wadi-e-Gulposh, or the Valley of Blooming Flowers, the name isn't a poetic flourish. It's a lived reality.

From late spring through summer, the valley turns into a natural

mosaic of buttercups, bluebells, daisies, and wild herbs. Even the breeze seems scented.

Unlike the polished postcard Kashmir of Instagram fame, this valley demands nothing and gives everything. There are no curated views or constructed experiences. You arrive as you are, and the place meets you with raw beauty.

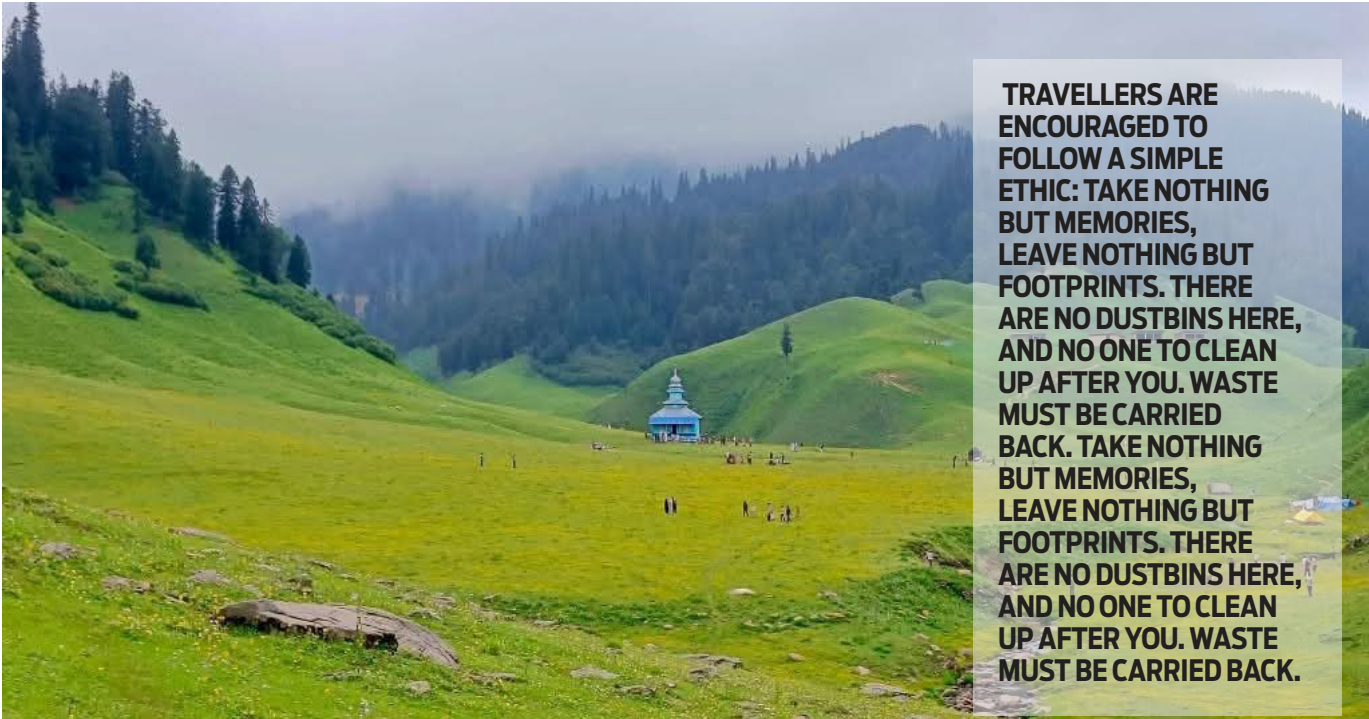
Travellers usually start from Gandoh, the nearest administrative outpost. The journey from there is as much part of the experience as the destination.

Pine-scented bends, dirt paths interrupted by grazing flocks, and children waving from wooden porches, carry the feeling of moving deeper into something ancient and undisturbed.

The meadow finally opens with a long breath of land, wide enough to feel like sky, soft enough to feel like memory. The eye struggles to settle, pulled from blossom to blossom, stream to stream. There are shepherd huts scattered like punctuation marks, and at times, the canvas tents of Gujjar and Bakarwal families, the region's traditional nomads, rise with the mist.

These seasonal dwellers bring life and history to the valley. They arrive each summer with their livestock, settling into a rhythm older than borders or roads. Their homes are light and temporary, their knowledge of the land deep and precise.

Their days follow the sun,



TRAVELLERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW A SIMPLE ETHIC: TAKE NOTHING BUT MEMORIES, LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS. THERE ARE NO DUSTBINS HERE, AND NO ONE TO CLEAN UP AFTER YOU. WASTE MUST BE CARRIED BACK. TAKE NOTHING BUT MEMORIES, LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS. THERE ARE NO DUSTBINS HERE, AND NO ONE TO CLEAN UP AFTER YOU. WASTE MUST BE CARRIED BACK.

their evenings the stars. Watching them work - milking goats, gathering firewood, leading herds through flower beds - you begin to understand that this place is not a spectacle. It is a living landscape, and every footstep here carries weight.

Bhal Padri has begun to attract attention, with a few trekkers, some photographers, and a travel writer. Yet it remains largely free

of crowds. And that, more than anything, is its strength, and its fragility.

The valley's ecosystem is delicate. Alpine herbs grow underfoot, butterflies flicker between blooms, and small animals retreat into the underbrush at the faintest sound. Plastic bags and blaring speakers don't belong here. Neither do careless hands or wandering tires. This is a place that asks

for reverence, not rush.

Staying near Bhal Padri means choosing simplicity. Homestays in Changa or Gandoh provide basic rooms and hot local meals, often cooked over wood. From there, travellers can plan a full-day visit to the valley, carrying packed lunches and walking or driving up before the afternoon clouds roll in. Evenings are best spent by streams, sipping salted tea or lis-

tening to village stories.

A three-day trip allows space for immersion: arrival and orientation on day one, exploration of Bhal Padri on day two, and a gentle return through nearby villages on day three, perhaps stopping at a shrine, a forest trail, or a local craft center before moving on to Bhaderwah or Doda.

Travellers are encouraged to follow a simple ethic: take nothing

but memories, leave nothing but footprints. There are no dustbins here, and no one to clean up after you. Waste must be carried back. Modest clothing is appreciated. Photographs should be taken with consent, especially when nomadic families are involved. This is not a place to drink or party. It is a place to listen, watch, and walk slowly.

Bhal Padri may not always stay this way. The signs of change are already faintly visible: more footprints, a few wrappers, a growing presence on travel blogs. There is still time to steer it in the right direction. With local involvement and ecological care, the valley can serve as a model for responsible Himalayan tourism, one that puts nature, people, and cultural heritage first.

For now, Bhal Padri remains what many travellers seek but rarely find: a landscape that feels untouched, a place that invites awe, a journey that lingers.

And as you step back into the forest on your way home, the scent of wildflowers still clinging to your sleeve, it becomes clear that Bhal Padri is not the type of place you visit. It's the type you carry with you.

The author is a researcher from Jammu and Kashmir. He can be reached at sadaketjammu@gmail.com

War Between India, Pak Was Probably Going To End Up Nuclear: Trump

Press Trust Of India

New York:US President Donald Trump on Tuesday claimed yet again that he stopped the recent "war" between India and Pakistan and that five planes were shot down in the conflict. He also claimed that the conflict between India and Pakistan "was probably going to end up in a nuclear war".

"We stopped wars between India and Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda," he said at a reception in the White House with the Congress members.

"They shot down five planes and it was back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. I called them and said, 'Listen, no more trade. If you do this, you're not going to be good...They're both powerful nuclear nations and that would have happened, and who knows where that would

have ended up. And I stopped it," he added.

Trump claimed the US took out Iran's entire nuclear capability and also stopped the conflict between Kosovo and Serbia.

"And a couple of others that we didn't stop a war, but we stopped what probably could have ended up in a war. We do that on the House as compliments of America. Okay, do you think (former US President Joe) Biden would do that? I don't think so. Do you think he ever heard of any of those countries? I don't think so," Trump said.

Trump, who has repeatedly said that he stopped the conflict between India and Pakistan through trade, last Friday said for the first time that "five jets were shot down" during the fighting.

"You had India, Pakistan, that was going... in fact, planes were being shot out of the air, five, five, four or five. But I think five

jets were shot down actually... that was getting worse and worse, wasn't it? That was looking like it was going to go, these are two serious nuclear countries and they were hitting each other," he had said at the White House in his remarks made during a dinner that he hosted for the Republican senators.

Meanwhile, Acting US Representative Ambassador Dorothy Shea said at an open debate in the UN Security Council on Tuesday on 'Multilateralism and Peaceful Settlement of Disputes' held under Pakistan's presidency of the Council that across the globe, the United States continues to work with parties to disputes, wherever possible, to find peaceful solutions.

With Pakistan Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar presiding over the Council meeting, Shea said that in the past three months alone, "we

have seen the US leadership deliver de-escalations between Israel and Iran, between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, and between India and Pakistan."

"The United States, under President Trump's leadership, played an important role in encouraging the parties to reach these resolutions, which we applaud and support," Shea said.

Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, in his statement in the UNSC chamber spoke about the Pahalgam terror attack for which The Resistance Front, a front for Pakistan-based terror organization Lashkar-e-Tayyiba had claimed responsibility.

Harish emphasized that there should be a "serious cost" to states who "violate the spirit of good neighbourliness and international relations by fomenting cross-border terrorism."

He said that India launched

Operation Sindoor targeting terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir consequent to the gruesome terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22 that led to the killing of 26 innocent tourists and based on the April 25 UNSC statement.

In the UNSC statement, the Council members had underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice.

Harish emphasised that India's response was focused, measured and non-escalatory in nature.

"On achieving its primary objectives, a cessation of military activities was directly concluded at the request of Pakistan," he said.

Since May 10, when Trump announced on social media that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire after a "long night" of talks mediated

by Washington, he has repeated his claim several times on various occasions that he "helped settle" the tensions and that he told the nuclear-armed South Asian neighbours that America will do a "lot of trade" with them if they stopped the conflict.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Trump were scheduled to meet on the sidelines of the G7 Leaders' Summit in Kananaskis, Canada, in June, but the US president returned to Washington early.

Before departing Kananaskis and wrapping up his first visit to Canada in a decade, Modi had a 35-minute telephonic conversation with Trump in Washington.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had said in a video message from Kananaskis that Modi clearly conveyed to Trump that at "no point" during the days following Operation Sindoor was there any discussion, at any level, on an India-US trade deal or any

proposal for mediation by the US between India and Pakistan.

Asserting Prime Minister Modi firmly stated that India does not and will never accept mediation, Misri had said the discussion to cease military action took place directly between India and Pakistan through the existing channels of communication between the two armed forces and it was initiated at Pakistan's request.

The US has designated The Resistance Front as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT).

The State Department said these actions taken by it against The Resistance Front "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."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

MET Warns Of

and thundershowers are forecast, with intense rainfall at a few places in the Jammu region, mainly during late-night and early-morning hours.

The MET department has warned of flash floods, landslides, mudslides, shooting stones, and a rise in water levels in rivers and streams, especially in vulnerable areas. Waterlogging in low-lying areas is also anticipated. Farmers have been advised to resume farm operations between July 25-27 when weather conditions are expected to remain relatively stable.

The department urged residents, travelers, and authorities to remain vigilant during this wet spell.

Meanwhile, J&K received intermittent rainfall for the third straight day on Wednesday. Srinagar recorded a rainfall of 19.3 mm during the last 24 hours. The highest precipitation during the period was recorded in Qazigund at 23.9 mm followed by 22.1 mm at Katra.

2 Killed In Reasi

Wednesday, they said.

The two, who were deployed to smoothen the track leading to the shrine, were sleeping in a tent when the landslide struck, they added.

An operation was launched by civilians and police, and both bodies were recovered from the debris, officials said.

The deceased have been identified as 26-year-old Rashpal Singh, a resident of Tuli Kalavan, and 23-year-old Ravi Kumar, a resident of Chenani.

The bodies will be handed over to the families after postmortem.

LG Expresses Grief

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has condoled the loss of lives due to the tragic landslide incident at Badora area of Reasi district.

"The landslide incident at Badora in Reasi is saddening. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with the bereaved family members who have lost their loved ones. I pray that the injured recover at the earliest," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Mudslides Block

the rest of the country. While no casualties have been reported, authorities said that two convoys carrying pilgrims on their return from the Amarnath Yatra were among those stuck.

With weather showing signs of improvement, traffic officials late Wednesday evening confirmed that the highway has been partially restored. "Stranded vehicles between Nashri and the NAVYUG Tunnel are being cleared," a senior traffic officer said. Restoration efforts are still ongoing to ensure full movement of traffic in the region.

Heavy rain has lashed the Jammu region for the third consecutive day, swelling rivers and streams. However, there is no immediate threat of flooding, officials said, though the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a flash flood alert for Jammu division valid until July 24.

The Kishtwar-Sinthan road, which had also been blocked by flash floods at Sinthan Nallah, has now been reopened to traffic. Officials are simultaneously working to clear debris from several other link roads affected by landslides across Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Udhampur, Doda, and Ramban districts.

Authorities said there have also been reports of damage to kutcha houses and cattle sheds, but a detailed assessment is still underway.

In response to the IMD alert, District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) have activated 24x7 control rooms and are monitoring the situation closely.

According to the MeT department, Udhampur received the highest overnight rainfall at 51.8 mm, followed by Ramban with 20.5 mm, Reasi with 17.9 mm, and Jammu with 8.5 mm.

Assault On SMHS

assurance that such incidents will not happen again. It has almost become a routine now—every alternate day, a doctor is either verbally or physically assaulted by patients or their attendants. While FIRs are registered, no concrete action follows. We want the culprits to be arrested, and we demand the presence of J&K Police to ensure our safety inside hospitals."

Doctors Shut Hospital Gates, Services Disrupted

In response, resident doctors suspended medical services and locked the hospital gates. Dressed in white coats and holding placards, they staged a sit-in outside the emergency wing, highlighting what they termed a growing crisis of violence against healthcare workers.

"The physical assault on any medical professional is unacceptable and inexcusable. We demand strict action against the accused and immediate steps to ensure our safety while we discharge our duties," said a protesting doctor.

But the protest had immediate consequences. Ambulances carrying critically ill patients were left waiting at the gates. One of the most harrowing moments came when a man from south Kashmir's Pulwama arrived carrying his electrocuted son in his arms, only to find the entrance shut. "My son has received an electric shock and needs urgent medical attention. I beg of them, don't let him die like this," he pleaded.

Patients'	Families	Stage
Counter-Protest		

The standoff triggered a spontaneous counter-protest by attendants and families of patients who were unable to access care. "We don't support violence, but why should the patients pay the price for someone else's mistake?" asked an elderly woman waiting with her sick husband. "This is a hospital, not a battlefield."

Tensions escalated further as both sides—doctors demanding safety and attendants demanding access—stood their ground. Police were deployed to maintain order and prevent further escalation.

Hospital officials confirmed that a First Information Report (FIR) had been filed against the accused. "We condemn the assault on our doctor. Violence in any form cannot be tolerated in medical institutions," said a senior SMHS official. He added that the administration was in active discussions with police and the protesting doctors to find a resolution. "Our priority remains the well-being of the patients while also ensuring the safety and dignity of our staff," he said.

Family Alleges Negligence

Meanwhile, allegations of medical negligence emerged in connection with the death of Javid Ahmad, an employee of Srinagar Municipal Corporation. His family claimed that Javid was suffering from chest discomfort and was allegedly denied oxygen support by doctors, despite repeated pleas. They alleged that the attending doctor, later assaulted, paid little heed and instead asked them to procure medicines from outside. Tragically, Javid died before the medicines arrived.

The family, while admitting that slapping the doctor was wrong, insisted that the perceived negligence caused the death. They have demanded access to CCTV footage and called for an impartial probe into the incident.

The protest drew hundreds of resident doctors, interns, and staff from GMC Srinagar and affiliated institutions. Demonstrators chanted slogans, condemned the assault, and called for lasting security arrangements in all healthcare facilities.

"We are not here to be attacked; we are here to heal," said one protesting doctor. "These incidents are no longer rare—they are becoming distressingly recurrent," said another.

Doctors also voiced concern about institutional silence. "How long are we expected to keep quiet while our own

lives are in danger?" asked a junior resident.

GMC Srinagar administration issued a statement denouncing the assault and urged the public to remain calm during medical emergencies. It confirmed that FIR No. 11/2025 had been lodged and that an investigation was underway.

A senior police official said the case is being pursued rigorously and assured that the perpetrator would be held accountable under the law.

The medical fraternity warned that if their safety concerns are not addressed, they may escalate their protest. "If it was Dr. Shah Nawaz today, tomorrow it could be anyone among us," a senior doctor said. "We need assurance that we can work without fear."

Doctors urged the government to treat hospitals as secure spaces for both caregivers and patients and to implement strong deterrents against future assaults.

Parliament To Debate

April 22 Pahalgam attack.

The government, the sources said, has made no commitment on the opposition's demand for the prime minister's response but has cited its proposal for a parliamentary discussion next week on the ground that Modi will be back by then from his four-day foreign visit, for which he left on Wednesday.

A senior BJP leader said the debate on the conflict with Pakistan, which ensued after India retaliated under Operation Sindoor following the killing of 26 civilians in the Pahalgam terror attack, will not only have a strong national traction but will also be paid attention to by the global community.

"The prime minister may choose the occasion to convey his government's robust response to the terror attack and stand on a host of issues," the BJP leader said, adding that a final call has not been taken yet on whether Modi will speak or not.

Congress' deputy leader in the Rajya Sabha Pramod Tiwari, who attended the BAC meeting, claimed, "We have demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should be present during the discussion, and we have been assured of that by the government."

This was the first BAC meeting after Jagdeep Dhankhar stepped down as vice president on Monday, when he chaired two back-to-back committee meetings to finalise the House's agenda. The vice president is ex officio chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Dhankhar called off the second meeting and rescheduled it for Tuesday as Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha J P Nadda and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju did not attend due to what they later said was their engagement in other official business. Dhankhar resigned a few hours later to "prioritise health care".

The BAC includes representatives of various parties and is chaired by the respective presiding officers of the two Houses.

The opposition has also demanded debate on a host of other topics, including the Bihar SIR, but the government has given no assurance on it so far.

Over 1.12 Lakh Kg

the NDPS Act followed a similar trend. In 2018, 1,460 individuals were arrested, rising to 1,884 in 2019. After a dip in 2020, the number surged in 2021 and hit a five-year high in 2022, with 3,453 arrests for narcotics-related offences.

The government also reported large-scale destruction of illicit crops. From 2020 to 2024, hundreds of acres of poppy and cannabis cultivation were eradicated in Jammu and Kashmir. In 2020 alone, 893 acres of poppy crops were destroyed. The figure fell in the following two years but rose again in 2023 and 2024. Cannabis destruction also increased, with over 900 acres cleared in 2023 and nearly 1,000 acres in 2024.

Under the Ministry of Social Justice

and Empowerment, the number of individuals receiving de-addiction services rose from just over 1,500 in 2020–21 to more than 35,000 in 2024–25. In total, 83,208 people have been treated and discharged from various de-addiction centres in Jammu and Kashmir since 2020. Currently, ten de-addiction centres are operational in the region.

At the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Kashmir, the Drug Treatment Clinic registered 3,207 new cases in 2021–22, followed by 3,334 in 2022–23. The number dropped to 1,457 in 2023–24, and 1,389 patients were registered up to January 2025. In total, IMHANS has treated 9,387 patients for drug addiction.

In a concerning revelation, the government informed the Lok Sabha that since 2018, at least 17 suicides in Jammu and Kashmir have been linked to drug and alcohol addiction. The data highlights the seriousness of the crisis and the urgent need for stronger, community-driven responses.

The Ministry of Home Affairs reiterated its commitment to tackling the drug threat through stricter enforcement, awareness campaigns, and expanding treatment and rehabilitation facilities across the Union Territory. (inputs from KNO)

2 Pharma Firms

has emphasized the need to adhere to the regulatory norms in letter and spirit.

Over 10K Visit Cave

good, the number of pilgrims departing from Jammu—the starting point for most yatris—has shown a consistent downward trend over the past few days.

From 7,908 pilgrims on July 18, the number dropped to 6,365 on July 19, 4,388 on July 20, 3,791 on July 21, 3536 on July 22, 2,837 on July 23—the lowest daily departure figure recorded so far during this year's yatra.

Despite the decline, officials said that the pilgrimage is progressing smoothly and peacefully, with robust security and logistical arrangements in place across all transit and base locations.

"The yatra is proceeding without disruptions. All necessary facilities including shelter, food, medical assistance, and route security are fully operational," an official said.

The 21st batch of 2,837 pilgrims, including 2,286 men and eight children, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in 128 vehicles for the twin base camps in Kashmir, the officials said.

With this, a total of 1,30,378 pilgrims have departed from the Jammu base camp for the valley since July 2, when Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch.

This year's Amarnath Yatra, scheduled to conclude on August 9. It's being conducted amid unprecedented security measures, including drone surveillance, RFID tracking for pilgrims and a multi-layered deployment of forces.

No J&K Voice

Of the five vacant Rajya Sabha seats, four belong to Jammu and Kashmir and one to Punjab, vacated after Sanjiv Arora moved to the legislative assembly.

Despite having held its first assembly elections in more than six years in 2023, Jammu and Kashmir's four Rajya Sabha seats remain unfilled. The 90-member J&K Legislative Assembly is responsible for electing these members, yet the Election Commission has not initiated the process to fill the vacancies. While by-elections were announced for Gujarat, Kerala, Punjab, and West Bengal in May, no dates have been set for the J&K Rajya Sabha seats or for the assembly constituencies of Budgam and Nagrota.

On February 15, 2021, Ghulam Nabi Azad and Nazir Ahmad Laway completed their Rajya Sabha terms. Before this on February 10, the terms of

Fayaz Ahmad Mir and Shamshir Singh Manhas came to end.

National Conference spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq called the situation "unfortunate" and said the region continues to be denied its rightful place in the country's highest legislative bodies. "We have been consistently demanding that these seats be filled. The silence is unjustified," he said.

One of the BJP leaders, however, said the onus lies with the Election Commission. "Political parties are trying to politicize the issue during the VP election. Our party stands for democracy and supports filling the vacant seats," he said.

Currently, J&K has five Lok Sabha MPs, three from Kashmir and two from Jammu, but its voice is missing in the 245-member Rajya Sabha, where its representation has been absent since the terms of the previous four MPs expired in 2021.

EC Begins VP

Both elected and nominated members are eligible to vote in the vice presidential election.

It is also finalising the returning officer and assistant returning officers.

"On completion of the preparatory activities, the announcement of the election schedule to the office of the Vice President of India will follow as soon as possible," the EC said.

Dhankhar stepped down as vice president on Monday, citing health reasons. His term was to end on August 10, 2027.

The Union home ministry on Tuesday formally notified the resignation of Dhankhar from the office of the vice president.

According to Clause 2 of Article 68 of the Constitution, an election to fill a vacancy in the office of the vice president occurring due to his death, resignation or removal, or otherwise, will be held "as soon as possible" after it goes vacant.

The person elected to fill the vacancy will be entitled to hold office "for the full term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office".

From the day the notification is issued, "calling the electoral college to vote", and till the day of the poll, a period of 30 days is stipulated.

A person cannot be elected as the vice president unless he is a citizen of India, has completed 35 years of age and is qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha.

A person is also not eligible if he holds any office of profit under the government of India or a state government or any subordinate local authority.

The ruling NDA has a comfortable edge in the vice presidential elections.

The vice president is elected by the members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, where nominated members of the Upper House are also eligible to cast their vote.

The 543-member Lok Sabha has one vacant seat — Basirhat in West Bengal — while there are five vacancies in the 245-member Rajya Sabha.

Of the five vacancies in the Rajya Sabha, four are from Jammu and Kashmir, and one from Punjab. The seat from Punjab was vacated after AAP leader Sanjeev Arora quit following his election to the state assembly in a bypoll last month.

The effective strength of both the Houses together is 786 and the winning candidate will require 394 votes, considering that all eligible voters exercise their franchise.

In the Lok Sabha, the BJP-led NDA enjoys the support of 293 of the 542 members. The ruling alliance has the support of 129 members in the Rajya Sabha, assuming that the nominated members vote in support of the NDA nominee, which has an effective strength of 240.

The ruling alliance has the support of 422 members.

Article 66 (1) of the Constitution provides that the vice presidential election shall be held in accordance

with the system of Proportional Representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot.

In this system, the elector has to mark preferences against the names of the candidates.

The vice president is the second highest constitutional office in the country. He serves for a five-year term, but can continue to be in office, irrespective of the expiry of the term, until the successor assumes office. PTI

CAT Allows 7

filed by the petitioners (seven candidates) have been disposed of or not submitted that conduct of examination in terms of rule 10 – C of the Rules of 2022 do not provide for any such post-finalization review and the key, eventually issued, has been clearly notified as the Final Answer Key. The counsel submitted that none of the applicants submitted objections in the manner prescribed under rule 10 – C of the Rules of 2022, therefore, the objections raised at this stage cannot be entertained being contrary to the rules governing the examination process.

On the other hand, counsel appearing for the petitioners, submitted that merely not filing of representations in a prescribed format cannot deny the petitioners their right to seek disposal of their representations as it is always substantial justice and not the technical justice that has to prevail.

"Admittedly, correctness or otherwise of the answer keys cannot be commented upon by the court as it falls within the domain of the experts," the Bench said, adding, "At the same time the counsel has also referred to an order passed by the Hon'ble Division Bench of the CAT bench, Jammu passed in OAs 624/2025, 526/2025 & 642/2025, wherein, the bench has provisionally permitted the petitioners therein to participate in the J&K Combined Competitive Mains Examination, 2025."

The court found substances in counsel for petitioners that in order to maintain the uniformity of the orders passed, same order deserves to be passed in the instant petition as well. The counsel further submitted that in the matter on hand, if uniformity of the orders passed by various benches, is not maintained, the same will prejudice the legitimate rights of the petitioners.

Students Tackle

gave me voice," she said. "Today, I hear echoes of that same voice in these students."

The college once had a strong tradition of theater. Professor Matoo remembered full-length plays performed every year, often by all-female casts. Seeing students revive that energy on stage moved her.

"I saw freedom here today, in speech, performance, and in the way young men and women shared a stage," she said.

The day-long event was led by Dr. Abina Habib, convener of the Debating and Seminar Committee. Jury members included Prof. Rubeena Khateeb, Dr. Tanveer Habib, and Dr. Suhail Ahmad.

Certificates were awarded to the best speakers and contributors. Behind the scenes, dozens of students worked on logistics, film editing, and stage management, a team effort that reflected the conference's larger theme.

"This was more than a debate competition," said a student participant. "It was a mirror held up by a generation trying to make sense of the world it inherits, one facing social pressure, ecological risk, and digital burnout."

For many in attendance, it was a reminder that institutions like this college have long shaped Kashmir's future through its women.

"Here," said student speaker Alia Khan, "we don't just study for exams. We prepare for life."

And on this day, their preparation was on full display.

Tral WLS Vital Corridor For Hangul Conservation: Report

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Tral Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) has emerged as a crucial link in survival of Hangul—the critically endangered Kashmir stag, acting as a natural corridor between Dachigam National Park and its historical habitats in Shikargah and Overa. This connectivity aligns with the findings of the latest Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) 2020–2025 report, a copy of which also lies with Kashmir Observer which rated Dachigam's management as 'Very Good' but stressed the urgent need for expanding conservation efforts into a 'Greater Dachigam Landscape', a proposal that specifically highlights strengthening wildlife corridors such as Tral WLS to ensure long-term Hangul survival.

"This sanctuary serves as a critical corridor for the movement of Hangul between Dachigam NP and its historical range areas of Shikargah and Overa. There are no villages within the PA, and it benefits from good coordination with the Forest Protection Force, territorial divisions, and security forces," reads the MEE report.

The report further states that the PA, which includes the erstwhile game reserve and consists of Shikargah and Khangund forests, extends over 154.15 km² and was notified in 2019. Additionally, the PA encompasses 113 km² of various forests from the territorial division of Awantipora, which have not yet been formally handed over to PA management.

As per the report, the area also maintains active anti-poaching camps and regular livestock vaccination programmes.

"There is an effective presence of anti-poaching camps at Tral and Khangund, along with support from WII, local universities such as SKUAST-K and Kashmir University, and various local NGOs," reads the report.

However, experts caution that the absence of a formal management plan, delay in eco-sensitive zone notification, encroaching summer pastoralists and their dogs, and significant armed forces presence within the sanctuary pose serious challenges.

"The PA currently lacks a management plan, and an ESZ proposal has been submitted but not yet approved. The area faces challenges from traditional summer pastoralists and their dogs, rapid land use changes in the vicinity, a widespread presence of armed forces within the PA, and shortages of protection staff, communication equipment, mobility, and high-altitude camping gear."

Wildlife specialists stress that, in line with MEE recommendations, improving protection infrastructure and surveillance systems and adopting an ecosystem-scale landscape approach will be essential to safeguarding Hangul and other species such as musk deer.

The report has also called for conducting studies on the effects of climate change, ensuring career progression opportunities for officers from assistant wildlife wardens, and enhancing inter-sectoral coordination and outreach functions of the PA.



Amazon India's Prime Day 2025 Becomes the Most Shopped Prime Day Event, Ever!

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amazon India's Prime Day 2025 has shattered records, emerging as the most successful event in the platform's history. The three-day shopping extravaganza saw record-breaking sales, with Prime members placing over 18,000 orders every minute, marking an impressive 50% increase compared to Prime Day 2024. The event, which celebrated great deals, fast deliveries, and blockbuster entertainment, set new benchmarks across every category.

Bharat Enjoys Prime: The event saw overwhelming participation from smaller cities and towns, with a staggering 70% of new Prime membership sign-ups coming from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. This trend of expanding Prime's reach beyond metro areas signifies a new wave of digital shopping adoption in India, as more and more customers from smaller towns experience the benefits of Amazon's premium service.

Fast Deliveries Across the Country: Amazon's commitment to fast deliveries was a highlight, with tens of thousands of products arriving



at customers' doorsteps in record time. In Tier 1 cities, many products were delivered as quickly as four hours after purchase. Across metros, deliveries within the same or next day doubled year-on-year, while Tier 2 and 3 cities saw a significant 1.8X growth in two-day deliveries, highlighting the efficiency of Amazon's expanded logistics network.

A Sellerbration of Small Businesses: This year's Prime Day was also a major success for small and medium businesses (SMBs). Amazon saw the highest-ever participation of SMBs, with more than 68% of them hailing from Tier 2 and Tier 3 regions. The number of sellers making sales during Prime Day 2025 reached an all-time high, underscoring Amazon's commitment to empowering local businesses and giving them a platform to reach millions of consumers across the country.

Div Com Reviews Preparations For Independence Day Celebrations

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In view of the upcoming Independence Day, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, convened a meeting on Wednesday to chalk out thorough arrangements for the celebration of the national festival.

Besides IGP Kashmir, V K Birdi, the meeting was attended by DIG Kashmir, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, and senior officials from various departments viz. Floriculture, Colleges, School Education, SM, KPDCI, R&B, PHE, Health, JKAACL, YS&S, Information, Hospitality, Transport, MED, Traffic Police, and security agencies.

During the meeting, Div Com instructed officers to en-

sure seamless and foolproof preparations to showcase the vibrant celebration of Independence Day with great enthusiasm.

He issued a slew of directives for detailed arrangements, including the showering of flower petals by the Airforce, illumination of government buildings, constitution of parade and band contingents, issuance of security passes, appointment of nodal officers, organization of cultural programs, nomination of commentators, and making seating and security arrangements.

Furthermore, he emphasized the need for an uninterrupted electricity supply, installation of water dispensers, cleanliness and sanitation at the main venue besides ensuring proper traffic manage-

ment, deployment of medical staff, and other necessary arrangements.

Moreover, Div Com highlighted the importance of educating participants regarding following protocol during hoisting of national flag and singing of national anthem.

He stressed the significance of informing participants about the sequence of programs and directed the creation of a uniform schedule for the national event throughout the division.

Meanwhile, he also reviewed the arrangements for the organization of Tiranga Rally on August 12 and impressed on overwhelming participation besides comprehensive measures regarding security and refreshment for participants.

People Of J&K Deserve Their Constitutional Rights: Dr. Farooq

Agencies

SRINAGAR: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday, made a passionate appeal for the restoration of full statehood, stressing that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are peaceful and deserve their constitutional rights.

Attending a program in New Delhi, Dr Farooq Abdullah as per news agency KINS said: "We are not the ones who raised weapons or threw stones. When they removed Article 370, what reason did they give? They said Kashmir was not progressing, that there was militancy. But who were the people who chose India over that side despite shar-



ing a religious identity with them? We chose Gandhi's India."

"I wish the leaders of that time could rise from their graves and see what we've built, and where we are heading now. When will you speak up? When will you stand up for an India that belongs to everyone?"

"When will this media be free—to write and show what they believe the people need to see? Everything is controlled. How many people will even

hear what we've said here today, everything is controlled?"

He also referred to the Emergency period under Indira Gandhi, drawing a parallel to the current situation: "They talk of Indira Gandhi's Emergency—it lasted only 18 months. I just hope the message we are trying to send reaches Parliament, and that our elected leaders will fight for Indian democracy."

Ending on a powerful note, he said: "We are not here to beg. We are here to demand our right—peacefully. Kashmir was made a testing ground, but other states may face the same future if we don't stand together. That's why we are here—to wake the nation up."(KINS)

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION SRINAGAR
e-Mail: hcphemds@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. AMRUT/JSMDS/e-NIT-08 of 07/2025-26 Dated: 19-07-2025

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, "Executive Engineer, JS PHE Mechanical Division Srinagar" invites e-tenders on EPC/ Turnkey basis from reputed and resourceful Principal Pump Manufacturers or their authorized dealers/ Contractors/Firms/Companies/Joint Ventures registered with JKPWD/JS/CPWD/Railways or any other state/Central Government Department for "Work of Development of 24x7 Water Supply System in Ward 2 of Nishat area of Srinagar Municipal Corporation by way of Survey, Design, Laying, Testing and Commissioning of separate pipe network including all work of Mechanical, Electrical, SCADA, Household Connections, Consumer Water Meter Fittings and Construction of pontoon based Horizontal Centrifugal Pumping Station and associated Electro-Mechanical and Civil works at Harwan (Sarband), with three months trial run and post completion management of 24 x 7 Water Supply in DMA and pumping station for a period of 5 years under Amrut 2.0 on Turnkey/EPC basis". The bidding process shall be completed online in two cover system with Cover 1st consisting of Qualification Criteria, Tender fee, Bid Security, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications etc. Cover '2nd' shall consist of Financial Bid (BOQ) in the prescribed format.

Sr	No	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Cost of Bid document (Rs)	Earnest money (Lacs)	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	2		5	6	7	8	9
1.		"Work of Development of 24x7 Water Supply System in Ward 2 of Nishat area of Srinagar Municipal Corporation by way of Survey, Design, Laying, Testing and Commissioning of separate pipe network including all work of Mechanical, Electrical, SCADA, Household Connections, Consumer Water Meter Fittings and Construction of pontoon based Horizontal Centrifugal Pumping Station and associated Electro-Mechanical and Civil works at Harwan (Sarband), with three months trial run and post completion management of 24 x 7 Water Supply in DMA and pumping station for a period of 5 years under Amrut 2.0 on Turnkey/EPC basis".	928.89	2500/-	18.58	180 days	12 Months

Position of funds: Approved Under Amrut 2.0
Position of AAA: Accorded by Competent Authority
Tender Accepting Authority: Chief Engineer, Kashmir, JS PHE Department Srinagar.

Key/Critical Dates:

i.	Publish Date	19-07-2025
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	19-07-2025 (06:00 PM)
iii	Clarification start date	19-07-2025 (06:00 PM)
iv	Bid submission start date	19-07-2025 (10:00 AM)
v	Clarification end date	26-07-2025 (04:00 PM)
vi	Pre-bid Meeting date	23-07-2025 (11:00 AM)
vii	Document Download/sale end Date	04-08-2025 (04:00 PM)
viii	Bid submission end date	04-08-2025 (04:00 PM)
ix	Date and time of Bid opening	05-08-2025 (04:00 PM)

No: JSMDS/CC/AMRUT/1499-1509
DIPK-4133/25
Date: 23-07-2025

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Circle South Sgr.
Addl. charge of Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Div., Sgr

Shopian Shuts Down Over Shifting Of Dy CEO Office

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: South Kashmir's Shopian town observed a complete shutdown on Wednesday in protest against the government's decision to shift the Deputy Chief Education Officer (Dy CEO) office to Chitragam tehsil of the district, triggering widespread anger among locals, political leaders, and civil society.

According to KNO, the protest, organised under the banner of the All Party District Development Forum Shopian, witnessed participation from a broad coalition of political parties, traders, transporters, students, fruit growers, and other sections of society. Shops and businesses remained closed for half a day, with leaders terming the move "politically motivated" and "administratively illogical".

Prominent political figures, including MLA Shopian Advocate Shabir Ahmad Kullay, former MLA Aijaz Mir, Apni Party's Advocate Gowhar, and BJP leader Raja Wasim, and DDC Raja Waheed, led the demonstration. Protesters assembled in the town centre and marched towards the office of the Deputy Commissioner, where they submitted a joint memorandum.

Speaking to reporters, MLA Kullay questioned the rationale behind displacing a vital office from the district headquarters and urged the government to focus on creating new zonal education posts in areas such as Zainapora, Turkwagam, Harmain, Kanjiullar, and Kapran.

Former MLA Aijaz Mir also opposed the move, saying, "If the aim was to enhance academic oversight in Chitragam, a separate post could have been created without disman-

tling the existing structure in Shopian."

The protesters further demanded the establishment of a separate mechanical division for Shopian and the upgradation of infrastructure at the district hospital.

"The complete shutdown of trade and transport in Shopian reflects the widespread disapproval and anguish over this covert and malafide act of brazen illegality against the vital interests of the Shopian citizenry and its students," reads the memorandum they submitted to DC Shopian.

According to the memorandum, the Dy CEO office had historically served as a crucial administrative unit, offering accessible public service, especially for residents in remote and hilly areas. "Its sudden and unjustified relocation has caused grave concern, particularly among students who rely on this centrally located office," it read.

The forum asserted that no public consultation took place before the decision was made and called for an impartial inquiry into the matter. It also warned of long-term adverse impacts on the education sector in the district.

The memorandum concluded with three key demands that include immediate revocation of the order shifting the Dy CEO office to Chitragam, an impartial inquiry to evaluate the legality and necessity of the move and public assurance that future administrative decisions affecting public interest will involve stakeholder consultation.

The protest was called off peacefully after the submission of the memorandum, but the leaders warned of intensified agitation if their concerns were not addressed on time.

Form No 3
[See Regulation -13(1)(a)]
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
CHANDIGARH (DRT I)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35

Sector-17 A, Chandigarh

Case No. OA/579/2025

Summons under Sub Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

Exh. No: 28861

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
VS
M/S IQBAL HOTELS AND RESORTS PVT LTD

To.
(1) M/S IQBAL HOTELS AND RESORTS PVT LTD
REGISTERED OFFICE AT AUQAF BUILDING NO.3 TOP FLOOR LOCK GATE, DAL GATE Srinagar
JAMMU AND KASHMIR-190001

ALSO AT:
AIRPORT ROAD, SKALZINGLING, LEH-194101

ALSO AT:
WAZIR BAGH, NEAR SIR SYED MARKET, SRINAGAR
JAMMU AND KASHMIR-190008
(2) SHEIKH MOHAMMAD IQBAL S/O SHEIKH MOHAMMAD SADIQ, R/O OPPOSITE NIT, NIGEEEN HAZRATBAL, SRINAGAR JAMMU AND KASHMIR-190006
(3) SABIHA IQBAL (AKA SABIHA IQBAL SHEIKH)
W/O SHEIKH MOHAMMAD IQBAL,
R/O OPPOSITE NIT, NIGEEEN HAZRATBAL, SRINAGAR
JAMMU AND KASHMIR-190006

SUMMONS

Whereas , OA/579/2025 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on 04.07.2025

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 188783850/- (application along with copies of documents etc, annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3 A of the original application;
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 18.08.2025 at 10:30 A.M, failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 07.07.2025

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable



4th Test: Batters Steer India To 264 For Four On Day One

Press Trust of India

MANCHESTER: Sai Sudharsan made the opportunity count in his comeback game with a fifty while Rishabh Pant suffered another injury as India played the old-fashioned way to reach 264 for four at stumps on day one of the fourth Test here on Wednesday.

At stumps, Ravindra Jadeja (19 batting off 37) and Shardul Thakur (19 batting off 36) were holding fort in fading light.

Put in to bat in overcast conditions, Indian openers KL Rahul (46 off 98 balls) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (58 off 107) put on 94 runs for their highest stand of the series before Sudharsan (61 off 151) produced a dogged knock under pressure to justify his selection over Karun Nair. Batting alongside Sudhar-

san, Pant (37 retired hurt off 48) had just started flexing his muscles before missing a reverse hit off a full ball from Chris Woakes.

The sun stayed away for the majority of the day but the slow nature of the pitch gave the batters enough time to tackle the extra pace of Jofra Archer.

In the afternoon session, England removed a well set Rahul and Jaiswal before sending back Shubman Gill to leave India at 149 for three at tea.

Having failed to land a wicket in the morning session, England broke through shortly after lunch with Woakes finally rewarded for relentlessly bowling in the off-stump channel. He had Rahul caught at third slip with a ball that seamed away from length.

The second wicket of the session came via left-arm spinner Dawson,

who took just seven balls to strike in his first Test in eight years.

Jaiswal played for the spin but the ball did not turn that match, taking a thick outside edge on way to the first slip.

India captain Gill (12) did not last long as he misjudged an incoming ball from Stokes to not offer a shot, trapping him in front.

No team opting to bowl first has ever won at Old Trafford but Stokes ignored that piece of statistics on an overcast morning.

Despite backing Nair on the eve of the game, Gill dropped the number three batter for Sudharsan.

The other two were forced changes with uncapped Anshul Kamboj and Shardul Thakur making way for the injured Akash Deep and Nitish Reddy respectively.

Rishabh Pant Retires Hurt After Woakes' Yorker

India batter Rishabh Pant was taken off the field after copping a blow on his right foot while attempting a reverse sweep off England pacer Chris Woakes on the opening day of the fourth Test here on Wednesday.

Pant was batting on 37 off 48 balls at that time. The wicketkeeper-batter first received on-field medical attention but had to be moved out of the field in a golf cart labelled as an ambulance.

Blood was seen seeping off Pant's right foot, and the affected area had considerable swelling as well. More details of his latest injury is awaited.

Woakes' full length ball crashed on to Pant's toe, and the England players went up in appeal for leg before. But a tiny inside edge on the review saved the day for Pant.

Engineer, Lloyd Honoured With Stands At Old Trafford

Former India wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer and legendary West Indies captain Clive Lloyd were on Wednesday honoured by the Lancashire County Cricket Club with stands named after them at the Old Trafford Stadium here, on the opening day of the fourth Test between India and England.

Engineer, who represented Lancashire from 1968 to 1976, played 175 matches, amassing 5,942 runs, 429 catches, and 35 stumpings.

His arrival marked a turning point for the club, helping them win the Gillette Cup four times between 1970 and 1975 after a 15-year title drought.

Lloyd, a two-time World Cup-winning captain, joined Lancashire in the early 1970s as an overseas player. Lloyd's two-decade-long association with the club was transformational as he played a crucial role in reshaping Lancashire's cricketing fortunes.

Engineer, now 87, has made Manchester his home post-retirement and continues to reside here.

Srinagar Win U19 Girls Baseball C'ship In Ganderbal



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Inter District Provincial Level Under-19 Girls Baseball Championship, hosted at GCOPE Gadoora, Ganderbal, concluded on Wednesday with District Srinagar emerging as the champions.

The three-day sporting spectacle, organised under the banner of the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports J&K and coordinated by DYSSO Ganderbal, witnessed high-energy performances and sportsmanship from participating teams across Kashmir.

The final day of the event saw two gripping encounters. In the third-place decider, District Bandipora displayed grit and focus to outplay District Budgam in

a nail-biting contest, securing the third position on the podium.

The much-anticipated final pitted District Srinagar against the spirited team of District Pulwama. Opting to bat first after winning the toss, the Srinagar side launched a powerful offensive, recording six home runs and setting a target of seven. Pulwama, despite their best efforts, managed only two home runs in reply, paving the way for Srinagar's well-earned championship victory.

The prize distribution ceremony was presided over by District Youth Services and Sports Officer Ganderbal, Sheikh Shafqat Iqbal, along with Activity In-charge Sheikh Manzoor Ahmad and other dignitaries.

Kashmir Super League: New JK United Win Thriller 4-3

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In the 14th match of Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025, New JK United FC defeated Greenend Heroes FC 4-3 on Wednesday at TRC Ground here.

The match kicked off with Greenend Heroes gaining an early advantage through a goal by Aqib Mushtaq, setting the pace for an intense contest. However, New JK United's Afreen Parray turned the tide with two quick, electrifying goals, shifting the momentum and energizing his side.

Furkan Nabi also scored a brace to complete his team's win. The side-line strategy of Hilal Rasool Parray, Head Coach of New JK United FC,

played a pivotal role in the team's comeback.

Furqan Nabi won the Khyber Cement Game Changer Award, while the Khyber Cement Player of the Match went to Afreen Parray.

The Athwas Golden Moment Award was won by Amir Hussain, while Events Emporio X Factor Excellence Award went to Prem Kumar. The evening concluded with a grand felicitation ceremony, attended by Waheed Ur Rehman Parra (MLA Pulwama), Arjun Singh Raju (MLA Ramban), and Khurshid Ahmad (MLA Gulabgarh).

The final Round 5 game will pit ARCO United FC against United Elegant FC on Thursday. Game kicks off at 7:00 PM.



YSS Holds District Level Sports Tournaments Across J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services and Sports inaugurated multiple district-level tournaments across J&K on Wednesday.

The Indoor Stadium Khawaja Bagh, Baramulla, witnessed a spirited opening ceremony for the Inter-School District Level Under-19 Boys Sports Tournament. The event, organised by DYSS Baramulla, was graced by the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, who emphasized the transformative power of sports in shaping disciplined and united youth. A total of 19 teams from government

and private higher secondary Schools are competing, with the tournament set to conclude on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner lauded the YSS Department's efforts in nurturing grassroots talent and fostering sportsmanship.

Meanwhile, the historic Chowgan Ground in Kishtwar buzzed with energy as the Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament for U-19 Boys and Girls commenced. The District Development Commissioner of Kishtwar inaugurated the event. The tournament features Volleyball, Kabaddi and Kho-Kho, with teams from various zones showcasing their skills.

Barcelona Signs Rashford On Season-Long Loan

Marcus Rashford has been given the chance to revive his career at Barcelona with a season-long loan move from Manchester United announced Wednesday.

The England forward, who was once considered among Europe's top talents, has seen his career stall in recent years after falling out of favor at United and ending last season on loan at Aston Villa. The 27-year-old Rashford will join a Barcelona attack that includes young star Lamine Yamal, Brazil international Raphinha and veteran striker Robert Lewandowski. Rashford had arrived in Barcelona on Sunday to sign his contract. He had already met his teammates and reportedly trained with the group on Tuesday.

Financial details were not immediately disclosed. Spanish media said the agreement with United would give Barcelona an option to buy Rashford for about 30 million euros (\$35 million).

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

Achieve financial freedom

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



Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475

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