

220 Drug Hotspots Mapped In J&K

1,032 NDPS Cases, Rs 39 Cr Drug Assets Seized In 2025 So Far



Representational Photo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's intensified crack-down on narcotics has led to the registration of 1,032 NDPS cases and the arrest of 1,416 individuals so far in 2025, senior officials revealed during the 14th UT-level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Thursday.

The high-level meeting, convened to review the UT's anti-narcotics strategy, was attended by top civil and police officials, including the

Director General of Police, Additional Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary (Home), ADGP CID, and other senior officers. Deputy Commissioners and SSPs from across the UT joined the session virtually.

A key highlight of the meeting was the identification of 220 drug hotspots across Jammu and Kashmir, including 20 newly flagged areas. Officials reported that 33 hotspots have been dismantled, leading to 413 arrests from these high-risk zones. These hotspots have emerged as | [More on P10](#)

TRUMP TARIFF

We'll Safeguard National Interest: India

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India will take all necessary steps to safeguard and promote national interest, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday, a day after US President Donald Trump announced 25 per cent tariffs plus penalty on domestic exports to America from August 1.

In a suo motu statement in both the Houses of Parliament, he said, the



government is examining the implications of these tariffs and is in consultation with all stakeholders, including farmers, exporters, MSMEs | [More on P10](#)

EXPLAINER

Impact Of Trump Tariff On Indian Businesses

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced the imposition of a 25 per cent additional import duty plus penalty on goods imported from India.

The duty will come into effect from August 1. The unspecified penalty was imposed on India for purchasing crude oil and military equipment from Russia. | [More on P10](#)

MP's Panel Flags Delay In J&K Panchayat Polls

Agencies

New Delhi: A report tabled in Parliament has revealed that the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj has issued an advisory to Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territories in December 2024 to take steps for holding Panchayat elections.

In its report tabled in both Houses of Parliament on July 28, 2025, the department-related standing committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj revealed

that the ministry had informed the committee it had issued an advisory to different States and Union Territories including J&K and Ladakh to take steps to hold Panchayat elections. "The Ministry has issued advisories to the States/UTs, where election is due, to take all possible steps to hold the delayed Panchayat elections in conformity with the Constitutional provisions. Recently, Ministry has issued advisories to the States of Assam, Karnataka, Maharashtra, | [More on P10](#)

Azad: Pahalgam Chapter Closed, LG Took Blame

Says Oppn Walkouts Help Govt Pass Laws Easily

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Thursday said the issue of the April 22 Pahalgam attack should now be considered closed as the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has already taken responsibility for the security failure.

"I think that chapter has been closed. The LG has



already said something about it and he has owned the responsibility and with that the matter should be closed," Azad told reporters. Speaking on the recent killing of three terrorists in Operation | [More on P10](#)

Record Pilgrim Arrivals Testament To India's Unity: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The number of pilgrims to have paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir crossed the 4 lakh mark on Thursday.

"Baba Amarnath makes the impossible possible. With his blessings, the Holy Yatra today crossed the 4 Lakh figure. I bow to Lord Shiva for this miracle and express my gratitude to everyone involved in making the holy pilgrimage a divine experience for devotees," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said in a series of posts on X.



Sinha said the high number of pilgrims was testament to India's unity and its resolve to overcome all challenges.

"The record number of darshans and arrival of devotees from across the country and the globe is | [More on P10](#)

Yatra Resumes Via Baltal, Halted From Jammu

The Amarnath Yatra resumed from the Baltal axis in the Kashmir valley on Thursday but was suspended from Jammu due to inclement weather conditions. No fresh batch of pilgrims was allowed to proceed from Jammu to the cave shrine in the South Kashmir Himalayas this morning, officials said. In view of maintenance works on the Pahalgam axis of the Amarnath Yatra route following the rains, the yatra will continue only through the Baltal axis. Torrential rains in Kashmir had rendered the roads unsafe, following which | [More on P10](#)

HAJ 2026

Deadline Extended To August 7

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Haj Committee of India has extended the deadline for submission of Haj Application Forms (HAFs) for Haj 2026 till August 7, 2025, officials announced on Thursday.

As per an official communication, it has been informed that applicants possessing machine readable valid Indian International Passports issued on or before 7th August, 2025 and valid at least up to 31st December 2026 are eligible to apply for Haj 2026.

Meanwhile, Haj aspirants can submit applications online only at the website of Haj Committee of India (www.haj-committee.gov.in) or Android Mobile App 'HAJ SUVIDHA' available at Google Play-store. Before filling the | [More on P10](#)



Government of India

Motherhood is a blessing



And now, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana is there to support you

₹5000

for the birth of your first child

₹6000

if your second child is a girl

Over 4 crore women have already received direct assistance of more than ₹19,000 crore through this scheme

To avail the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, contact your nearest Anganwadi worker or ASHA didi today



CBC 46112/13/0001/2526



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Friday | 01-08-2025

2

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

General Administration Department

Civil Secretariat, J&K

Subject: Verification of Character & Antecedents of the applicants who have applied for compassionate appointment under Jammu and Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022, for calendar year 2022 & 2023.

NOTICE

The applicants figuring in the Annexure to this notice are hereby informed to submit their e-mail IDs and contact details in the Cabinet Section, General Administration Department, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar/Jammu, in person, within a period of twenty-one (21) days positively, for the purpose of filling up of e-verification rolls to obtain their character and antecedents from the Criminal Investigation Department.

In case any candidate fails to report General Administration Department, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar or Jammu, he/she shall forfeit his/her right to appointment under Jammu and Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022.

No: - GAD-RAS/51/2025-09 (7665958)

(Urvi Singh)

Under Secretary to the Government

Annexure to Notice No. GAD-RAS/51/2025-09 (7665958)

Dated: 30.07.2025

S.No.	Name, Parentage & Address of Applicant	Name of the deceased employee	Designation	Department of the deceased Government employee	Domicile District
1	Zubair Ahmad Magray S/o Late Farooq Ahmad Magray R/o Mujisoo Seer Hamdan Tehsil Mattan District Anantnag	Late Farooq Ahmad Magray	Head Constable	Home	Anantnag
2	Sunhalla Sajad D/o Late Sajad Hussain Dar R/o Hussainpora Bagh, Tehsil Bijbehara, District Anantnag	Late Sajad Dar	Selection Grade Constable	Home	Anantnag
3	Aaqub Rashid Shilla S/o Late Abdul Rashid Shilla R/o Hardutooru, Tehsil Achabal, District Anantnag	Late Abdul Rashid Shilla	ASI	Home	Anantnag
4	Sameer Ahmad Malik S/o Late Abdul Ahad Malik R/o Khimanderpora, Tehsil Kenzer, District Baramulla	Late Ab Ahad Malik	Assistant Motorman	Jal Shakti	Baramulla
5	Shabir Ahmad Chopan S/o Late Abdul Gani Chopan R/o Chopan Mohallah Kanispora, Tehsil & District Baramulla	Late Abdul Gani Chopan	Helper	Jal Shakti	Baramulla
6	Maqbool Hussain Dar S/o Late Gh. Mohd Dar R/o Maharajpora Kongamdara, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla	Late Gh. Mohd Dar	Gang Coolie	Jal Shakti	Baramulla
7	Ghulam Nabi Malik S/o Late Mohd Sultan Malik R/o Zamzampora Tehsil & District Baramulla	Late Mohd Sultan Malik	Mali	APD(AGRI)	Baramulla
8	Ikhlas Aman Karimi S/o Late Amanullah Karimi Bhat R/o Syed Karimi Baramulla A/P Malyarpora Gulsharabad Tehsil & District Baramulla	Late Amanullah Karimi Bhat	Fitter Operator	Jal Shakti	Baramulla
9	Furkaan Ahmad Lone S/o Late Bashir Ahmad Lone R/o Ferozpora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla	Late Bashir Ahmad Lone	Time Keeper	Jal Shakti	Baramulla
10	Arundeeep Singh Mehta S/o Late S Rajinder Singh Mehta R/o Khawaja Bagh Tehsil & District Baramulla	Late S Rajinder Singh Mehta	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Home	Baramulla
11	Ubaid Mumtaz S/o Late Mumtaz Ahmad Khan R/o Niloosa, Tehsil Boniyar, District Baramulla	Late Mumtaz Ahmad Khan	Head Constable	Home	Baramulla
12	Yaseen Bashir S/o Late Bashir Ahmad Sheikh R/o Kakar Hamam Tehsil & District Baramulla	Late Bashir Ahmad Sheikh	Selection Grade Constable	Home	Baramulla
13	Ghulam Mustafa Lone S/o Late Ghulam Mohammad R/o Ushkara Tehsil & District Baramulla	Late Ghulam Mohammad	Head Constable	Home	Baramulla
14	Rifat Ara D/o Late Gulam Ahmad Wani R/o Manahama, Tehsil Magam, District Budgam	Late Ghulam Ahmad Wani	Chowkidar	School Education	Budgam
15	Akhtar Hussain Baba S/o Late Culum Mohd. Baba R/o Sofi Pora, Tehsil Magam, District Budgam	Late Gh. Mohammad Baba	Assistant Lineman	Jal Shakti	Budgam
16	Mohammad Rafiq Wagay S/o Late Ghulam Mohammad Wagay R/o Kanidajan, Charar-i-Sharief, District Budgam	Late Ghulam Mohammad Wagay	Assistant Lineman	Jal Shakti	Budgam
17	Vijay Singh S/o Late Ranjeet Singh R/o Village Kathawa Tehsil Hagsoo District Doda	Ranjeet Singh	Selection Grade Constable	Home	Doda
18	Aman Singh S/o Late Kamal Singh R/o Chanti Balla Tehsil Bhaleesa Gandoh, District Doda	Late Kamal Singh	Constable	Home	Doda
19	Aamir Hassan Dar S/o Late Gh. Hassan Dar R/o Watalbagh, Tullamulla, Tehsil Lar, District Ganderbal	Late Ghulam Hassan Dar	Selection Grade Constable	Home	Ganderbal
20	Sumit Kumar S/o Late Baldev Raj R/o Aghore, Tehsil Bhalwal, District Jammu	Late Baldev Raj	Helper	Jal Shakti	Jammu
21	Kumar Sehaj S/o Late Yash Paul Gotam R/o Malpur, Tehsil Bhalwal District Jammu	Late Yas Paul Gotam	Selection Grade Constable	Home	Jammu
22	Kartick Pangotra S/o Late Kewal Krishan R/o Chak Aslam Tehsil R.S. Pura District Jammu	Late Kewal Krishan	Follower	Home	Jammu
23	Gagan Deep Panday S/o Late Jeet Raj R/o H.No. 489 Pura Nagar Tehsil & District Jammu	Late Jeet Raj	Barber	Home	Jammu
24	Makhan Lal S/o Late Girdhari Lal R/o Chak Wahab Din, Tehsil Suchetgarh, Jammu	Late Girdhari Lal	Head Constable	Home	Jammu
25	Raghav Sharma S/o Late Naresh Kumar R/o Rohi Morh Gadi Garh Tehsil Jammu South District Jammu	Late Naresh Sharma	Head Constable	Home	Jammu
26	Sourav Sharma S/o Late Pritam Dass R/o Hardu Malara Tehsil Chowki Choura District Jammu	Late Pritam Dass	Warden	Home	Jammu
27	Madhu Sharma D/o Laxmi Narayan & W/o Late Rajnish Khajuria R/o Jogian Tehsil Nagri Parole, District Kathua	Late Rajnish Khajuria	Head Constable	Home	Kathua

28	Kanta Devi W/o Late Bodh Raj R/o Parliwand Tehsil & District Kathua	Late Bodh Raj	Peon	School Education	Kathua
29	Bishan Dass S/o Late Ashok Kumar R/o Ward No.10 Thana Tehsil Basholi, District Kathua	Late Ashok Kumar	Helper	APD(AGRI)	Kathua
30	Shahzad Ali S/o Late Mushtaq Ahmed R/o Mailhar Tehsil Lohal Mallar District Kathua	Mushtaq Ahmed	Head Constable	Home	Kathua
31	Mudasar Ansary S/o Late Mushtaq Ahmed R/o Nottar Tehsil Billawar District Kathua	Late Mushtaq Ahmed	Selection Grade Constable	Home	Kathua
32	Ankush Sharma S/o Late Sudesh Kumar R/o Mahanpur A/P Dambra, Tehsil Mahanpur, District Kathua	Late Sudesh Kumar	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Home	Kathua
33	Arfat-Ul-Islam S/o Late Ab. Ahad Mochi R/o Nutrussa, Tehsil Handwara, District Kupwara	Late Abdul Ahad Mochi	Follower (Sweeper)	Home	Kupwara
34	Javeed Ahmad Ganai S/o Late Ali Mohd Ganai R/o Sogam Tehsil Sogam District Kupwara	Late Ali Mohd Ganai	Assistant Lineman	Jal Shakti	Kupwara
35	Rizwan Rashid Najar S/o Late Ab. Rashid Najar R/o Wahipora Tehsil Langate District Kupwara	Late Ab. Rashid Najar	ASI	Home	Kupwara
36	Syed Musadiq Hussain Shah S/o Late Tasaduq Hussain Shah R/o Dragar, Tehsil Karnah, District Kupwara	Late Tasaduq Hussain Shah	SI	Home	Kupwara
37	Aliyass Ahmad Wani S/o Late Farooq Ahmad Wani R/o Diver Ander Bugh Tehsil Sogam District Kupwara	Late Farooq Ahmad Wani	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Home	Kupwara
38	Mohd Azad S/o Late Mohd Iqbal R/o Village Jugal, Tehsil Mendhar, District Poonch	Late Mohd Iqbal	Assistant Lineman	Jal Shakti	Poonch
39	Shoieb Anjum S/o Late Manzoor Hussain R/o Nooa Bandi, Tehsil Haveli, District Poonch	Late Manzoor Hussain	Head Constable	Home	Poonch
40	Hartik Dutta S/o Late Balram Dutta R/o Village Drabe Tehsil Surankote District Poonch	Late Ba Dutta R	Head Constable	Home	Poonch
41	Sheikh Junaid Suhail S/o Late Bashir Ahmad Sheikh & Late Mtr. Syida Banoo R/o Tral-i-Payeen, Tral, Pulwama	Late Mtr. Syida Banoo	Works Watcher	Jal Shakti	Pulwama
42	Nussrat Jabeen D/o Late Abdul Hamid & W/o Late Abdul Gafoor R/o Manji Dhar, Tehsil & District Rajouri	Late Abdul Gafoor	Chowkidar	Tourism	Rajouri
43	Mohd Shafait S/o Late Abdul Majeed R/o Dharsakri, Tehsil Kotra Va, District Rajouri	Late Abdul Majid	Assistant Lineman	Jal Shakti	Rajouri
44	Radhay Sham S/o Late Pritam Dass R/o Dhanaka, Tehsil Nowshera, Rajouri	Late Pritam Dass	Assistant Lineman	Jal Shakti	Rajouri
45	Sahil Sood S/o Late Daleep Kumar R/o Dabber (Nowshera) Tehsil & District Rajouri	Late Daleep Kumar	ASI	Home	Rajouri
46	Mohd Yaser Choudhary S/o Late Mohd Kabir R/o Katarmal Tehsil Manjakote District Rajouri	Late Mohd Kabir	Leading Fireman	Home	Rajouri
47	Mohan Singh S/o Late Sher Singh R/o Kayala, Tehsil & District Reasi	Late Singh Sher	Assistant Motorman	Jal Shakti	Reasi
48	Mohit Sharma S/o Late Subash Chander R/o Village Serli, Katra, District Reasi	Late Subash Chander	Assistant Line Man	Jal Shakti	Reasi
49	Imran Ahmed S/o Late Parvez Ahmad R/o Judda Tehsil Arnas District Reasi	Late Parvez Ahmad	Selection Grade Constable	Home	Reasi
50	Shivam Singh S/o Late Rajesh Singh R/o Ghar Mandi Tehsil Vijaypur District Samba	Late Rajesh Singh	SI	Home	Samba
51	Sabreena Mir D/o Ghulam Mohammad Mir & W/o Late Syed Shahid Zaidie R/o Alamgari Bazar Jalali Bagh, Tehsil Eidgah District Srinagar	Late Syed Shahid Zaidie	Work Supervisor	RDD	Srinagar
52	Zuhair Ashraf S/o Late Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh R/o Natipora, Tehsil Chanapora Natipora, District Srinagar	Late Mohammad Ashraf	Leading Fireman	Home	Srinagar
53	Ravi Kumar S/o Late Pritam Chand R/o Village Sattian, Tehsil Ramnagar, District Udhampur	Late Pritam Chand	Assistant Lineman	Jal Shakti	Udhampur
54	Nitin Bhardwaj S/o Late Mohan Lal R/o Sunetaz Tehsil Ramnagar District Udhampur	Late Mohan Lal	ASI	Home	Udhampur
55	Ajay Kumar S/o Late Hans Raj R/o Village Incha Tehsil Ramnagar District Udhampur	Late Hans Raj	Head Constable	Home	Udhampur
56	Rakesh Sharma S/o Late Sansar Chand R/o Kirmoo, Tehsil Ramnagar, District Udhampur	Late Sansar Chand	ASI	Home	Udhampur

THE UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR HAZRATBAL, SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have got correction order against my Name & Father's Name issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education in the year 2024. I passed/appeared B.Sc. (1st Year/2nd Year/3rd Year) & B.Ed. under Roll Nos.: 1257, 2107, 1968 & 4459 in the Year: 1996, 1997, 1998 & 2001 respectively through the University of Kashmir, Srinagar.

Now I have applied for Revised Certificates of my B.Sc. (1st Year/2nd Year/3rd Year) plus for B.Ed. Certificate in the University of Kashmir, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of Head/Officer in charge, Administration Section, University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained. This is published for the information of the general public.

The correct particulars as per records of J&K BOSE, Srinagar are as under:

Name: GHULAM MOHAMMAD GAVGOJRI
Father's Name: MOHAMMAD SIDIQ GAVGOJRI
Mother's Name: SUNDARI BANO

Date of Birth: 11-03-1975

Residence: Tral-i-Payeen, Tral (Pulwama)



inf

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class-10th) under Roll No.: 139034035 Session: Annual- Regular Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/Board/parent against my Mother's Name Tahira Bano instead of Tahira Hassan

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina, Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Mafruha Zehra

Father's name: Ghulam Hassan Dar

Mother's Name: Tahira Hassan

DOB: 20-09-2008

Residence: Chattergam

Mobile no: 9906515715



pd

Public Notice

I, Mahbooba Bano, S/o Late Bashir Ahmad Punjoo, R/o Umer Haira Buchpora, Srinagar – 190020, hereby inform the general public that my Husband, Bashir Ahmad Punjoo, who was the registered consumer of electricity connection bearing Consumer ID: 0204040027555, Has passed Away. I intend to transfer the said electricity connection to my name. If any person or party has any objection to this transfer, they may file their objection in writing in the office of the Sub-Division Officer, PDD, Hawal, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained after the stipulated time.

NOTICE

I, Farhilla D/o Ghulam Ahmad Mir R/o Umer Haira Buchpora, Srinagar 190020 have changed my name in Passport Bearing Passport No:- R 3978668 from (old Name) Farhilla D/o Ghulam Ahmad Mir R/O Umer Haira Buchpora, Srinagar 190020 to (New Name) Farhilla D/o Ghulam Ahmad Mir R/o Umer Haira Buchpora, Srinagar 190020. In Future I will be known as (New Name) Farhilla D/o Ghulam Ahmad Mir R/o Umer Haira Buchpora, Srinagar 190020. If anybody is having any objection, he/she may contact Regional Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as Javed Ahmed Khan S/o Gulzar Khan, DOB 12-07-1973 while my correct name and DOB is Javid Ahmad Khan S/O Gulzar Ahmad Khan, dob 02-02-1973. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may contact concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Javid Ahmad Khan S/O Gulzar Ahmad Khan
R/o Khankah Bagh Pampore

medialine

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of son has been wrongly written as Lukman Ibn Yawar while his correct name is Mohammad Lukman . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file in the Municiple Council Shopian within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Yawar Ahmad Shah
F/o Mohammad Lukman R/o Shouch Kulgam

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name and dob of ward has been wrongly written as Arman Nasir , DOB 15-03-2009 in his adhaar card while his correct name is Arma Nasir and dob 15-07-2010. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file in the concerned Aadhar Centre Jammu Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nasir Ahmad Naik

S/O Ab Rehman Naik

R/o Ratnipora Shopain

fko

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir
Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar (J&K) ,
Ph.0194-24 77949 , 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops. Desktops.
Printers, Photocopiers. Faxes, CCTV Cameras,
Security System and Refilling of all Types
of Cartridges, Toners

Registered
Government
order Suppliers.



DISCLAIMER: KASHMIR OBSERVER MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE INFORMATION CARRIED IN DISPLAY/CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS, APPEARING IN THE NEWSPAPER IS CORRECT. HOWEVER THE NEWSPAPER TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY NOR DOES IT NECESSARILY ENDORSE THE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT



Shantmanu Flags Off ‘SCERT On Wheels’

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary and Financial Commissioner of Higher Education Department, Shantmanu, today flagged off the innovative outreach initiative ‘SCERT on Wheels’ from the Divisional Office of State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Bemina.

Shantmanu, who is Director SCERT, inaugurated a daylong model exhibition titled ‘Rajya Stariya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani (RSBVP) 2024–25’. He also chaired a seminar on ‘Millets for Sustainable Future and Health’ held at the SCERT auditorium.

Organised by the SCERT, J&K, under the aegis of the 52nd RBVP sponsored by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi, the event marked a significant step towards promoting the scientific temperament and innovation among the students.

The overarching theme of the programme was ‘Science and Technology for Sustainable Future’, with sub-themes including: Food, Health and Hygiene Transport and Communication, Mathematical Modelling and Computational Thinking, Natural Farming, Disaster Management, Waste Management and Resource Management.

Celebrating five years of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, SCERT’s Kashmir Division launched ‘SCERT on Wheels’ as a grassroots outreach programme aimed at strength-

ening awareness, enhancing community engagement and reinforcing SCERT’s field-connected identity. The initiative brings SCERT’s services, mission and messages directly to schools and communities, demystifying policies and showcasing practices.

Addressing the seminar, Shantmanu expressed heartfelt appreciation to the organisers for curating such impactful and community-driven initiatives. He also interacted with the students and inspected a range of scientific models developed by the student participants from various districts.

“I am highly impressed with the remarkable creativity and innovation displayed by the students. The models showcased today reflect a deep understanding of critical issues and a promising future led by young minds,” he stated.

Shantmanu lauded RSBVP as a platform brimming with talent and praised the teachers for guiding and mentoring the students with dedication and insight. “There is absolutely no doubt that RSBVP is a platform for innovation promotion and the educators here are playing a crucial role in shaping young thinkers,” he added.

Highlighting the importance of intellectual and ethical growth, he noted, “Two things define a person, his thoughts and his conduct. Thoughts shape our perception and vision, while conduct determines how we translate those thoughts into action. Both are essential in building a character and purpose.”

GMC Sgr Introduces OMR-Based Exams For Transparency

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards modernizing its examination process, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar has introduced Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) based examinations to ensure transparency and quick results in the evaluation process.

To begin with this new initiative, GMC Srinagar today successfully conducted a written examination for senior residency positions in various disciplines.

OMR-based exams minimize the scope for errors or biases, ensuring a transparent evaluation process.

Use of OMR results in Rapid assessment and declaration of results & reduces waiting time for candidates besides timely engagement of selected candidates which maintains the academic calendar without delays.

By adopting OMR-based exams, GMC Srinagar underscores its commitment to maintaining high standards of academic integrity and efficiency.

Short Plays Staged At GGHSS Zadibal, Amira Kadal



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In continuation of the Nasha Mukti J&K Abhiyan, Cultural Unit Srinagar of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with the Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Zadibal Srinagar, and Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Amira Kadal Srinagar organized two separate impactful short plays within the school premises raising awareness on consequences of drug abuse.

At GGHSS Amira Kadal, a compelling short play was performed aimed at raising awareness on the devastating impact of drug addiction.

The play, performed by a local artist group, effectively portrayed the emotional, psychological, and social fallout of substance abuse, drawing strong emotional responses from the audience. The students were

deeply moved by the performance and expressed a desire to see more such initiatives in the future.

Principal of the institution underscored the role of schools in spreading awareness and guiding the youth toward a healthy lifestyle.

Burhan Hussain, Cultural Officer DIPR, emphasized the role of cultural engagement in community sensitization and praised the students for their enthusiastic participation.

The programme concluded with a pledge by staff and students to combat drug abuse and foster a clean, drug-free society.

Similarly at GGHSS Zadibal, a short play focusing on drug de-addiction and its social consequences was delivered by a local artist group. Their moving performance portrayed the emotional and psychological toll of substance abuse, striking a powerful chord with the students and faculty alike.

Food Safety Dept Destroys 1200 Kg Spoiled Meat In City Raid



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant crackdown on food adulteration, a joint enforcement team from the Food Safety Department Srinagar and the Drug and Food Control Organization (DFCO) seized and destroyed over 1200 kilograms of spoiled meat during a raid at a storage facility in Zakura, Srinagar.

The operation, based on specific intelligence inputs, was led by Hilal Ahmad Mir, Assistant Commissioner Food Safety ICLC, and Yameen Ul Nabi, Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar, along with a team of Food Safety Officers. The team discovered a large quantity of stale and foul-smelling meat that was allegedly ready to be distributed in the market for human consumption.

“The meat was found in a highly decomposed condition, completely unfit for consumption. It was immediately destroyed on the spot under strict supervision to eliminate any

potential health risk to the public,” said Assistant Commissioner Yameen Ul Nabi.

The department confirmed that legal proceedings will be initiated against the concerned Food Business Operators (FBOs) under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act.

“This is a serious violation of food safety norms. We are committed to ensuring that such acts of gross negligence do not go unpunished,” stated Hilal Ahmad Mir. “Public health cannot be compromised, and we will not hesitate to take the strictest action against violators.”

The Food Safety Department reiterated the critical importance of maintaining proper temperature control, especially when handling perishable and high-risk food items like meat. “Temperature abuse is a key factor in spoilage, and we have issued strict directives to all FBOs to adhere to recommended storage practices,” the department empha-

sized in its official statement.

Officials also said that the raid and subsequent action were conducted under the strict directions of Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed, Secretary Health and Medical Education, and Smt. Smita Sethi, Commissioner of Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Jammu and Kashmir.

“There are clear instructions from our top leadership to maintain zero tolerance against food adulteration and unhygienic practices. Surveillance and enforcement across markets have been intensified,” the statement added.

The department urged consumers and FBOs to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activities or unhygienic food practices. Reports can be made anonymously by calling the Food Safety Helpline at 104.

This latest enforcement effort underscores the government’s resolve to crack down on food safety violations and safeguard the health of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Chanapora Residents Await Upgradation Of PHC To SDH

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Over 13 years have passed since the foundation stone was laid for a hospital at Housing Colony Chanapora, but the residents continue to wait for its upgradation from a Primary Health Centre (PHC) to a Sub-District Hospital (SDH).

Despite an expenditure of over Rs 20 crore and the completion of the building in 2014, the facility still functions as a PHC, offering limited services between 10 am to 4 pm.

Locals said that they have repeatedly approached authorities at various levels, demanding round-the-clock healthcare services and upgradation to SDH status. “The hospital has sufficient infrastructure, modern equipment and modular operation theatres, but it still fails to meet the healthcare needs of Chanapora and adjoining areas,” said Mushtaq Ahmad, a local resident.

He added that a fully functional SDH operating 24x7 is the need of the hour to cater to patients not just

from Chanapora but also from nearby areas like Bagh-e-Mehtab, Nowgam, Natipora and Rawalpura.

Fayaz Ahmad, another local resident, told KNO that despite raising the issue with every concerned authority, no concrete action has been taken. “In medical emergencies, patients are forced to rush to SMHS or SKIMS, which are far away. An up-graded hospital here would greatly ease the burden on tertiary care hospitals and serve the surrounding population better,” he said.

He also pointed out staff shortage at the facility, and claimed that expensive medical equipment worth crores lies defunct due to the absence of trained operators.

Residents have appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Health Minister Sakina Itoo to intervene and ensure the hospital is up-graded and made functional round-the-clock at the earliest. Meanwhile, a senior health department official acknowledged the demand and said it is currently under active consider-

ation of the higher authorities.

He confirmed that the Chanapora hospital continues to operate as a PHC. “In 2010-11, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, approved a 30-bed facility under the National Health Mission (NHM), and the building was inaugurated in 2014 as a PHC,” the official said.

He said the PHC currently functions during standard hours (10:00 AM to 4:30 PM) and has staff strength of 21, including 4 Medical Officers and 2 Dental Surgeons.

“Though it is not yet an SDH, the hospital has been strengthened with additional machinery and manpower under NHM. Primary healthcare services such as free screening for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like diabetes, hypertension and cancers (oral, breast, cervical) are being provided. Free essential medicines and diagnostic services are also available, along with health awareness and wellness programmes aimed at promoting a healthier lifestyle,” he added—(KNO)

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

مرثق
العجیو
DAR'KE AZADARI

13TH EDITION
MASHQ E ARBA'EEN
Annual Exhibition 2025

A week long Exhibition on Art , Photography ,
Calligraphy & Poetry

from
12th - 19th August 2025

Theme
Women in KARBALA
Children in

Registrations / Submission Last Date
8th August 2025

For More Details Call : +919469037182 ,+919149456661

Terms & Conditions Apply

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS

FAJR	4:04
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:32
Magrib	7:36
ISHA	9:09

This Day In History

- 30 BC - Octavian (later known as Augustus) enters Alexandria, Egypt, bringing it under the control of the Roman Republic
- 527 - Justinian I becomes the sole ruler of the Byzantine Empire
- 607 - Ono no Imoko is dispatched as envoy to the Sui court in China (Traditional Japanese date: July 3, 607)
- 902 Aghlabid emir Ibrahim II of Ifriqiya destroys Taormina, Sicily
- 1021 - Synod of Pavia: emperor Henry II convicts married priest
- Declaration of War
- 1177 - Peace Treaty of Venice: Emperor Frederik I and Pope Alexander III
- 1203 - Alexius IV Angelus appointed co-regent of Byzantium
- 1291 Everlasting League forms, basis of Swiss Confederation (Independence)
- 1498 - Christopher Columbus lands on "Isla Santa" (Venezuela)
- 1664 - Battle at St Gotthard: Earl Raimondo Montecucculi beats Ahmed Kiprulu
- 1690 - Battle at Staffarda: French army beats Victor Amadeus of Savoy
- 1714 - Monarch Georg Ludwig becomes King George I of England
- 1717 - Nicholas Rowe is appointed British Poet Laureate by George I
- 1732 - Foundations laid for Bank of England
- 1759 - Battle at Minden, Westfalen: Ferdinand van Brunswick beats France
- Historic Invention
- 1774 - Joseph Priestley, English theologian, chemist and author discovers oxygen by isolating it in its gaseous state
- 1780 - Sweden declares neutrality
- 1781 - British army under general Cornwallis occupies Yorktown, Virginia
- 1785 - Caroline Herschel becomes 1st woman to discover a comet
- 1789 - US Customs begins enforcing Tariff Act
- 1793 - France becomes 1st country to use the metric system
- 1798 - Battle of the Nile: British Royal Navy under Admiral Horatio Nelson attacks and decimates the French fleet at Aboukir Bay off the Nile Delta, Egypt
- 1832 - The Black Hawk War ends.
- 1834 - Slavery abolished throughout the British Empire - Slavery Abolition Act 1833 comes into effect
- 1861 - Brazil recognizes Confederacy
- 1863 - Battle of Little Rock, Arkansas; start of Chattanooga campaign
- 1869 - 1st voyage down Colorado River
- 1886 - Great Britain annexes Kermadec-Island near New Zealand
- 1907 - U.S. Army Signal Corps establish a small Aeronautical Division
- 1914 - France & Germany mobilize their troops at outbreak of WWI
- 1926 - Battles between Druze & French in Damascus
- 1943 - Japan declares Burma Independence under U Ba Maw
- 1958 - US atomic submarine USS Nautilus begins 1st transit of North Pole "operation Sunshine"
- 1960 - Islamabad declared as the federal capital of the Government of Pakistan.
- 1969 - Mariner 6 sends close-up photos of Mars
- 1974 - China's People's Liberation Army Navy, put into service Chang Zheng 1, their first nuclear-powered submarine

Tariffs, Oil & Tensions

Trump Stirs South Asia Waters

Trans Asia News

Washington: In a dramatic realignment of tone and strategy, the United States has sanctioned six Indian companies for trading with Iran, imposed steep new tariffs on Indian imports, and simultaneously announced a new oil development deal with Pakistan. The convergence of actions suggests a growing shift in Washington's South Asia

Sanctions Over Iran Trade

Just hours after Trump slapped new tariff on India, the U.S. Department of State sanctioned six Indian companies under Executive Order 13846 for allegedly engaging in petrochemical trade with Iran-activity the U.S. claims funds terrorism and fuels instability in the Middle East.

The sanctions freeze any U.S.-linked assets and prohibit American entities from en-



posture—with India now facing mounting pressure over its ties with Iran and Russia, and Pakistan emerging as a new energy partner.

Tariff Offensive

The sequence began with U.S. President Donald Trump unleashing a blistering attack on India's trade practices and global alliances. Citing what he called India's "most strenuous and obnoxious" trade barriers, Trump announced a 25% tariff on all Indian goods, to take effect August 1, along with an additional penalty for India's continued purchases of Russian oil and military hardware.

"All things not good! India will therefore be paying a tariff of 25 per cent, plus a penalty for the above," Trump posted on Truth Social.

He also denounced India's involvement in the BRICS alliance-comprising of 10 countries including Russia, China and Iran-branding it "anti-US."

gaging with these firms. The action also extends to foreign businesses with significant U.S. exposure, raising compliance risks for Indian banks and logistics operators.

Pakistan Oil Deal

In a surprising parallel development, Trump also announced a new U.S.-Pakistan oil partnership, describing the South Asian country's energy reserves as "massive" and hinting at a long-term development agreement.

"We have just concluded a deal with the country of Pakistan, whereby Pakistan and the United States will work together on developing their massive oil reserves," Trump wrote.

"We are in the process of choosing the oil company that will lead this partnership. Who knows, maybe they'll be selling oil to India some day!"

The comment was seen as both a strategic tease and a geopolitical message—underscoring Trump's growing frustration with India's independent foreign policy, particularly its continued engagement with Russia and Iran.



(From the left) Former BJP MP Pragya Thakur, Lt Col Purohit, Sameer Kulkarni, Major Upadhyay & Ajay Rahirkar

All Accused Acquitted In 2008 Malegaon Blast Case

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai, Jul 31 : Nearly 17 years after a blast in Malegaon town of north Maharashtra claimed six lives, a special court in Mumbai on Thursday acquitted all the seven accused, including former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur and Lt Col Prasad Purohit, noting there was "no reliable and cogent evidence" against them.

Terrorism has no religion, the court said, adding it cannot convict on mere perception.

Thakur and Purohit hailed the court's order. Thakur said the acquittal was not just a win for her, but for "bhagwa" (saffron), as their acquittal rekindled the 'saffron terror' narrative buzz. "Bhagwa ki vijay hui hai," Thakur said.

Welcoming the court verdict, the BJP said the Congress manufactured the theory of "Hindu terror" when in power to stop the rise of Narendra Modi, the then Gujarat chief minister, to appease its Muslim voters.

Reacting to the court verdict, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said "terrorism was never saffron and will never be".

AIMIM leader Imtiaz Jaleel demanded that the state government challenge the acquittal. There is no word yet from any government functionary on this issue.

Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde said the court verdict was a slap on the face of the Congress, and demanded an apology from the party for its "saffron terror" narrative.

Terrorism should not be associated with any religion and no faith

advocates violence, senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh said.

Thakur said her life was ruined for the past 17 years, and that God will punish those who tried to insult "bhagwa".

An explosive device strapped to a motorcycle went off near a mosque in Malegaon town, located about 200 km from Mumbai, on September 29, 2008 killing six persons and injuring 101 others.

The court noted that the prosecution failed to prove the motorcycle that allegedly triggered the blasts belonged to Thakur.

The court also observed that while the prosecution had proven a bomb blast did occur, it failed to establish that the explosive was planted on the motorbike.

Special Judge A K Lahoti, assigned to hear cases of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) here, flagged several loopholes in the prosecution's case and the investigation carried out, and said the accused persons deserved the benefit of doubt.

Besides Thakur and Purohit, the accused included Major Ramesh Upadhyay (Retd), Ajay Rahirkar, Sudhakar Dwivedi, Sudhakar Chaturvedi and Sameer Kulkarni.

After the court acquitted them, the seven accused looked relieved with smiles on their faces. They thanked the judge and their lawyers.

The court while reading out the judgment said there was no "reliable and cogent" evidence to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt.

"Mere suspicion cannot take the place of real proof," the court said, adding that in the absence of any evidence, the accused per-

sons deserve the benefit of doubt.

"The overall evidence does not inspire confidence in the court to convict the accused. There is no reliable and cogent evidence to warrant conviction," the judge said while reading out the judgment.

The court also said provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) were not applicable to the case.

The court said it was not established that the motorbike used in the blast was registered in the name of Thakur, as claimed by the prosecution.

It has also not been established that the blast was carried out by the bomb allegedly planted on the bike, the court said.

The court directed the government to pay a compensation of Rs two lakh each to families of the six dead persons and Rs 50,000 to each of the 101 persons injured in the blast.

"We were shocked after the verdict came. People who died did not get justice," said Firoz Ahmed Azmi, who said he fought for justice in the Malegaon blast case.

Before the verdict was announced, the seven accused, all out on bail, arrived at the sessions court in south Mumbai which was barricaded amid heavy security.

All the accused were charged for committing a terrorist act under provisions of the UAPA and relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act.

The prosecution's claim was that the blast was orchestrated by right wing extremists with an intention to terrorise the local Muslim community.

CBSE Amends Affiliation Norms, Built-Up Area Key Now

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has amended its affiliation bye-laws to mandate that the maximum number of sections in a school will be permitted based on the total built-up carpet area of the school building, according to officials.

The board has also decided that schools shall be allowed an equal number of sections at the secondary level and at the senior secondary level.

"The board has been receiving feedback from the schools and stakeholders that there are areas where there is an acute shortage of land availability, due to which, at times, the schools face functional difficulties in increasing additional sections beyond the permissible limit, even when there is a demand for new admissions.

"The schools also find it difficult to meet the section student ratio of 1:40 with pressure for new admissions, but are unable to add additional sections due to the limit of permissible sections

as per land criteria," said CBSE Secretary Himanshu Gupta.

Gupta said that the board has now decided that the maximum number of sections in a school will be permitted based on the total built-up carpet area of the school building.

"The built-up carpet area of the school building has to be certified by the local body or a licensed architect, or as the case may be. The land area shall be utilised only for the purpose of deciding the category of the schools-Branch School, Middle Level School, Secondary Level and Senior Secondary Level as per affiliation bye-laws," he said.

"The school shall be allowed an equal number of sections at secondary level and at senior secondary level. The total number of sections permitted at secondary level - class 9 and 10 and at senior secondary level-class 11 and 12, shall be restricted at each level to one-fourth of the total number of sections running in the school from Balvatika to class 10 and 12," he said.

8 Air Accidents Killed 274 This Year: Govt

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government on Thursday said there have been eight air accidents that killed 274 people in the country so far this year.

Apart from the Air India plane crash on June 12 that killed 260 people, there were three trainee aircraft accidents and four helicopter accidents.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol told the Lok Sabha that the cause of these accidents is under probe by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).

"There have been a total of 08 accidents (involving 1 scheduled aircraft, 3 trainee aircraft and 4 helicopters) reported in the year 2025 (till date)," he said in a written reply.

On April 22, one person was killed in a helicopter accident in Gujarat, while on May 8, six people died in a chopper crash in Uttarakhand.

In another helicopter accident in Uttarakhand, seven people were killed on June 15.

As many as 84 people were injured in the eight accidents, including 81 persons in the Air India plane crash.

There have been a total of 08 accidents (involving 1 scheduled aircraft, 3 trainee aircraft and 4 helicopters) reported in the year 2025 (till date),"

In a separate written reply, Mohol said a total of 18 accidents involving Indian civil registered scheduled aircraft have been reported from 2015 till date.

"Payment of compensation to the passenger or next of kin in case of death or bodily injury to the passenger, caused by air accident /incident is governed by the provisions of Carriage by Air Act, 1972.

"India has ratified the Montreal Convention, 1999 by making amendments to the Carriage by Air Act, 1972 in 2009.

As per the said act, the liability of payment of compensation in case of death, delay, damage or loss to persons, baggage or cargo for international carriage, is of the carriers," Mohol said.

EC Finalises Electoral College For Vice Presidential Poll

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Election Commission on Thursday said it has finalised the Electoral College for the vice presidential election, necessitated due to the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar from the post.

The vice president of India is elected by an Electoral College comprising the elected members and nominated members of the Rajya Sabha and the elected members of the Lok Sabha.

In a statement, the poll authority said it has finalized the Electoral College list for the Vice Presidential Election, 2025.

The Electoral College list will be available for purchase at a counter set up in the Election Commission office from the date of notification, which is likely to be announced soon, the poll body said.

Dhankhar resigned as vice president on July 21, a little more than two years ahead of the end of his tenure.

First Major Issue Whether Rohingyas Refugees Or Illegal Entrants: SC

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday said the first major issue to be dealt with in cases concerning Rohingyas is whether they are refugees or illegal entrants.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta and N Kotiswar Singh said once that is decided, the other issues might be consequential.

The court observed this while hearing a batch of pleas concerning Rohingyas in the country.

"The first major issue is simple, are they refugees or illegal entrants," Justice Kant observed.

The bench took note of the broad issues

that arise for its consideration in the pleas relating to Rohingyas.

"Whether the Rohingyas are entitled to be declared as refugees? If so, what protections, privileges or rights they are entitled to?" the bench said.

It said the second issue is if the Rohingyas are not refugees and are illegal entrants, whether the action of the Centre and states in deporting them was justified.

"Even if the Rohingyas have been held to be illegal entrants, can they be detained indefinitely or they are entitled to be released on bail, subject to such conditions as the court may deem fit to be imposed?" it asked.

The court said the other issue raised in the petitions is whether the Rohingyas, who have not been detained and are living

in refugee camps, have been provided basic amenities like drinking water, sanitation and education.

"If the Rohingyas are illegal entrants, whether the Government of India and the states are obligated to deport them in accordance with law," it noted.

The bench segregated the pleas in three groups — one relating to Rohingyas, another not pertaining to the issue of Rohingyas and one plea that it said pertains to a different matter altogether.

It said the three groups of matters would be determined separately and it would fix those for hearing on consecutive Wednesdays.

The bench indicated that on the point of those who were found to be illegal entrants and on the question of the State's

responsibility to deport them, it could only lay down the principles.

During the hearing, the bench asked why these petitions were tagged for hearing.

The counsel appearing for the petitioners said there were overlapping issues in the pleas and one of the core issues pertained to the detention of Rohingyas.

One of the lawyers said the Rohingyas cannot be detained indefinitely.

On May 16, the apex court had rapped some petitioners who had claimed that 43 Rohingya refugees, including women and children, were dropped in the Andaman sea for deportation to Myanmar and said "when the country is passing through a difficult time, you come out with fanciful ideas".

Delhi Man Steals Rs 8 Lakh From Employers Shop To Buy iPhone, Branded Clothes

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested a 24-year-old man who allegedly stole Rs 8 lakh from a car accessories shop in Delhi's Karol Bagh area, officials said on Thursday.

The accused purchased an expensive iPhone, a foldable phone and branded clothes from the stolen money, an official said on Thursday.

The accused, identified as Gaurav Soni, a resident of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh, had used duplicate keys to access the shop.

"The incident came to light on July 21 when the shop owner lodged a complaint with the Karol Bagh police alleging that Rs 8 lakh in cash had been stolen from the premises. Based on the complaint, an FIR was registered," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Nidhin Valsan said.

Raids were conducted in Gorakhpur and Kanpur, eventually leading to the apprehension of the accused from Yashoda Nagar in Kanpur. During interrogation, Soni confessed to the theft and disclosed that he had hidden the stolen cash in an almirah at his residence

A police team was formed to trace the suspect. The team checked CCTV footage from multiple locations, and digital footprints were followed to zero

in on Soni's location.

"Raids were conducted in Gorakhpur and Kanpur, eventually leading to the apprehension of the accused from Yashoda Nagar in Kanpur. During interrogation, Soni confessed to the theft and disclosed that he had hidden the stolen cash in an almirah at his residence," said the DCP.

A total of Rs 5.5 lakh in cash, an iPhone worth Rs 1.5 lakh, and a Motorola foldable mobile phone were recovered from his possession, police said.

Soni had already spent about Rs 1 lakh on clothes, accessories and a lavish lifestyle, police said.

"Soni was employed at the Karol Bagh shop where he committed the theft. He had allegedly planned the act in advance and procured duplicate keys to gain access to the shop outside business hours," said the officer.

Further investigation into the matter is underway, he added.

Teacher's Tip-Off Saves 13-Year-Old Bride in Telangana

Trans Asia News

A 13-year-old girl from Ranga Reddy district in the southern Indian state of Telangana has been rescued from an illegal child marriage after her schoolteacher reported the incident to local authorities, according to an NDTV report.

The girl, a Class 8 student, was reportedly married off on May 28 to a 40-year-old married man, identified as Srinivas Goud, from Kandiwada village.

The marriage came to light when the girl confided in her teacher, who promptly informed district tahsildar Rajeshwar and police inspector Prasad.

Mother and others booked
"The girl lives with her mother and brother. Her mother had informed their landlord that she intended to marry off her daughter. A mediator then arranged the match with the 40-year-old man, and the marriage took place in May," said the police inspector.

The man, the girl's mother, the mediator, a priest who conducted the ceremony, and the man's wife have all been booked under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.



The man, the girl's mother, the mediator, a priest who conducted the ceremony, and the man's wife have all been booked under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

Girl in safe custody, counselling underway
The minor has been placed in a Sakhi Centre for care and counselling. District Child Protection Officer Prawin Kumar said that the girl and the man had reportedly been cohabiting for nearly two months.

"If the girl was subjected to sexual activity, a case under the POCSO Act will be filed," Kumar said. Engaging in sexual relations with a minor constitutes a criminal offence under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

'17% Students Engage With Family Work Post Matriculation'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In Jammu and Kashmir at least 17 percent of students engage in family work after completing 10th standard, reveals a report of Ministry of Education (MoE).

Stating the status of 'students outside the educational system' the report said that, "Students exit the education system after Grade 10 because of different reasons like taking up a job, doing an apprenticeship, repeating the grade, and participating in family work."

It also said that the schools reported the exit of students through percentages (0-25 percent, 26-50 percent, 51-75 percent, 76-100 percent).

The MoE has taken a 50 benchmark to identify gaps in the system.

"Aspects that schools reported as 51-75 percent or 76-100 percent are considered as areas needing targeted interventions to reduce the percentage of students exiting the education system," it reads.

Indian Army Dedicates School Infrastructure At Pinewood School



Observer News Service

POONCH: As part of its ongoing commitment to nation building and community outreach, the Indian Army in collaboration with Adani Foundation, J&K Bank, JSW Group & Allen Institute formally dedicated the modern infrastructure which included a state of art Auditorium with seating capacity of 510 at Pinewood School, Hamirpur to the local population focusing on modern & quality infrastructure for education of children residing in remote locations near Line of Control.

The auditorium was inaugurated by GOC, Ace of Spades Division in the presence of corporate representatives, senior Army officers, officials from the civil administration, local sarpanches, parents & students. The construction of the Auditorium by Adani Foundation, offers dedicated space for cultural and academic activities for the students of PWS, Hamirpur. The event also marked provisioning of one school bus by J&K Bank and two school buses by JSW Group aimed at improving student accessibility and daily school commute. The buses were handed over by respective corporate representatives to the school administration. To ensure the future of children in

According to KNO, the report states that 13 percent students were taking up a job immediately after completing Grade X and 7 percent students were repeating the grade.

It also states that 17 percent of students were getting engaged in family work after completing Grade.

The report further reveals that 51 percent schools were offering career guidance for students in higher grades.

"Some students were reported to leave the formal education system after completing Grade X, either for employment or to support family work," it reads.

It also states that a small percentage were reported to repeat the grade. Career guidance services were available in a little over half the schools, which can play a significant role in helping students make informed decisions about their future.

"Expanding access to structured career counselling and support can help reduce drop-out risks and promote continued education," reads the report.

senior classes, Indian Army collaborated with Allen Coaching Institute, Kota who have graciously adopted students from class IX to XII to provide them quality education & coaching for competitive examinations such as NEET. The coaching is being imparted through on-line mode at Pinewood School, Hamirpur free of cost.

The Indian Army's deep commitment to holistic development of our border regions was witnessed in its proactive engagement with various corporate houses to bring these projects under CSR initiative. This collaboration between Indian Army & Corporate entities is a prime example of PPP model, wherein both Indian Army & Private Sectors have pitched in developing remote areas close to Line of Control. Today's inauguration was in continuation to many infrastructure upgrades to classrooms and facilities, aimed at enhancing the quality of education being carried out by the Indian Army at Pinewood School, Hamirpur. A Sapling Plantation Drive was also organized on the school campus with participation from students, Army personnel, corporate representatives and local community members, reinforcing the importance of environmental stewardship.

Under CSR, J&K Bank Provides Bus To Pinewood School



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Reaffirming its commitment to social responsibility and community development, J&K Bank donated a 42-seater school bus to Pinewood School at Hamirpur, Balakote in Rajouri— an educational institution managed by the Indian Army. The initiative aims to ease the commute of children residing in the remote border villages of Balakote Sector and enhance their access to quality education.

In a special ceremony held at the school premises, Bank's Zonal Head (Rajouri) Satish Kumar formally handed over the bus to GOC 25 DIV (Rajouri) Major General Koshik Mukherji in presence of Colonel Sambhav Sagar, Principal Pinewood School Dr. Deepak Bakshi and other officers of the Indian Army. Bank's AGM & Cluster Head (Poonch) Aehajaz Ahmed, AGM Sanjeev Kumar Datta, Branch Head (Balakote)

Sahil Gupta and other officers from the Bank were also present during the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Head Satish Kumar said, "At J&K Bank, we believe meaningful CSR is about making a real difference in the lives of those who need it the most. Institutions like Pinewood School that serve students from far-flung border areas are engaged in a very noble mission of educating children. Through this contribution, we aim to support their noble efforts in ensuring educational access and empowerment."

Commending the Bank for the thoughtful initiative, Major General Koshik Mukherji expressed gratitude on behalf of the Indian Army and the school. "This generous donation from J&K Bank will go a long way in improving the daily lives of students and stands as a fine example of how community partnerships can create lasting impact," he said.

Warwan Valley: Hidden Paradise Craving Development, Connectivity

Locals Demand Tunnels, Internet, Basic Infrastructure To Unlock Its Tourism Potential

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Located deep within the Marwah sub-division of Kishtwar district, Warwan Valley is a breathtaking region of unmatched natural beauty and immense untapped tourism potential.

Surrounded by snow-capped peaks, dense forests, glacial streams, and lush meadows, the valley could easily become a premier tourist destination. Yet, despite its scenic splendour, Warwan remains one of the most neglected areas in the Union Territory.

Situated at an altitude of over 7,000 feet, the Marwah-Warwan belt comprises approximately 15 villages, home to nearly 60,000 residents. For more than four to six months each year, the entire region is cut off from the rest of the world due to heavy snowfall and the absence of all-weather road connectivity.

"From December to April, we are completely disconnected. We have to stock essentials in advance to survive the winter," Mohammad Altaf, a resident of Afti village in Warwan, said. "Even during summer, the road to Anantnag is extremely dangerous and riddled with potholes. To reach our district headquarters in Kishtwar, we first have to travel via Anantnag through Margan Top and then circle back. It's both ironic and frustrating."

Residents allege that continuous administrative neglect has pushed the region into a state of helplessness. They said basic facilities such as internet connectivity, healthcare, education, and mobile network services are either absent or extremely weak.

Travelling to Kishtwar is a daunting task for locals. Shaista



Begum, a college student from the area who travels to Anantnag in winters to pursue her studies, lamented, "There is no reliable mobile network. You have to walk to a specific spot to make a call. As for the internet, it doesn't exist here."

Despite these hardships, tourists and trekkers who visit Warwan describe it as "Kashmir's hidden gem". Surrounded by majestic Himalayan ranges and traversed by the Marusudar River, a tributary of the Chenab, the valley boasts picturesque meadows and trails ideal for adventure tourism.

"This place is even more beautiful than Pahalgam or Gulmarg," said Rayees Ahmed, a nature photographer who visited last year. "But no one comes here because there are no hotels, no internet, and the roads are too risky. It has everything to become a tourist hotspot, yet it has been left behind."

Waqar Fayaz, a social activist from Shopian who recently visited Warwan, described it as "a true paradise, more beautiful than Pahalgam and Gulmarg". He said the area has a vast space available for tourism infrastructure that remains unutilised.

People from across Kashmir have been visiting Warwan for camping and exploration, but

the region lacks basic amenities like bathrooms and other infrastructure, Fayaz added.

The local population has been demanding the construction of two tunnels: one connecting Marwah to Kishtwar and the other linking Warwan to Dardpora, Anantnag. These tunnels would drastically reduce travel time, ensure all-weather connectivity, and better integrate Warwan with the rest of Jammu and Kashmir, locals said.

"In every election, we are promised tunnels and development, but nothing happens," said Abdul Jabbar, a retired teacher from Basmani village. "If this were another place, projects would have started long ago. We are made to feel like second-class citizens."

The absence of basic services, especially quality education and employment opportunities, has led to a steady migration of youth to towns like Anantnag, Doda, and Kishtwar. "I left my village three years ago because there are no proper educational facilities or job opportunities," said Shabir Dar, now living in Anantnag.

The residents have sought the attention of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to address these issues—(KNO)

Zojila Tunnel Completion Pushed To 2028: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Zojila Tunnel project in Jammu and Kashmir, which aims to provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Leh, is now expected to be completed by February 2028, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Responding to a question by Ganderbal MP Mian Altaf Ahmad, Gadkari said the initial deadline for the project was September 29, 2026. However, delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, a terrorist attack at



the nearby Sonamarg Tunnel Project and extreme weather conditions have pushed the completion date further.

The tunnel, which is being executed by the National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Limit-

ed (NHIDCL), has achieved 64% physical progress as of now.

The total estimated cost of the project is Rs 6,809 crore, out of which Rs 3,934.42 crore has been spent so far, the minister stated. A total of 1,141 workers are currently employed in the project. Of these, 77% are from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and 28% of the workforce is specifically from Ganderbal district, where the project is located.

The Zojila Tunnel, once completed, will significantly improve connectivity to Ladakh and is considered a strategic infrastructure initiative by the central government.

'Zero Power Deficit During Peak Summers For 3rd Consecutive Year'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a major achievement, the Union Ministry of Power Thursday said that J&K has maintained 100 percent electricity availability during the peak summer months—from April to June for the third consecutive year.

This marks a dramatic improvement from the acute power deficits recorded in previous years, particularly 2020.

According to a written reply to Unstarred Question in the Rajya Sabha by Minister of State for Power, Shripad Naik said that J&K has successfully met its entire electricity peak demand in the months of April to June for the past three years, reversing the worrying trend seen earlier in 2020 and 2021.

As per KNO, during the summer months of April to June 2020, Jammu and Kashmir faced a significant electricity shortage. The peak demand stood at 2,940 MW, but only 2,352 MW could be supplied, resulting in a deficit of 588 MW, which translated to a 20 percent shortfall in meeting the region's power needs.

In the following year, 2021, the situation improved moderately. The peak electricity demand increased slightly to 3,018 MW, of which 2,668 MW was met. This left a deficit of 350 MW, equivalent to a shortfall of 11.6%.



By 2022, Jammu and Kashmir achieved a remarkable turnaround. For the first time in the five-year period, the entire peak demand of 2,723 MW during the April to June period was fully met, resulting in zero power deficit.

This positive trend continued into 2023, when the region recorded a peak demand of 2,890 MW, all of which was successfully supplied without any shortage.

In 2024, the upward momentum was maintained. Jammu and Kashmir's peak summer demand rose slightly to 2,924 MW, yet the entire requirement was met, reaffirming the region's improved electricity management and supply capabilities.

As per the latest figures for 2025 (up to June), the Union Territory has sustained this performance, meeting its entire peak demand of 2,906 MW with no

reported deficit, marking three consecutive years of 100% power availability during the summer peak period. The sharp decline in the demand-supply gap is being seen as a reflection of infrastructure upgrades, better resource planning, and central support through power allocation from Central Generating Stations.

Officials attribute this achievement to continued support from the Union Government, which has implemented key reforms in grid management, enhanced hydroelectric generation schedules, and facilitated participation in the Real-Time Market (RTM) for electricity. These measures have collectively played a crucial role in maintaining uninterrupted power supply during peak summer demand.

In contrast, states such as Kerala and Jharkhand have continued to experience electricity shortfalls during the same period. Jammu and Kashmir's consistent zero-deficit record stands out as a noteworthy example of effective power sector planning, especially considering its difficult terrain and historically complex grid infrastructure.

The uninterrupted power availability is also seen as a catalyst for growth in key sectors like industry and tourism, both of which rely heavily on stable and reliable electricity to function efficiently.

J&K, Ladakh To Get 677 New Petrol Pumps

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir, along with Ladakh, will see the addition of 677 new petrol pumps as part of a large-scale expansion by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (PSU OMCs), according to a written reply tabled in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Suresh Gopi, as reported by KNO said the selection and setup of new retail outlets are being carried out based on field feasibility, demand potential, and transparent dealer selection processes.

As per the government data, 643 new petrol pump locations have been identified and advertised in Jammu and Kashmir, while 34 are planned for the Union Territory of Ladakh. These outlets are part of the 49,964 dealership slots advertised nationwide in June and July 2023. So far, Letters of Intent (LoIs) have been issued for over 23,000 of these locations, with more than 5,200 petrol pumps already operational as of July 1, 2025.

The ministry clarified that the process is being handled solely by PSU OMCs through online systems involving draws of lots or bidding to ensure transparency. The selection is



based on eligibility criteria outlined under dealership selection guidelines.

The government said the total PSU OMC network in the country currently stands at 88,526 outlets, including 25,705 in rural and remote areas. However, 3,095 outlets across India remain temporarily non-operational due to various reasons, including financial constraints, legal disputes, and low sales. At present, there are no plans to repurpose these sites.

The expansion aims to enhance fuel accessibility, especially in rural and underserved regions such as parts of Jammu, Kashmir Valley, Kargil, and Leh.

Govt Teacher, 3 Others Booked For Fake Torture Claims In Rajouri

Press Trust Of India

RAJOURI/JAMMU: Police on Thursday booked four individuals, including a government teacher, for allegedly fabricating a false narrative of police torture and spreading misinformation through social media in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said.

The case pertains to a photograph that recently went viral, showing a man — identified as Mohammad Arif of Gundi in Khawas — with what appeared to be blood on his chin and around his mouth. It was claimed that he had been brutally beaten at the Khawas police post in Rajouri, resulting in serious injuries and the breaking of three teeth, they said.

Taking the matter seriously, the police launched an investigation.

Budhal Superintendent of Police (Operations) Wajahat

Hussain was appointed as the inquiry officer to thoroughly examine the allegations, they said.

According to police officials, the probe revealed that the entire story was fabricated. "Not only was the torture claim found to be false but it was also discovered that a colouring agent had been applied to Arif's face to mimic blood stains and injuries, in an apparent attempt to mislead the public."

Following the inquiry, an FIR was registered against four people at Budhal police station under relevant legal sections.

The four individuals, including Arif, booked in the case have been identified as Sarfaraz Ahmed, Shakil Ahmed and Mohammad Ashraf (a government teacher), all residents of Gundi in Khawas tehsil. The police said further legal action and investigation are underway to ensure accountability in the case.


IUST Promotes Innovation & Employability Through Hackathon

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: With the aim to promote innovation and enhance industry-academia collaboration, the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) hosted a 24-hour Hackathon from July 31 to August 1, 2025. The event was organized by the Centre for Career Counselling and Placements (3CP@IUST), under the Office of Dean Outreach, in collaboration with People10 Technologies Inc., a US-based technology solutions company.

Exclusively designed for B.Tech Computer Science and Engineering students of the university, the Hackathon brought together four student teams who worked intensively on real-world problem statements provided by the industry partner. The initiative aimed to nurture problem-solving abilities, encourage teamwork, and provide students with hands-on industry exposure.

The event was coordinated by Mr. Basharat Masoodi, Placement Officer IUST, and was attended by Dean Outreach, (Head, 3CP), Head, Department of Computer Science and Engineering), and (AR-Research).



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION, KASHMIR
Samanderbagh - S.P. College Road Srinagar- 190001
Email: dsek-jk@gov.in. Website: https://dsek.jk.gov.in

Subject: *Mandatory use of Government email IDs for official communication- regd.*

Ref: *Circular No. 12-JK(GAD) of 2025, dated 21-05-2025 issued by the General Administration Department.*

NOTICE

In compliance with circular instructions issued by the General Administration Department vide Circular No.: 12-JK (GAD) of 2025, Dated: 21-05-2025, all concerned are informed to communicate through dsek-jk@gov.in instead of dsekjk@gmail.com for official purposes from now onwards.

No: DSEK/IT/2025/405-74
Dated: 31/07/2025

Personnel Officer
Directorate of School Education
Kashmir

DIPK-4572-25
DT:31/07/2025

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

Burdened By EMIs

Are young Kashmiri government employees falling into debt trap, in pursuit of what they believe to be a wise, early investment into buying a house for themselves? A report in this newspaper cites examples of the young employees locked into decades-long housing loans.

At first glance, housing loans seem like a win-win: Tax exemptions, bank incentives, and the cultural prestige of homeownership combine to create a powerful lure. Initially, it appears like you have to pay a modest EMI for a lifetime asset, but beneath this optimism lies a more sobering reality. For example, a housing loan of Rs 40-50 lakhs translates into EMIs of Rs 35,000-40,000 per month. This is nearly half the take-home pay of a mid-level government employee. And during the first several years, those payments go mostly toward interest, not the principal. As time passes, and the interest accumulates, the EMI keep nibbling away at the salary and savings.

One of the major factors behind this debt trap are the cultural expectations. In the Valley, , owning a home has become a status symbol. It is like a rite of passage, a marker of responsibility and success. This social pressure often overrides rational planning. Houses are built for future generations rather than present needs, grand in structure, which make little financial sense.

Financial literacy is the missing link here. Young employees are rarely taught about opportunity cost, how a portion of their loan amount could have been used to start a small business, invest in higher education, or build diversified savings. There are some good examples too quoted in our story. Many people who delayed their home loan and instead built a business, find themselves better placed. That's the kind of planning we need more of.

It's time we shift the conversation around loans from tax saving to long-term value. A home should make us secure, not financially vulnerable. So, one thing that people in the Valley need is financial literacy, more so the government employees. And this shouldn't just be about constructing a house on loan but managing finances as a whole. The people need to know that investing in businesses at a younger age is more productive than investing in a house. Or for that matter, investing in mutual funds and the allied financial products is a better long-term financial strategy than depositing money in banks.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Rethink That Car Loan

Smart money choices start with asking: is the loan really worth it?

Irshad Mushtaq

Financial mistakes come at a high cost in Kashmir, where jobs are scarce and incomes modest. Yet many rush into car loans, drawn by status or impulse, without weighing the long-term hit.

Banks thrive on interest gaps, offering 5% on savings and charging 10% or more on loans. It's profit for them, pressure for you.

A car loses over 70% of its value in ten years, yet many sign up for loans lasting five to seven years. By the time the car ages, the debt often lingers.

These decisions can backfire in a region already facing economic strain. A flashy car may feel like progress, but it's often a costly distraction. Before borrowing, ask: Do I need this? Can I manage without it?

Too often, people ignore what they already have - savings, assets, stability - and opt for loans that bring short-term joy and long-term stress. And when trouble hits, there's little safety net.

Financial discipline is about respect for your work, money, and future. With basic online tools, anyone can calculate risks. Yet the real change comes from within, from resisting trends and choosing what truly matters.

Wise financial choices are no longer optional in the valley. They're essential. Choose needs over wants. Protect what you've built. A car might turn heads, but debt can break backs.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

When Doctors Become Vloggers

The secret filming of patients during labour at LD Hospital is a shameful breach of medical and moral trust.



Amaar Mir

“Women in Kashmir face enough challenges: limited resources, stigma around reproductive health, long distances to reach hospitals. They shouldn't have to fear humiliation in the place they go to give birth.

Labour rooms are meant to be safe spaces. It's where women go through some of the hardest hours of their lives. They trust doctors and nurses to care not just for their bodies, but their dignity too.

At LD Hospital in Srinagar, that trust was broken.

Videos of women in their most vulnerable moments were posted on social media by some medicos, as if they were part of a reality show.

Beyond thoughtless behaviour, this is a deep, deliberate violation. It shows how far some have drifted from the values that medicine is supposed to uphold.

Kashmir is a region already strained when it comes to health-care access. Many women in rural districts rely on overstretched public hospitals.

LD Hospital, one of the largest maternity centers in the valley, sees thousands of births each year. For most patients, especially those from modest backgrounds, this is the only place they can afford.

But what should have been a safe medical experience has now become a source of shame.

These women didn't sign up to become content for strangers' phone screens. They came for care, help, and dignity.

Filming someone without permission is wrong. Doing so in a hospital, during childbirth, crosses into cruelty. Nothing about it was clinical. It was a breach, private pain turned into public content.

There's a word in Islamic teachings that defines a woman's body: awrah. It means something private, and sacred.

Our religious ethics teach us to guard dignity (karamah), preserve privacy (satr), and remain accountable (hisab). That's especially true in medicine.

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) advised that even in medi-

“Hospitals in Kashmir need to take urgent steps. Clear rules must be set about phone usage in labour rooms. Recording without written consent must be banned and punished.

cal care, exposure should be limited and, where possible, handled by someone of the same gender.

Filming women during childbirth without consent breaks every one of those principles. It's a betrayal of trust, faith, and law.

And yet, in some hospital corridors, we're seeing a shift.

Young medics, instead of focusing on empathy and ethics, are seeking viral fame. Smartphones have become tools of distraction.

The white coat, once worn with reverence, is being worn for visibility.

That change is dangerous. Patients, especially women

in labour, are at the mercy of the people around them. They rely on caregivers to offer more than just medical support. They need respect, compassion, and a sense that they are safe.

When hospitals fail to guarantee that, they fail their core mission. Consent isn't complicated. You don't record someone in pain without asking. You don't trade their privacy for popularity.

Hospitals in Kashmir need to take urgent steps. Clear rules must be set about phone usage in labour rooms. Recording without written consent must be banned and punished. Oversight should be strict, especially in maternity wards where emotional and physical vulnerability is at its highest.

We also need to rethink staffing.

When possible, labour wards should be staffed by female professionals. It's not just a religious concern. It's about comfort.

A woman in labour shouldn't have to endure the additional stress of male eyes, especially in a society where modesty matters deeply.

This is about culture, ethics, and humanity.

Women in Kashmir face enough challenges: limited resources, stigma around reproductive health, long distances to reach hospitals. They shouldn't have to fear humiliation in the place they go to give birth.

What happened at LD Hospital wasn't a slip. It was a choice, to film, share, and shame.

The medical community in Kashmir, and across India, must decide what type of care it wants to stand for. The one that heals, or humiliates?

The line between the two is clear. And women deserve to know which side their doctors are on.

The author can be reached at amaarmir77@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

1,200 Kilos of Rotten Meat: What Are Kashmiris Really Eating?

The seizure of 1,200 kilos of rotting meat in Srinagar is a warning to every Kashmiri who eats, cooks, or serves food. This foul and frozen filth nearly reached local markets and dinner plates before enforcement officers stepped in and destroyed it on Thursday afternoon.

Clearly, Kashmir is seeing a food safety breakdown. From street vendors to popular restaurants, hygiene has slipped into the background. The rush to meet growing demand, especially from tourists, has outpaced the system meant to regulate it. Walk through any bazaar and it's clear: the basics are being ignored.

Meat hangs in the open under dusty tarpaulins. Raw chicken lies uncovered, feet from open drains. Sweet trays are left exposed to flies. Food is sold near garbage dumps.

Vendors touch raw and cooked items without washing hands. None of this is rare. It's the daily scene.

And the consequences are already here.

Hospitals are treating more cases of foodborne illness. Doctors report rising stomach infections, fevers, and drug-resistant bacteria.

The poor suffer the most. Families without access to private care are stuck waiting in overcrowded government hospitals, often without a clear diagnosis.

Bad food has become a public burden. What's worse is how casually this risk is being allowed to grow. Food inspection isn't consistent. Licenses aren't verified. Storage standards are overlooked.

In many districts, health officials act only during festivals or when there's public outrage. That's too lit-

tle, too late.

The spread of eateries and dhabas, especially in tourist hubs like Pahalgam, Gulmarg, or Srinagar's old city, has brought economic gains. But what's served on those plates is often unchecked.

Without regular enforcement, food becomes a gamble. And no one should have to gamble with what they eat.

Spoiled meat, reused oil, unclean kitchens are symptoms of a system with weak controls and little fear of being caught. Most violations go unnoticed. Even when raids happen, fines are light and closures are temporary. There's no deterrent.

This is where the government must step in with clarity and consistency. Food safety inspections should be routine, visible, and followed up. Cold chains must be verified, es-

pecially for meat, dairy, and fish. Hygiene logs should be made public. Food licenses must be displayed clearly in every outlet.

Let's be clear: enforcement isn't harassment. It's protection for the mother buying meat for her children, the tourist enjoying wazwan, and the schoolchild buying snacks on the way home.

Every unsafe meal puts someone at risk. Every ignored violation makes that risk bigger.

We need more than promises. Kashmir needs a food safety system that works every day, in every district.

Sincerely,

Abrar Nazir
Soura

Cast in Copper

In a world of fakes and fading markets, Kashmiri coppersmiths are holding fire, memory, and craft with unshaken hands.

Tamana Jeelani

In Srinagar's Zaina Kadal, one shop still smells of charcoal, chalk, and cardamom. A family has worked this fire for three generations. Outside, the world has turned fast and weightless. Inside, Mushtaq Ahmed listens to copper: heavy, slow, and stubbornly alive.

He is 63, born above the same copper shop he now runs. The room is gone. The river behind it still flows. His father's anvil still waits by the window.

"This is naqashi," he says, tapping a chisel against a polished surface. The sound is hollow, then firm. "We do it by hand, always have."

His hands bear fine scars, a record of all he's etched, carved, and shaped into permanence. The patterns are not random. They have roots in Persian design, Kashmiri nature, and memory: Flowers, vines, prayers.

Sometimes he adds a name, sometimes a date. The copper, he believes, remembers everything.

Long before machines hummed, Kashmir's copperware was functional art, a presence in every home. Families gathered around a trami to eat Wazwan, fingers brushing over the carved edge. The samovar sat like an elder in the center of every winter morning, hissing out noon chai, green and salted.

Copper bowls cradled food, water, and ceremony. Even death had copper. The tashnari used to wash the deceased before burial.

They were the vessels of daily life, and held our routines, grief, and joy.

And they were heavy, both in mass and meaning. For generations, the coppersmith community were the custodians of this craft. Their knowledge moved from wrist to wrist, across workshops.

A boy learned by sitting beside his father, watching the angle of his tools, the silence before each stroke. A real piece took days to make, sometimes longer.

Mushtaq still works like that. He refuses shortcuts. "If it's too clean, shiny, and fast," he says, "then it's fake."

He can feel the machine's lie in the metal. A handmade bowl has flaws: a line too thick, a swirl that veers. These are the human fingerprints, the proof of presence.



And yet, the fakes are everywhere now.

Markets from Lal Chowk to Mumbai brim with factory-stamped copperware. They look close enough, with copied designs and traced patterns, but they lack depth.

Most come from Moradabad, mass-produced, hollow in body and soul. Some even carry forged "Kashmir Handicraft" labels. Tourists buy them. Even locals, pressed for cash or unaware of the difference, take them home.

"They sell faster because they're cheaper," Mushtaq says. "But what are they really buying?"

This flood of imitation has done more than confuse buyers. It has broken the chain.

When the market values speed over skill, fewer artisans remain. Fewer boys enter the trade. Apprenticeships shrink, workshops close, and with them, something ancient slips away.

"We are becoming fewer," Mushtaq says. "And older."

Some families still hold on. In the countryside, copper vessels remain part of the dowry, wrapped in wool, packed like gold. In

downtown Srinagar, old women polish their tramis on festive occasions, fingers moving as they did for their mothers.

There is still water drunk from copper cups. There are weddings where the samovar is placed in the center like a blessing.

And there is health, too, passed down from oral wisdom.

Copper is said to purify water, ease digestion, balance the body's energies. In homes across the valley, elders insist that copper cools the stomach and steadies the nerves. Science has confirmed some of it: copper kills bacteria and conducts healing.

Yet even this knowledge is thinning.

The challenge isn't only about protecting a product. It's about keeping a conversation alive, between generations, and between hands and memory.

For that, copper needs more than nostalgia. It needs investment, intention, and imagination.

Some steps have begun. Srinagar hosts an-

nual exhibitions where authentic copperware is placed beside carpets and Pashmina. NGOs have launched labeling campaigns to help buyers distinguish the genuine from the spurious.

Some schools have arranged field visits to copper workshops, letting students witness the slow pulse of handcraft. A few artisans have taken to Instagram, filming their chisels at work, reaching eyes in places they've never been.

But these are still scattered efforts. What's needed is a framework, a way to protect, promote, and pass on.

Artisan cooperatives could give collective strength. Certification systems could restore trust. Artist-in-residence programs and copper museum trails could turn artisans into teachers. Tourism can help too through real encounters. Let people walk into the workshop, touch the metal, smell the coal.

There is also hope beyond borders. The world is hungry for handmade, sustainable, heritage-rich objects. If properly branded and supported, Kashmiri copperware could find its



Mushtaq once carved his name into the base of a large serving bowl. He was 21. His father had died the year before. "I wanted to leave something," he says. "So that someone, someday, might wonder who I was."

place on global tables, as art, utility, and story. We've seen this happen before.

Banarasi silk revived through storytelling. Pashmina saved through GI tags and ethical trade models. Kashmiri copper can follow the same arc, if its story is told with care.

The educator Aubaid Akhoo writes: "A legacy is a gift from our ancestors. It carries the pulse of tradition and values, which become our guide through modern life."

He calls for awareness, education, and inclusion to inspire new thinkers to reimagine heritage.

At the end of the day, a samovar is never just a samovar. It is history in hollow form. It holds the heat of a hundred winters, the sound of shared laughter, the smell of green tea poured in silence.

Mushtaq once carved his name into the base of a large serving bowl. He was 21. His father had died the year before.

"I wanted to leave something," he says. "So that someone, someday, might wonder who I was."

It's getting dark outside. He pauses, and then taps the copper bowl, just once.

The sound hums through the room. "It's still here," he says softly. "Still making its way back."

The author is a student and heritage writer based in Srinagar. She can be reached at tamanajeelani85@gmail.com.

A Therapist's Trauma

At a de-addiction centre in Kashmir, I see schoolboys with needle scars and mothers with trembling hands. The drug crisis is eating away our future.

Kaisar Ahmad Malla

The boy in front of me looked about sixteen. His school shoes were scuffed, his uniform shirt hung loose from his shoulders. He didn't say a word as he sat down across from me.

His mother stood behind him, holding a plastic bag with some clothes. Her hands didn't stop shaking. The boy had been using heroin for over a year. That morning, he had collapsed on their kitchen floor.

I work at a drug de-addiction facility in Kashmir. I've met hundreds of boys like him. They arrive with hollow cheeks and infected veins. Their parents often carry guilt on their faces, as if their love failed.

What used to be a rare tragedy in Kashmir has turned into a daily reality. We are watching an entire generation slide into addiction and disappear. And many are watching in silence.

I've seen heroin take over lives faster than any storm. At first, it was whispers: "he's fallen into bad company," "she doesn't come home anymore."

Now, addiction walks the streets in broad daylight. Children skip school to find a fix. Hospitals report growing infections linked to shared needles. Shopkeepers know who the local addicts are. Some families hide it. Others run out of money, options, and strength.

According to data from 2023, around one million people in Jammu and Kashmir, about 8 to 10 percent of the population, are affected by substance abuse. More than half of them use opioids, mostly heroin.

A report by the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) says that 33,000 syringes are used every day in the valley. That number haunts me.

At our centre, led by the Psychiatry and De-addiction Department under Dr. Tajamul Hussain, we try to help whoever walks through our doors. My colleagues, Syed Sameer and Farooq Ahmad, both psychiatric social counsellors, work patiently with families who have nearly lost hope.

Kifayat, a nurse, manages the de-addiction counter with remarkable steadiness. Together, we've seen hundreds arrive in pain, and a few walk away on the path to healing.

But recovery isn't easy. Many relapse, some vanish, and a few die.

What's worse is the atmosphere of mistrust that now surrounds our hospitals.

I've seen patients denied lifesaving injections simply because the staff thought they "looked like addicts." Insulin syringes are refused to people with diabetes. Emergency medicines are with-

held. In some cases, these delays nearly cost lives.

We are in a strange place where the pain of the genuine is overshadowed by fear of the addicted. Suspicion has replaced compassion. That is the most painful part of this crisis.

Law enforcement is trying to keep up. In the last four years, over 9,400 people have been arrested in J&K under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

In 2023 alone, 3,190 cases were registered, double the figure from just a few years ago.

But arrests alone won't solve this. Addiction isn't just a crime. It's a wound that needs care.

The first step is expanding de-addiction services. Right now, most centres are overburdened and poorly equipped. Many families can't afford the long travel or the long wait. We need facilities in every district, staffed with trained professionals.

We also need community support: programmes in schools, outreach in villages, and counselling that goes beyond the clinic.

We must stop treating addicts as criminals or moral failures. Addiction can affect anyone: your neighbour's son, your friend's brother, your own child. The stigma stops people from seeking help. And when families hide the problem, the damage only grows.

I once met a man who sold his orchard to send his son to rehab. The boy didn't survive. The father still visits our centre sometimes, handing out tea to other patients. "At least some can be saved," he told me. That sentence has stayed with me.

This isn't about statistics. It's about lives. It's about the mother who hasn't slept in weeks, waiting for her son to come home. The father who spends his pension on medicine that may not work. The young girl who stopped going to school because her brother's addiction became the neighbourhood's shame.

Kashmir has endured conflict, curfews, and lockdowns. This crisis is different. It's internal. It spreads silently, from house to house, from child to child. If we don't act now, we won't just lose individuals. We'll lose what binds us together.

Every time I walk into the de-addiction centre, I hope that the next patient will make it. That this time, the story will end in healing. But hope is no substitute for action. We need policies, funding, and most of all, empathy.

From where I sit, the paradise they speak of is bleeding, and our young are slipping away with the syringe still in their hands.

The author is a healthcare worker in Kashmir. He can be reached at kaisarmalla94@gmail.com

The Silk Scarf

In a small Srinagar shop, a search for silk becomes a journey through memory, language, and life's little ironies.

Aisha Hasnain

I called the shopkeeper on a Sunday. I wanted to buy a couple of Kashmiri silk scarves and had some time to spare. I wasn't sure if his shop would be open, but I decided to check.

Years ago, I had ordered a veil for my lehenga from him. Despite a lockdown at the time, he had gone out of his way to deliver it on time. I remember his kindness.

Now, after all these years, I found his number on Google and called. He said the shop was closed for the day but asked me to come by at 11 the next morning.

By 11:30 am the next day, I was at the shopping complex. He did not show up until around 12:15. Just as I was about to give up, he arrived.

I have noticed something strange about how the universe works: Answers seem to arrive just as you're ready to walk away. When I once shared this observation with a wise friend, he joked, "Then giving up must be the real solution."

"You're very late, sir," I said when he finally arrived. He is a thin figure, probably in his early sixties, with a cheerful, comical air.

"No, no. Today is the only time I've come this late," he defended himself.

"Well, the other shopkeepers told me you always open after noon," I replied.

"Basically, I'm very loved by my family," he said with a grin. "I try to leave early, but they hold me back. These other shopkeepers are burdens to their families." He said it casually.

"I see. Can you now show me some nice scarves?" I asked.

"Wait, are you the one who called yesterday? And again this morning?" He asked, surprised.

"Yes," I said.

"I thought you were an old woman," he said bluntly, like a child. "Why do you speak like that?"

It reminded me of when I was 12 and used to speak regularly on the phone with my uncle's fiancée. When we finally met, she nearly fainted. She had imagined I was a grown-up.

About seven years ago, I'd felt embarrassed when I couldn't respond gracefully in Kashmiri to a doctor, the way



I could in Urdu. Since then, I made it a point to speak in Kashmiri with professionals and strangers alike. But apparently, this shopkeeper thought I now needed an update.

"If I speak in English, people call me an angrez!" I told him.

"Where did you get my number from?" he asked.

"Why should I tell you?" I spoke with a touch of dry-humour.

"I just thought maybe you're an old customer."

"I've been here before," I nodded.

He then tried to convince me to buy scarves that were about half the price of the real silk. "These are good too," he said. But I wanted the Kashmiri ones. I asked him about the material and how to care for it.

He explained, "I have a government license for this silk. I can't sell faulty goods. If I do, they'll grill me. And anyway, Aisha ji should want to come back to this shop after using the product."

"How do you know my name?" I asked, genuinely surprised.

"Truecaller. It shows your name with the number," he replied matter-of-factly.

"Meh wento... Please tell me..." I was going to ask about the price when a Kashmiri couplet popped into my mind. I recited it playfully:

"Meh wanti kyah gonah korum haqq panun mongum agar?" Tell me, what sin did I commit by asking for my right?

"I was at a mushaira yesterday," he

said, mock offended. "You should've told me, I'd have taken you along!"

"Well, these lines aren't mine," I confessed.

"No, no. Tell me something you've written yourself."

"She writes in English," my friend who was with me chimed in.

"I don't want to hear anything in English," he said, disappointed.

"Okay," I said, "Here are a few lines I wrote once in Urdu:

Bahut der hogayi
Mein ghadi pe ghadi ginti reh gayi
Pehr pe pehr, seher se shaam hogayi
Lagta hai meri himmat tamaam hogayi
(It is getting very late. I have been counting each moment. The dawn has set into dusk. And I am losing every ounce of strength.)"

"But I never wrote beyond that," I added.

As he folded the scarves, he grew serious. "Stay away from such things," he warned.

"Why?" I asked, though I already knew what he meant.

"You'll lose touch with reality if you go too deep."

I smiled and agreed. I often remind myself: Neither Buddha nor Sheikh-ul-Aalam (RA) stayed in the woods forever. They returned from their retreats, and changed the world.

As I was leaving, he said again, "For God's sake, be youthful! Speak like young people do."

Maybe I should learn a thing or two from my younger sibling, who I saw having muesli for breakfast with two scoops of vanilla ice cream and a couple of cucumber slices. I was left dumbfounded by the combination.

The silk scarf, he told me, will last a hundred years. So I'm saving it for my children, along with other heirlooms, so one day, they'll own antiques from their great-grandmother. Maybe they'll sell them in hard times.

That's what a philosophical mind does. It dreams long and far, sometimes too far from the reality.

The author writes under the pen name Aisha Hasnain and can be reached at aishahasnain02@gmail.com.

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA/KREERI

Sub: Application of Mohd Yonus Deader S/o Bali Mohd Deader for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujjar and Bakerwal) in favour of self and Basharat Ahmad Deader R/o Bandi Bala

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 Bandi Bala and belongs to the Deader Caste and Gojer Community. The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

S.No	Name of Individual	Relation with Applicant	Age	Occupation	Annual Income
1	Mohd Yonus Deader	Self	50	Labour	96000
2	Basharat Ah Deader	Son	22	Student	
3	Razia Bano	Daughter	25	H/W	

Therefore, through this Public Notice, objections are being sought from 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.

fko NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA/KREERI

ISLAMIA MODEL PUBLIC SCHOOL KALANTRA PAYEEN, BARAMULLA

Ref No: Impskp/25/07

Dated: 28/07/25

List of Managing Body

S. No	Name & Parentage	Residence	Qualification	Occupation	Designation
01	Manzoor Ah Sheikh S/o Habibulla Sheikh	Kalantra Payeen	M.A B.ed	Business	Chairman
02	Zahoor Ah. Dar S/o Ab. Rehman Dar	Tangwari Payeen	Hafiz	Teacher of the school	Secretary
03	Bilal Ahmad. Parray S/o Habibullah Parrav	Kalantra Bala	BA	Private job	Member
04	Imtiyaz Ah Malik S/o Ghulam Rasool Malik	Kalantra Bala	10th	Business	Member
05	Niyaz Ah Rather S/o Abdul Rahim Rather	Kalantra Payeen	B.Sc	Business	Member
06	Javid Ah. Malik S/o Abdul Ahad Malik	Kalantra Bala	10th	Business	Member
07	Miss Waheeda Akhter D/o Ab Ahad Sheikh	Tangwari Payeen	M.A	Teacher at School	Member

If anybody have any objection can contact the Worth Director School Edu. Kmr. within seven days.

fko (Chairman) Islamia Model Public School

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

General Manager District Industries Centre Pulwama

Email-ID:dicpulwama@gmail. com, Phone No.01933-241309

PUBLIC NOTICE

The unit M/s AFF-AY Furniture, Kadalbal Pampore stands formally registered with D.I.C. Pulwama under No.07/11/01042/PM F/MSME dated: 29.05.1997 for the line of activity "Wooden furniture by hand tools", as a proprietorship concern of Mr. Farooq Ahmad Dar S/o Mohd Sidiq Dar R/o Kadelbal Pampore.

The promoter of the instant unit has submitted an application requesting therein for change in name & style from AFF-AY Furniture to M/s farooq Ahmad Dar.

Any person (s) or any organization/department having any objection in this behalf should convey in writing to the General Manager DIC Pulwama within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the time frame no objection shall be entertained.

NO: DICPL/WD-102/25/267

DIPK-4578/25

Dated; 31 -07-2025

General Manager District Industries Centre, Pulwama

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Directorate of School Education, Kashmir

Samanderbagh - S.P. College Road Srinagar -190001

Email: dsekjk@ gov.in, Website: https://_dsek-jk.gov.in

Subject: Mandatory use of Government email IDs for official communication- regd.

Ref: Circular No. 12-JK(GAD) of 2025, dated 21-05-2025 issued by the General

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT.
NOTICE

In compliance with circular instructions issued by the General Administration Department vide Circular No.: 12-JK (GAD) of 2025, Dated: 21-05-2025, all concerned are informed to communicate through dsek-jk@gov.in instead of dsekjk@gmail.com for official purposes from now onwards.

Personnel Officer Directorate of School Education Kashmir

No: DSEK/IT/2025/405-74
DIPK-4572/25
dated: 31-07-2025

از نیابت بومی

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب محمد حسین گوچری ولد غلام الدین گوچری ساکنہ ہرون ہراد

عطا گئی OBC تحت 176 SRO

اشتہار ہر خاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سالکے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمہ گوچری پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پنواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سالکہ واقعی گوفزات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سالک ہرون میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی تک سکوت نہیں کی ہے سالکہ کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

محمد حسین گوچری ولد غلام الدین ڈرائیور 37 سال

بائیس بیگم زوجہ محمد حسین گھریلو کام 35 سال

محمد سرد گوچری زیر تعلیم 11 سال

زینب بیٹ حسین دختر -- 09 سال

زفر بیٹ حسین دختر شیرخوار

سالک مدکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنڈیک مہوار آمدنی

7,000 روپے تک ہے ۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزیار یا

عزیز ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت حذا کو دفتر ی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں ۔ بعد گزرے میجا کو بی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا ۔

فکو نائب تحصیلدار

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Pasport bearing no S9423234.. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Passport Office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name : Haamid Sheikh
R/O Ganjipora Buran Pattan.
Father Name: Abdul Aziz Sheikh.
Mother Name: shaha Begum.
Dob: 05/05/1999

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 10th CLASS pass certificate. . Now I want to duplicate If anybody is having any objection please contact within 7 days at Govt girls higher secondary school khrew .After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name AIMAN AYOUB
S/O.MOHAMMAD AYOUB KHAN
R/O .KHREW PULWAMA

phw



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

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

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

VISIT

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

OR SCAN



OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE

INKISHAF

VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR

India Fastest Growing Major Economy In World: Goyal

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- With US President Donald Trump terming India and Russia as "dead economies", Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday asserted in Parliament that India is the world's fastest-growing major economy and will soon become the third largest.

In a suo motu statement on Trump tariffs in both houses of Parliament, he said international institutions and economists see India as the bright spot in the global economy.

India is contributing to almost 16 per cent of global growth, he said, adding that it is also widely expected that "we will become the third largest" economy in a few years.

"In just over a decade, India has rapidly transformed from being one of the Fragile 5 to the fastest-growing major economy in the world. We have risen from the 11th largest economy to one of the top 5 economies, driven by our reforms, the hard work of our farmers, MSMEs and entrepreneurs," Goyal said.

The remarks are important as Trump has once again mounted a sharp attack on India and Russia for their close ties, saying he doesn't care what New India does with Moscow.

"I don't care what India does



with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together, for all I care," Trump said, adding that "we have done very little business with India, their tariffs are too high, among the highest in the world".

Goyal further said that in the last decade, the government has taken transformative measures to promote India as the manufacturing hub of the world.

India's young, skilled and talented workforce is driving innovation and competitiveness of the Indian industry, he said.

"Our exports have steadily increased during the last 11 years. In an increasingly protectionist world, India has done mutually beneficial trade agreements with the UAE, UK, Australia and EFTA (European Free Trade Area) countries," Goyal said.

"We are also committed to similar trade agreements with other countries," he added.

Sensex, Nifty Decline On Concerns Over US Tariff Imposition



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Thursday after US President Donald Trump announced the imposition of a 25 per cent tariff on all goods coming from India starting August 1 and an unspecified penalty for buying Russian crude oil and military equipment.

Despite the weak start, the indices staged a sharp recovery, but selling pressure re-emerged towards the fag of the session. However, buying in some heavyweight stocks restricted the downward trend, traders said.

Halting its two-day rally, the 30-share BSE index declined 296.28 points, or 0.36 per cent, to settle at 81,185.58 after recovering some lost ground during the afternoon trade. During the morning session, the gauge tanked 786.71 points, or 0.96 per cent, to 80,695.15. As many as 2,418 stocks declined, while 1,598 advanced and 137 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 86.70 points or 0.35 per cent to 24,768.35.

"Following a turbulent start driven by fresh tariff threats, the Indian market started on a pessimistic note. However, the domestic market attempted a strong recovery, but by the end of

the day, it closed with marginal losses on a monthly expiry day.

"Investors gravitated toward domestically oriented, non-discretionary players, especially FMCG, which offered attractive valuations, demand outlook and relative insulation from tariff risks. In contrast, oil & gas stocks were the worst hit due to US warnings over Indian energy imports," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

The announcement is being seen as a pressure tactic to get New Delhi to agree to demands made by the US, which has, in recent days, got favourable trade deals with major partners like Japan, the UK and the European Union.

The penalty was announced as India has made large purchases of oil and military equipment from Russia. India is the first country to face a penalty for Russian imports.

From the Sensex firms, Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, Reliance Industries, Adani Ports, NTPC and Asian Paints were among the biggest laggards.

However, FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) jumped 3.48 per cent after the firm reported a 5.97 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 2,768 crore for the June quarter of FY26, helped by gains from a re-estimation of taxes paid in the previous year.

Trump: India, Russia Can Take Their Dead Economies Down Together

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI- India and Russia can take their "dead economies down together", US President Donald Trump has said in a fresh attack on the two countries for their close trade ties even as New Delhi continued to analyse the possible impact of his decision to impose 25 per cent tariffs on Indian goods.

In its reaction, India said it will take all necessary steps to safeguard and promote national interest and that the implications of the tariffs are being examined.

The US president's diatribe came hours after he announced 25 per cent tariffs against India from August 1, along with an unspecified "penalty" to punish New Delhi for continuing to procure crude oil from Russia notwithstanding the Western sanctions.

"I don't care what India does with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together, for all I care," he said.

"We have done very little business with India, their Tariffs are too high, among the highest in the World," he added.

Russia remained India's top oil supplier in the last few months.

"The government attaches the utmost importance to protecting and promoting the welfare of our farmers, workers, entrepreneurs, exporters, MSMEs and all sections of industry. We will



take all necessary steps to secure and advance our national interest," Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said in Parliament.

Hours after Trump criticised India for its trade links with Russia, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said everybody except Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman knows that the country's economy is "dead".

However, Shiv Sena (UBT) lawmaker Priyanka Chaturvedi said the Indian economy is among the top five economies of the world and calling it "dead" can only come from a position of "arrogance" or "ignorance".

Trump's surprise announcement on the tariff against India came a day after Indian officials said that a US trade team would visit from August 25 to negotiate a trade deal.

It is being seen as a pressure tactic to get New Delhi to agree to demands made by the US, which has, in recent days, got favourable trade deals with major partners like Japan, the UK and

the European Union.

While announcing the tariff, Trump described India's trade policies as "most strenuous and obnoxious".

"All things not good! India will therefore be paying a tariff of 25 per cent, plus a penalty for the above, starting on August first," Trump said in a social media post.

India's import of crude oil from Russia has risen from 0.2 per cent of total purchases before the Russia-Ukraine war to 35-40 per cent. New Delhi is the largest buyer of Russian oil after China.

Trump said though India is America's friend, "we have, over the years, done relatively little business with them because their (India) tariffs are far too high, among the highest in the world, and they have the most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary trade barriers of any country".

He said India has always purchased a significant amount of military equipment and energy products from Russia at a time when everyone wants Russia to stop the "killing" in Ukraine.

Trump Announces Trade Deal With Pakistan To Develop 'Massive Oil Reserves'

Press Trust Of India

NEW YORK/ISLAMABAD- US President Donald Trump has announced sealing a trade deal with Pakistan and said that Washington will work with Islamabad to develop what he described as the South Asian nation's "massive oil reserves".

It is not immediately clear what massive oil reserves in Pakistan Trump was referring to.

In a social media post, the US President also wondered if Pakistan could sell oil to India "some day".

"We have just concluded a deal with the country of Pakistan, whereby Pakistan and the United States will work together on developing their massive oil reserves," Trump said in a post on Truth Social on Wednesday.

"We are in the process of choosing the oil company that will lead this partnership. Who knows, maybe they'll be selling oil to India some day!" he added.

Pakistan has long claimed to have large oil deposits along its coast, but no progress has been made to tap

those deposits. It has been trying to lure in investments to tap into these reserves.

The country currently imports oil from the Middle East to meet its energy demands.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took to social media on Thursday to thank Trump over the "historic" trade agreement and expressed hope that it would expand cooperation between the two sides.

"I wish to convey my profound thanks to President Trump @realDonaldTrump for his leadership role in finalization of the historic US-Pakistan trade agreement, successfully concluded by our two sides in Washington, last night," he wrote on X.

"This landmark deal will enhance our growing cooperation so as to expand the frontiers of our enduring partnership in days to come," he said.

The deal was reached during a meeting between Pakistan's Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick, and US Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer in

Washington, DC, according to Radio Pakistan.

The trade agreement aims at boosting bilateral trade, expanding market access, attracting investment and fostering cooperation in areas of mutual interest, the report said.

"The agreement will result in a reduction of reciprocal tariffs especially on Pakistani exports to the United States. This deal marks the beginning of a new era of economic collaboration especially in energy, mines and minerals, IT, cryptocurrency and other sectors," it added.

The announcement came hours after Trump announced a 25 per cent tariff on all goods coming from India, plus an additional unspecified penalty for purchases of Russian military equipment and energy.

In a social media post, Trump called India's trade policies "most strenuous and obnoxious".

"All things not good! India will therefore be paying a tariff of 25 per cent, plus a penalty for the above, starting on August first," Trump said.



JKEDI Hosts 'Innovate J&K- Dialogue' To Drive Startup Ecosystem Forward

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Thursday hosted an engaging dialogue titled "Innovate J&K: Dialogue for a Startup-Driven Future" aiming to bolster the startup landscape of the Union Territory and nurture innovation and entrepreneurial spirit in the region.

The event held at the institute's Main Campus Sempora, Pampore, witnessed participation from early-stage startups, entrepreneurs, thought leaders and students from the University of Kashmir for an exclusive knowledge-sharing and mentorship opportunity.

Khair Ull Nissa Sheikh, Executive Director of Alson Motors and Principal Advisor at World Trade Centre India Services and Arjmand Hussain Wani, noted Development Economist and International Policy Analyst were the resource persons for the day-long event.

Speaking on the occasion, Khalid Jahangir, Secretary, Industries and Commerce

Department with additional charge of Director, JKEDI, reflected on the region's long standing tradition of enterprise. He emphasized the growing dynamism of the entrepreneurial sector and the need to adapt with innovation and mindset transformation.

"The entrepreneurial spirit is not new to Jammu & Kashmir, it's rooted in our culture. What we need today is to channelize our existing talent pool to drive innovation and create scalable businesses. We need to channel it towards tech-driven ventures and future-ready business models. There is a lot of potential and we need to work together for this," he remarked.

He reiterated that with J&K Startup Policy in place now, the focus is on making the startup ecosystem robust, adding that, "Mentorship is one of the important pillars for building the startup ecosystem and today's event was part of the institute's efforts in this regard. JKEDI is on boarding the mentors for providing one to one mentorship to the startups of which there is a dire need."

Ladakh's Quest For Identity Of Its Pashmina Wool Gets Helping Hand From Cooperative Society

Press Trust Of India

LEH- For the people of Ladakh, Pashmina wool is more than just a product—it's a symbol of identity and a major engine for economic prosperity.

Though Ladakh is the sole region in India that produces this prized wool, its people are still striving for full recognition of that fact, and helping the cause is a cooperative society that looks after the production and marketing of the super-fine wool.

The All Changthang Pashmina Growers Cooperative Marketing Society has been working since 1995 to ensure that the Pashmina wool fetches the maximum price for its producers, the nomadic herders of Ladakh.

Since 2004, the cooperative has been procuring the raw wool from these herders and processing it into the finest Pashmina wool at its plant here, an official said.

"Our main purpose of this cooperative is to fetch the maximum and remunerative prices for this Changthang product, Pashmina. And to achieve that, we have been consistently working. Managing to sustain and survive is a testimony of the success," the cooperative society's general secretary Thinless Nurboo told PTI here.

There are two pockets where Pashmina wool is produced, and Changthang is the major one, he said.

"History of Pashmina has



been very interesting...when we were with Jammu and Kashmir, we were in a larger state. And I believe we were seeking UT to find identity not just for ourselves, but also for our economy and products. So, I think Pashmina is definitely a product which has been finding its own identity," Nurboo said, stressing the importance of this unique product for the people here.

The Geographical Indication (GI) certification of Pashmina wool has been a boost, though some technical processes are still to be completed, he added.

Nurboo said the sourcing of raw wool is done from 600-650 families across Ladakh.

From owners of international brands to local self-help groups (SHGs) and weavers, they procure the refined wool from the cooperative society.

"A lot of international brands keep coming and asking for quotations. One of the major clients for the last 2-3 years has been the Italian entity Brunello Cucinelli. They are not only buying the Pashmina but also supporting this whole nomadic lifestyle," the cooperative official said.

India's Gold Demand In 2025 To Fall To 5-Year Low On Record Prices: WGC

Reuters

India's gold consumption in 2025 is set to fall to a five-year low, as record-high prices are denting jewellery purchases, overshadowing a slight boost in investment demand, the World Gold Council said on Thursday.

Gold demand in the world's second-biggest consumer of the precious metal could stand between 600 metric tons and 700 metric tons in 2025, the lowest since 2020, and down from last year's 802.8 tons, Sachin Jain, CEO of WGC's Indian operations, told Reuters.

Demand could reach 700 tons if prices stabilise, but a 10%-15% price rise driven by geopolitical factors may pull it down to the lower end of the range, he said.

Local gold prices, which



hit a record high of 101,078 rupees per 10 grams in June, have risen 28% so far in 2025, after a 21% gain in 2024.

India's gold consumption in the April-to-June quarter fell 10% from a year ago to 134.9 tons, as jewellery demand fell 17% while investment demand rose 7% in the quarter, the WGC said.

Demand in the September quarter is expected to be lower than last year's 248.3 tons, when New Delhi's move to reduce import duties boosted purchases,

Jain said.

The precious metal has been outperforming other asset classes, drawing investors who favour both physical gold and gold exchange traded funds, he said.

"Gold ETFs in India are at a very important cusp for growth, and as India becomes more digitised, they are gaining popularity and prominence," he said.

Gold ETFs in India saw inflows surge ten-fold month-on-month to 20.81 billion rupees

New Rules For Mussoorie Tourists: No Entry Without Online Check-In

Observer News Service

Mussoorie - The tourists visiting Mussoorie will now have to register their details on a portal developed by the Uttarakhand Tourism Department at the time of check-in, an official on Thursday said.

District Tourism Officer Brijendra Pandey said that the new rule came into force on Wednesday.

Hotels, guest houses, homestays and other such facilities have to first register themselves on the portal and do the registration of their guests as they check-in, he added. Pandey said this is being done to deal with overcrowding and managing traffic at the popular tourist spot.

The new rule had to be introduced as the arrival of

tourists in the town have almost doubled between 2022 and 2024, he added. "The move will provide real-time data on tourist footfall in the town," Pandey said.

Hoteliers and owners of similar facilities have been asked to comply with the new rule, he added.

Earlier in May, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had asked the state government to initiate tourist registration in the hill station and submit data regularly.

To manage overwhelming crowds and traffic jams in the popular hill station, the Dehradun administration planned to implement a mandatory pre-registration system for tourists visiting Mussoorie during the peak season.

Mussoorie has witnessed

a sharp rise in tourist numbers, with over 21 lakh visitors recorded in 2024, up from 11 lakh in 2022. This surge has led to severe congestion, especially on the stretch from Gandhi Chowk to Mall Road.

Accommodation providers will first need to register their establishment on the portal with the following details:

1. Name and contact number of the owner
2. Type of facility (hotel, homestay, etc.)
3. Name of the property
4. Number of rooms and total guest capacity

Once this is completed, guest registration can be carried out by the facility during check-in.

In addition to hotel-based registration, tourists will have to pre-register before entering Mussoorie.

AI To Impact 1.8 Crore Jobs By 2030: Report

Press Trust Of India

Manufacturing, retail and education sectors are staring at a "seismic" shift due to agentic artificial intelligence, and over 1.8 crore jobs are set to be impacted in these sectors by 2030 due to new-age technologies, a report said on Wednesday.

Manufacturing jobs will bear the highest impact with 80 lakh workers to be affected, closely followed with retail with 76 lakh jobs to be impacted and education jobs impact is pegged at 25 lakh over the next five years, as per the report by ServiceNow.

The report specified that high-automation roles such as change managers and payroll clerks are being redefined by AI agents that take over routine coordination, while "high-augmentation" roles such as implementation consultants and system admins are increasingly partnering with AI, and not competing with it.

There is widespread concern on the impact of AI on jobs, and after country's largest IT services company TCS announced to cull 12,000 jobs accounting for 2 per cent of the overall workforce due to aspects including artificial intelligence. Sumeet Mathur, managing director for ServiceNow India Technology and Business Centre, said agentic AI would create over 30 lakh new technology jobs by 2030. "India has a generational opportunity to lead globally by developing AI-ready talent and redesigning workflows," he said.

Sacking Of Police Constable
Marriage To Pak Woman
Risked Security: CRPF To HC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has defended its decision to dismiss Constable Munir Ahmed before the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, citing serious misconduct involving a secret marriage to a Pakistani woman, forged documents, and concealment of sensitive information that could pose a threat to national security.

In its official response to the court, the CRPF alleged that Munir Ahmed married Menal Khan, a Pakistani national who entered India on a tourist visa in February 2025, without informing his superiors. The force claims that Ahmed not only concealed the marriage but also forged her signature on the nikahnama (marriage document) — a move they argue constitutes a serious legal and disciplinary violation.

Adding to the concern, the CRPF stated that Menal's visa had expired, and instead of alerting authorities, Ahmed helped her apply for a Long-Term Visa (LTV) without notifying the force. The issue came under heightened scrutiny in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, when the government ordered the deportation of all Pakistani nationals residing in India. It was during this period that Munir Ahmed allegedly went on leave for six days without revealing her legal status.

The CRPF also contended that the nikahnama cited a date when Menal Khan was



reportedly still in Pakistan, suggesting that her signature on the document was forged. The force emphasized that Ahmed, by virtue of his position, had access to sensitive locations and operational information, and his actions posed a potential security breach, especially in the context of Pakistan being regarded as a hostile nation.

In his defense, Munir Ahmed has challenged the dismissal, highlighting his clean service record, prior communication with CRPF officers regarding his marriage plans, and letters from BJP Members of Parliament supporting visa regularization for his wife. He argues that his actions were not in violation of any explicit conduct rules and that the dismissal was unjustified.

However, the CRPF maintains that the issue goes beyond service conduct and enters the realm of national security, which they say requires zero tolerance.

India To Receive Above-normal Rain In Aug, Sept

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: India is likely to receive above-normal rainfall during the second half of the monsoon season (August and September), the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Thursday.

Most parts of the country, except the Northeast and adjoining areas of eastern India, are expected to record normal rainfall in August, said IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra during an online press conference.

Rainfall in September is likely to be above normal, he said.

India received above-normal rainfall during the first half of the monsoon season (June and July), with some states, particularly Himachal Pradesh, experiencing flash floods.

"Overall, above-normal rainfall (106 per cent of the Long Period Average of 422.8 mm) is most likely over the country during the second half of the southwest monsoon season," Mohapatra said.

"Geographically, normal to above-normal rainfall is most likely across most regions, except for many parts of the northeast and adjoining eastern India, isolated regions of central India and southwestern areas of the peninsular region, where below-normal rainfall is expected."

Mohapatra said subdued rainfall is expected over the next two weeks; however, the conditions do not meet the criteria for a "break monsoon phase",



which refers to a temporary lull in rainfall during the monsoon when the trough shifts toward the foothills of the Himalayas.

The country received 474.3 mm of rainfall against a normal of 445.8 mm from June 1 to July 31, a surplus of six per cent.

The country recorded 624 very heavy rainfall events and 76 extremely heavy rainfall events, the lowest figures in the last five years, the IMD chief told PTL.

"In Northeast India, this is the fifth consecutive year of below-normal rainfall. Over the last 30 years, a declining trend in rainfall activity has been observed in the northeastern states," he added.

According to Mohapatra, good rainfall in July was due to favorable Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) conditions in the latter half of the month and the formation of six low-pressure systems spanning 28 days.

Of these, four systems intensified into depressions. Among them, three formed over land and moved from Gangetic West Bengal/Northern Bay of Bengal to Rajasthan, triggering frequent heavy to very heavy rainfall and even extremely heavy rainfall on some days, the IMD said.

ENSO-neutral conditions are currently prevailing and are expected to continue until October. Post-monsoon, weak

La Niña conditions may develop, the IMD said.

In May, the IMD forecasted that India would receive 106 per cent of the long-period average rainfall of 87 cm during the June-September monsoon season. Rainfall ranging between 96 and 104 per cent of this 50-year average is considered "normal".

The monsoon plays a critical role in India's agriculture sector, which supports the livelihood of around 42 per cent of the population and contributes 18.2 per cent to the national GDP. It is also crucial for replenishing reservoirs used for drinking water and power generation

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

220 Drug Hotspots

concentrated pockets of drug activity, prompting intensified surveillance and enforcement measures.

In addition to arrests, enforcement agencies reported the seizure of 1,388 kilograms of narcotic substances and more than 62,000 psychotropic tablets in the ongoing year. Authorities have also frozen or confiscated assets worth Rs 39 crore, including 35 buildings and 13 vehicles directly linked to the drug trade. Relevant entries have been made in revenue records to formalize these actions.

The Chief Secretary directed the Police Department to submit monthly status reports on NDPS cases, detailing progress in investigation, prosecution, and the age and stage of each pending case. He also ordered an audit of long-pending cases to identify reasons for delay and initiate timely corrective measures.

To ensure accountability, Dulloo further instructed that all bail and acquittal cases under the NDPS Act should be jointly reviewed by the Law and Police Departments to spot any lapses in investigation or prosecution.

On the de-addiction front, the Chief Secretary asked the Health Department to strengthen in-patient treatment services in Government Medical Colleges and District Hospitals, reducing reliance on private facilities. He also called for capacity building at IMHANS to improve outreach and treatment access.

Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat highlighted the need for pooled manpower and resources to intensify the crackdown on narcotics. He flagged the misuse of courier services for trafficking Schedule-I drugs and called for stricter monitoring mechanisms.

Presenting an overview of the NCORD portal data, Principal Secretary (Home) Chandrakar Bharti urged DCs and SSPs to regularly convene district-level NCORD meetings, upload agendas, minutes, and action reports, and maintain transparency in enforcement outcomes.

Inspector General, Crime, Sujit Kumar, shared that 181 cases had been registered under the PIT-NDPS Act, resulting in the detention of 58 high-profile drug traffickers through detailed backward and forward link investigations.

To improve prosecution outcomes, over 2,150 Investigating Officers have been trained across 247 dedicated sessions in modern techniques for handling NDPS cases.

The meeting also discussed awareness campaigns and inter-departmental IEC activities to tackle substance abuse. Officials said that technology-driven solutions like Aadhaar-linked prescription monitoring and dedicated drug tracking portals were being developed with support from BISAG-N to curb misuse of prescription drugs.

Reaffirming the administration's zero-tolerance policy against drug trafficking, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo called for a coordinated, data-driven and multi-pronged approach to eliminate the drug menace from the Union Territory.

We'll Safeguard

and industry bodies, on the tariffs.

"The Government attaches the utmost importance to protecting and promoting the welfare of our farmers, workers, entrepreneurs, exporters, MSMEs and all sections of industry. We will take all necessary steps to secure and advance our national interest," he said.

He added that the implications of the recent development are being examined by the government.

The ministry is engaged with all stakeholders including exporters and industry for taking feedback of their assessment of the situation,

Goyal said.

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced the imposition of a 25 per cent tariff on all goods coming from India starting August 1, plus an unspecified penalty for buying Russian crude oil and military equipment.

The surprise announcement came amid a US trade team visiting India from August 25 for the sixth round of negotiations for the proposed bilateral trade agreement.

Goyal's remarks are important as India has hardened its stance on giving duty concessions to the US on agriculture and dairy sectors -- a key demand of America in the trade talks with India.

India is seeking import duty concessions from the US for its labour-intensive sectors like gems & jewellery and others, besides auto parts.

The two countries are negotiating a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) from March with an aim to more than double the bilateral trade in goods and services to USD 500 billion by 2030 from the current USD 191 billion. So far five rounds of talks have been completed.

For the sixth round of talks, the US team is visiting India from August 25.

They are aiming to conclude the first phase of the agreement by fall (October-November) this year. The two sides are also looking at an interim trade deal before the BTA.

India and the US entered into negotiations for a fair, balanced and beneficial bilateral trade agreement in March 2025, with the first phase of the agreement to be completed by fall of 2025, he said.

The minister also said that in just over a decade, India has rapidly transformed from being one of the Fragile 5 to the fastest growing major economy in the world.

"We have risen from the 11th largest economy to one of the top 5 economies, driven by our reforms, hard work of our farmers, MSMEs and entrepreneurs. It is also widely expected that we will become the 3rd largest economy in a few years," Goyal said.

Today, he said, international institutions and economists see India as the bright spot in the global economy.

India is contributing to almost 16 per cent of global growth, he said.

Trump once again mounted a sharp attack on India and Russia for their close ties and said he doesn't care what New India does with Moscow.

"I don't care what India does with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together, for all I care," he said.

"We have done very little business with India, their tariffs are too high, among the highest in the world," he added.

Goyal said that in the last decade, the government has taken measures to promote India as the manufacturing hub of the world, driven by the Make in India initiative.

"India's young, skilled and talented workforce is driving innovation and competitiveness of Indian industry. Our exports have steadily increased during the last 11 years," he said, adding in an increasingly protectionist world, India has done mutually beneficial trade agreements with UAE, UK, Australia and EFTA countries.

"We are also committed to similar trade agreements with other countries. We are consistently working for the welfare of the farmers and Indian agriculture, to promote prosperity and ensure food security," the minister noted.

Impact Of Trump

The announcement came as a surprise, as the two countries are negotiating a trade agreement. Here is a list of Q & As (questions and

answers) to explain the impact of the US move:

What is a tariff?

These are customs or import duties imposed on the import of goods. The importer has to pay this duty to the government. Normally, companies pass on these taxes to end users.

How much tariff is announced on India?

The US has announced a 25-per cent tariff plus penalty for buying Russia's crude oil and military equipment. However, the US has not specified the quantum of the penalty and how it will be imposed. An executive order from the White House on the 25 per cent tariff plus penalty will give clarity on the duty structure.

A 10 per cent duty (announced on April 2) applies to all goods.

Besides, there is a 50 per cent tariff on steel and aluminium, and 25 per cent on auto and auto parts. These duties are imposed over and above the existing tariffs on Indian goods. For example, textiles attract a 69 per cent tariff at present, so after adding the 25 per cent, Indian textile goods entering the US from August 1 will attract a 31-34 per cent duty. A penalty could be added further on this.

Why is the US imposing these tariffs?

The US has alleged that it faces a significant trade deficit with India, blaming New Delhi for imposing high tariffs on American goods, which it says restricts US exports to the Indian market.

What is bilateral trade between India and the US?

During 2021-25, the US was India's largest trading partner in goods. The US accounts for about 18 per cent of India's total exports, 6.22 per cent in imports, and 10.73 per cent in bilateral trade. In 2024-25, the bilateral trade touched USD 186 billion (USD 86.5 billion exports and USD 45.3 billion imports).

With America, India had a trade surplus (the difference between imports and exports) of USD 41 billion in 2024-25. It was USD 35.32 billion in 2023-24 and USD 27.7 billion in 2022-23.

In services, India exported an estimated USD 28.7 billion and imported USD 25.5 billion, adding a USD 3.2 billion surplus.

Altogether, India ran a total trade surplus of about USD 44.4 billion with the US.

However, according to think tank GTRI, the US runs a USD 35-40 billion overall surplus when revenues from education, digital services, financial activities, royalties, and arms trade are factored in.

What are the major products traded between the two?

In 2024, India's main exports to the US included drug formulations and biologicals (USD 8.1 billion), telecom instruments (USD 6.5 billion), precious and semi-precious stones (USD 5.3 billion), petroleum products (USD 4.1 billion), vehicle and auto components (USD 2.8 billion), gold and other precious metal jewellery (USD 3.2 billion), ready-made garments of cotton, including accessories (USD 2.8 billion), and products of iron and steel (USD 2.7 billion). Imports included crude oil (USD 4.5 billion), petroleum products (USD 3.6 billion), coal, coke (USD 3.4 billion), cut and polished diamonds (USD 2.6 billion), electric machinery (USD 1.4 billion), aircraft, spacecraft and parts (USD 1.3 billion), and gold (USD 1.3 billion).

What will be the impact of the tariffs on this trade?

Import duty makes goods expensive in the importing country. Besides, a few other factors also play a role in this. For example, duty on India's competitor nations such as Bangladesh (35 pc), Vietnam (20 pc) and Thailand (36 pc); and quality and standards of items.

According to exporters, Indian labour-intensive goods such as garments, leather and

non-leather footwear, gems and jewellery, carpets and handicrafts may get impacted due to this duty.

What will be the US tariffs on key Indian goods from August 1?

Telecom - 25 pc; gems and jewellery - 30-38.5 pc (5-13.5 pc at present); food and agri goods - 29-30 pc (14-15 pc currently); apparel 12 pc plus 25 pc. Penalty component may also be there from August 1.

Is there a substance in Trump's allegations that India has very high tariffs?

The US also imposes high duties on items like dairy products (188 per cent), fruits and vegetables (132 per cent), coffee, tea, cocoa and spices (53 per cent), cereals and food preparations (193 per cent), oilseeds, fats and oils (164 per cent), beverages and tobacco (150 per cent), minerals and metals (187 per cent), and chemicals (56 per cent).

India's average tariff rate of 17 per cent is higher than the US's 3.3 per cent, but similar to other major economies like South Korea (13.4 per cent) and China (7.5 per cent).

MP's Panel Flags

Manipur, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry on 18.12.2024 and to the States of Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu on 03.06.2025," the ministry submitted to the committee.

In its recommendations, the parliamentary panel had recommended to the ministry to take up the issue of holding Panchayat polls with the State governments.

".....the Committee strongly recommends that the Ministry of MoPR should take up this matter at the highest level to ensure that the purpose of 73rd Constitutional Amendment Bill may not be defeated by non-holding of Panchayat election by the State Government," reads the committee's recommendation.

As per the committee's report, the Panchayat polls could not be held in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in 2023 due to various reasons

Azad: Pahalgam Chapter

Mahadev, who were allegedly involved in the Pahalgam attack, Azad said he supports all operations by the security forces but stressed the importance of human rights.

"I have always supported every operation by the forces even when I was the chief minister. Security forces had full freedom, but I only had one condition — that operations must go on, but there should be no human rights violations or fake encounters," he said.

On the broader issue of Parliament proceedings, Azad criticised opposition walkouts, saying they benefit the government.

"I am against disrupting the functioning of the House. If you do not allow the House to function, then why do you get elected? Entering the House means you will raise the national, international, and domestic issues, and the problems of the people in the Parliament before the government," he said.

"The government becomes happy when the opposition walks out because it can then pass laws easily. So, the walkout by the opposition helps the government, it does not oppose them," he added.

Azad recalled that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had once advised him against disrupting speeches in Parliament.

"Indira called me and told me 'you have come to the Parliament to speak and not create ruckus'. She told me that one cannot become a leader by not allowing an opposition leader to speak," he said.

On US President Donald Trump's earlier claim of having brokered a ceasefire between

14.97 Sanctioned,
Only 2 Lakh
Installed

J&K Lags in Smart
Meter Rollout: Centre



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Under the Government of India's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), a total of 14.97 lakh smart meters have been sanctioned for Jammu and Kashmir, but only 2 lakh have been installed so far. The Centre informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday. The figures were shared by Minister of State for Power, Shripad Naik, in a written reply to a question raised by MP Pushpendra Saroj.

According to the reply, while 272 crore has been sanctioned for J&K's smart metering component under RDSS, no funds have been released or utilised so far. This comes even as other states have already begun receiving allocations since FY 2023-24, the minister noted.

The RDSS, launched in 2021, is a flagship initiative of the Union Government aimed at strengthening power distribution infrastructure, reducing Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, and accelerating the rollout of prepaid smart meters across the country.

India and Pakistan following Operation Sindoor, Azad said he believes the Prime Minister's clarification.

"Unfortunately, Trump speaks so many things. So, it is very difficult. The PM has made it clear on the floor of the House that this was our own decision and no country interfered. He has also mentioned about his talks with the vice president of America. With that, the chapter is closed.

"I think we have no reason not to believe our Prime Minister. He is the elected Prime Minister of the country," he said.

Speaking on the future of his Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Azad said he is still undecided.

"I have to decide whether to continue running it or stop because the politics in Kashmir mostly runs on emotions," he said.

"There is a chronic disease that when someone becomes a minister, he wants to remain a minister till he is alive. So, he hops from one party to another, and he will continue to do that till he becomes minister," he said in reference to senior leaders who left his party.

"But those who were not (ministers) and were DDCs, BDCs, there has been a three-fold increase (in joining the party)," he added.

"My politics is based on truth and non-violence. I speak the same thing in election and otherwise, whether in Jammu, Delhi or Srinagar. People may want me to speak different at different places, but I cannot do that," Azad said.

Deadline Extended

Haj Application Forms Online, the pilgrims are requested to go through the Haj Policy/ guidelines available at Haj Committee website www.hajcommittee.gov.in.

Record Pilgrim Arrivals

a testament to India's unity and its resolve to overcome the challenges. I am truly thankful to the devotees, who have shown immense faith and strengthened our priceless spiritual heritage," he said.

"This godly expedition is incomparable not because it's arduous and challenging but because it's an inimitable journey into pure bliss. It's a spiritual experience and gives an opportunity to devotees to know themselves and offers deep trust and fills their hearts with infinite gratitude," he added.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a total of 8,276 pilgrims paid obeisance at the Amarnath cave shrine on Thursday, including 6,296 males, 1,082 females, 58 children, 55 sadhus, 3 sadhvis, 2 transgender individuals, and 780 security personnel.

They said the cumulative number of pilgrims who have completed the Yatra since its commencement on July 3 has reached 401,677.

Despite witnessing several cancellations and withdrawals following the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed 26 lives, the Yatra has continued. In June, authorities said that this year's pilgrimage numbers were "directly affected" by the attack.

Last year, more than 5.1 lakh pilgrims paid obeisance at the cave shrine. With heightened security concerns this year, a multi-tier security arrangement was put in place, and the presence of security personnel was increased for the Yatra. Besides that, the government declared all routes to the Amarnath cave shrine a "no-flying zone," banning all kinds of aviation platforms, including drones and balloons, for the duration of the Yatra.

The Amarnath Yatra, which began on July 3, will conclude on August 9, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan.

Gill Gets Run Out As India Make 85/3 On Rain-Hit Day One

Press Trust of India

LONDON: India lost their captain Shubman Gill due to a suicidal run out as intermittent rain allowed only six overs in the afternoon session on day one of the series deciding fifth Test against England here on Thursday.

When rain returned to The Oval to halt the proceedings, India were 85 for three with Sai Sudharsan (28 batting off 84) and Karun Nair (0 off 8) in the middle.

A sudden downpour shortly before lunch caused the second session to start at 3 pm local time. Gill (21 off 35) played a copybook cover drive off Jamie Overton to get going after the break.

Having done all the hard work, Gill went for a needless single off Gus Atkinson who picked up the ball on the follow through and darted it into the

stumps, leaving the Indian captain way out of his crease.

Soon after, the rain returned resulting in the umpire taking the tea break at 4.10 pm local time.

In the morning session, India lost their openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (2 off 9) and K L Rahul (14 off 40) on a green top but did well to reach lunch 72 for two.

On the greenest pitch of the series, the ball expectedly did seam around but it was not swinging profusely.

Playing his first game of the series, Atkinson struck in his second over by having Jaiswal trapped in front. The on-field umpire did not give it out but England reviewed successfully with the incoming ball going on to hit the stumps.

The other pacers Josh Tongue and Jamie Overton struggled for control. Tongue conceded 12

runs in his opening over including 10 via two wides on either side of the stumps.

India reached 36 for one in the first hour of play.

Rahul, who has been India's most solid batter over the course of the series, was the second wicket to fall. The short ball from Chris Woakes did not do much but Rahul went for the cut when it was too close to his body, eventually playing on to his stumps.

Number three Sai Sudharsan and Gill then batted till lunch, which was taken early due to a sudden downpour at The Oval, where the sun played hide and seek.

India made four changes to their playing eleven, bringing in a fit-again Akash Deep, Prasidh Krishna, Karun Nair and Dhruv Jurel for Jasprit Bumrah, Anshul Kamboj, Shardul Thakur and the injured Rishabh Pant.



Selection Trials For Girls Sub-Junior Nationals On Aug 4

The J&K Sports Council on Thursday announced selection trials for the Sub-Junior National Football Championship 2025, scheduled to be held on August 16 in Chhattisgarh.

The trials and selection process will be held a selection committee formed by the Sports Council and will be held in both Srinagar and Jammu.

Only those born on or after January 1, 2012 or on or before December 31, 2013.

The trials in Srinagar will be held on August 4 at TRC Ground at 3:00 PM. Jammu will host the trials at the same date and time at Mini Stadium Parade.

The selected players will undergo a coaching camp before participating in the championship. (Observer News Service)

Kuldeep Should Have Played At Lord's & Manchester: Ganguly

Former captain Sourav Ganguly on Thursday believed India may have missed a trick by not playing Kuldeep Yadav at Lord's and Manchester, as quality spinners come to the fore on the last two days of a Test match.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep didn't get a single game in the ongoing five-match Test series against England.

"I wish Kuldeep had played in Manchester, had played at Lord's and even in Birmingham because without quality spin you would find it hard to get teams out on day four and five of a Test," Ganguly told reporters here.

Ganguly cited as example the fourth Test in Manchester where the Indian lower middle-order batters frustrated the English bowlers, playing out 143 overs to force a draw on a fifth day pitch.

"You saw what happened to England when India batted on a pitch which had a bit of rough and on a pitch which had a bit of turn -- there wasn't a quality spinner so England could not get 20 wickets.

"In the past, great sides had great spinners, whether it's Shane Warne, Murali, England's Swann, Panesar, India's Kumble, Harbhajan, Ashwin. So, I think Kuldeep is someone India will have to continue to look into playing in the future." (PTI)

Kashmir Super League 2025: Aqua Avengers Kashmir Edge Past Arco United To Enter Final

► LG Manoj Sinha Attends Game At TRC

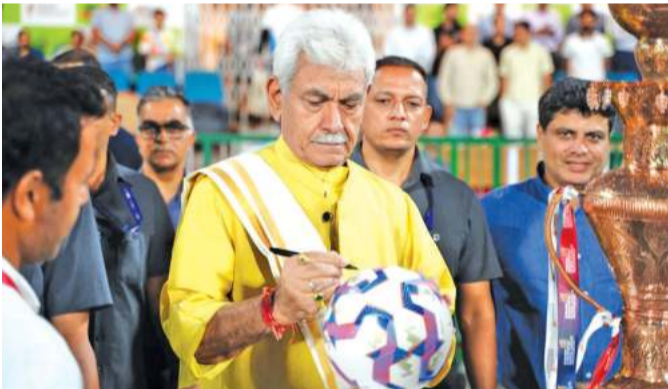
► Final on August 3 against United Elegant

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The second qualifier of the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025 delivered a nail-biting contest between Arco United FC and Aqua Kashmir Avengers FC on Thursday at TRC Ground here. In a first for the inaugural tournament, the match ended in a goalless draw in regulation time and was decided by a dramatic penalty shootout. Keeping their nerves, Aqua Kashmir Avengers emerging victorious 3-1 to secure their spot in the grand finale.

Both teams displayed immense grit, tactical discipline, and strong defensive organization, keeping the match deadlocked despite numerous close chances. The tension peaked during the penalty shootout, which captivated the packed stadium and ended with Aqua Kashmir Avengers FC holding their nerve to seal the win.

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the game



during halftime.

"Football holds a special place in the hearts of Kashmir's youth; it's more than just a sport, it's a passion. It truly unites people and connects hearts. It is a symbol of brotherhood and unity," the LG said.

"Kashmir Super League will be considered as a significant milestone in J&K's Football history. I hope that the success of Kashmir Super League will serve as a launching pad for

football players from Kashmir to compete on national and international levels," he said.

Department of Youth Services and Sports Commissioner Secretary Sarmad Hafeez and J&K Sports Council Secretary Nuzhat Gul presented the LG with a memento.

Award winners of the game:

- Khyber Cement Game Changer Award – Salman Lateef (Aqua Kashmir Avengers FC)



- Khyber Cement Player of the Match – Burhan Sarwar (Aqua Kashmir Avengers FC)
- Athwas Golden Moment Award – Jahangir Shagoo (Arco United FC)
- Events Emporio X Factor Excellence Award – Shoaib Haneef (Arco United FC)
- Kings Player of the Match – Adnan Ayoub (Aqua Kashmir Avengers FC)

The felicitation ceremony of the game was attended by

Anisa Nabi, Chief Sports Officer, JKSC; Javid Ahmad, DSO Central; and Mohammad Maqbool Lone from New JK Roadways, who appreciated the efforts of the players and organisers.

With this win, Aqua Kashmir Avengers FC will now face United Elegant FC in what promises to be a grand final game of the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League. The contest takes place on Sunday, August 3, at TRC Ground, with kick off at 7:00 PM.

Budgam's Budding Athletes Compete In U-14 Athletic Meet



Dabirah Hassan

BUDGAM: Under directions of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam Ghulam Hassan Lone, the Zonal Physical Education Office Hardpanzoo on Thursday organised an Inter-School Zonal Level Athletic Meet for Boys Under 14.

The event was formally inaugurated by Altaf Ahmad Katari, In-Charge Activity, ZPEO Hardpanzoo, in the presence of zonal officials and field staff. In his address, Katari applauded the young athletes for their enthusiasm and highlighted the pivotal role of grassroots sports in shaping disciplined and confident individuals.

The meet saw participation from a large number

of government and private schools across the zone, with student-athletes showcasing commendable zeal in various track and field events such as 100 meters, 200 meters, shot put, discus throw, and javelin throw.

Each event witnessed impressive displays of stamina, strength and sportsmanship, reflecting the growing athletic culture in the region. The competition provided a platform for young talents to shine while serving as a selection ground for future District Level representations.

The ZPEO Hardpanzoo team reaffirmed their commitment to nurturing talent and strengthening physical education programs in schools.

Ganderbal Wins Provincial Level U-14 Girls Football Championship

Defeat Srinagar 2-1 in final

Younis Paray

GANDERBAL: The Inter-District Provincial Level Football Championship for Girls Under-14, organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K and hosted by YSS Ganderbal at GCOPE Gadoora, concluded on Thursday. The multi-day tournament witnessed spirited participation from various districts of Kashmir, offering a platform for young female footballers to showcase their talent and sportsmanship.

On the final day, two matches were held—the final and the hardliner. The

hardliner match for third place was played between District Bandipora and District Budgam, in which Bandipora emerged victorious after a competitive face-off.

The much-anticipated final saw host District Ganderbal take on District Srinagar. Ganderbal dominated the first half, scoring two brilliant goals. Srinagar responded with an early goal in the second half and kept pressing hard, but Ganderbal's defense stood firm.

The hosts held their 2-1 lead until the final whistle, thereby lifting the championship trophy.



Bayern Aims For Jamal Musiala's Return By 2025 End After Breaking Leg At CWC



AP

MUNICH: Jamal Musiala is still using crutches after breaking his leg at the Club World Cup but Bayern Munich hopes he'll be back by the end of the year.

The 22-year-old attacking midfielder was stretchered off in pain after colliding with Paris Saint-Germain goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma as his team lost 2-0 to Paris Saint-Germain in the quarterfinals this month.

"Jamal still has crutches but the process is very, very positive," Bayern board member for sport Max Eberl said Thursday at an

event to present new signing Luis Díaz.

Eberl added that the club expects Musiala could return around the same time as wing back Alphonso Davies. The Canadian player has been out since sustaining a severe knee ligament injury with his national team in March, but Eberl said he had his "first exercises on the field" Thursday.

"So far there have been no complications with both of them. We need to knock on wood that it stays that way and then we obviously hope that they will be available at the end of the year," Eberl said.

F1 Champion Verstappen Staying With Red Bull For 2026

Formula 1 champion Max Verstappen says he is staying with the Red Bull team for next year, ending months of speculation over his future.

"For me, it's always been quite clear, and also for next year," the four-time champion said Thursday ahead of the Hungarian Grand Prix.

"I'm discussing with the team already the plans — the things that we want to change for next year, so that means that I'm also staying with the team for next year."

Verstappen has a contract with Red Bull through 2028. At recent races he had deflected direct questions about whether he'd stay with the team next year, and there had been indications that a performance-related clause could allow him to exit the contract earlier. The exact details of any clause are not public.

Mercedes driver George Russell had said he believed his team was holding talks with Verstappen. (AP)

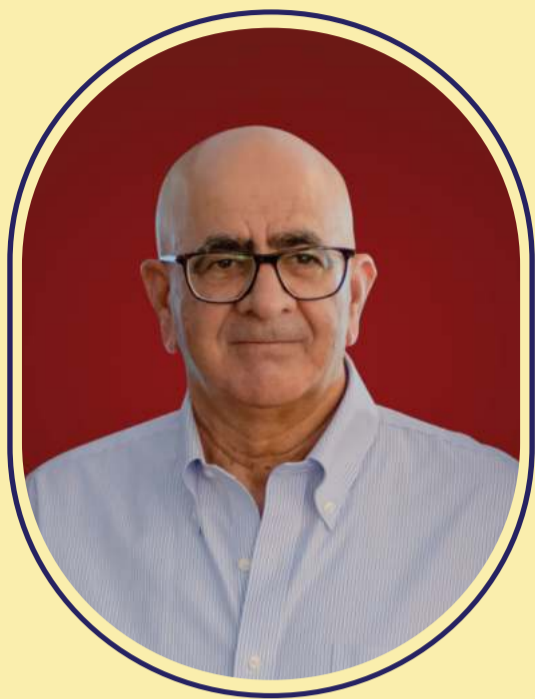
5th Test: India v England Day 1 Scoreboard

Scoreboard at stumps on Day 1 of the fifth Test between India and England at The Oval on Thursday.

India 1st Innings:

Yashasvi Jaiswal lbw b Atkinson 2
KL Rahul b Woakes 14
Sai Sudharsan c Smith b Tongue 38
Shubman Gill run out 21
Karun Nair batting 52
Ravindra Jadeja c Smith b Tongue 9
Dhruv Jurel c Brook b Atkinson 19
Washington Sundar batting 19
Extras: (B-4, LB-6, NB-4, W-16) 30
Total: (For 6 wickets in 64 overs) 204
Fall of wickets: 1/10, 2/38, 3/83, 4/101, 5/123, 6/153.

Bowling: Chris Woakes 14-1-46-1, Gus Atkinson 19-7-31-2, Josh Tongue 13-3-47-2, Jamie Overton 16-0-66-0, Jacob Bethell 2-1-4-0. (PTI)



Mohamed Ashraf Mir
(1st August 1949 - 17th July 2025)



Mujeeb Mir
(1st August 1970 - 1st February 2005)



Sabeha Mir
(9th March 1966 - 13th May 2020)



إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

No peak too high to climb
No love too great to sacrifice

Blessed ones rememberd
Indeed, we belong to allah
Indeed, they returned to him.