

## Kin of 250 Terror Victims To Get Jobs Today

### LG to hand over appointment letters at a special event



File Photo

#### Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will hand over appointment letters to 250 family members of terror victims at a special event scheduled at SKICC, Srinagar, on August 5.

According to official sources, the beneficiaries include families from North, Central, and South Kashmir whose loved ones were killed by terrorist organisations such as Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) over the past three decades of terrorism in the Valley.

"They were subjected to horrific brutality, including mutilation and public executions, aimed at spreading terror among the population," sources said.

They said the victims included civilians and primary breadwinners, and their deaths caused not only emotional trauma but also economic hardship and social exclusion for their families.

The families hail from districts including Baramulla, Bandipora, and Kupwara in North Kashmir; Budgam, Ganderbal, and Srinagar in Central Kashmir; and Pulwama, Shopian, and Anantnag in South Kashmir.

Sources added that for decades, the pain and loss of these families were not publicly acknowledged, and they often faced societal neglect despite their immense personal suffering.

"Terrorist groups like JeM, HM, and LeT carried out indiscriminate attacks targeting both civilians and security personnel, aimed at instilling fear and silencing dissent"

On July 13, LG handed over forty appointment letters to next of kin of terror victims in Baramulla, followed by another 80 families who were covered at an event held in Jammu on July 28.

The upcoming event at SKICC, officials said, is part of a continued initiative to deliver long-overdue recognition, support, and a sense of justice to families who have suffered for decades.

## 6 Years After Article 370, India Reaffirms Sovereignty Over J&K

#### KO Web Desk

Srinagar: As Jammu and Kashmir marks six years since the abrogation of Article 370, India has reiterated its constitutional and sovereign right to integrate the region fully into the Union, while spotlighting Pakistan's persistent role in destabilising peace efforts.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions on Kashmir, particularly Resolution 47 of 1948, called for Pakistan to withdraw its forces from the region as a prerequisite to any plebiscite. However, Pakistan's refusal to comply with this foundational condition has rendered the resolution "unimplementable".

Despite repeated international appeals, Islamabad has



continued to maintain and support terror infrastructure across the Line of Control (LoC), undermining diplomatic efforts and regional stability.

India's decision to revoke Article 370 on August 5, 2019, was upheld by the Supreme Court in December 2023 as

constitutionally valid and consistent with the principles of Indian federalism.

The Court emphasised that Article 370 was always intended as a temporary provision, designed to facilitate the transitional integration of Jammu and Kashmir into the Indian Union.

The move, therefore, does not violate any international agreements or the UN Charter, contrary to Pakistan's assertions.

Security agencies have reported a notable shift in the operational tactics of Pakistan-based terror groups. With dwindling local support in Kashmir, these outfits -- such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and its proxy, The Resistance Front (TRF) -- have increasingly relied on foreign fighters to execute attacks.

The recent Pahalgam attack, which claimed 26 innocent lives, was carried out by Pakistani nationals, as confirmed by recovered identity documents and training footage from Lashkar's Muridke headquarters. This trend underscores the | [More on P10](#)



Total fatalities (Aug 2019–Aug 2025): **1,230**

Terrorists killed: **833**  
Security personnel killed: **204**  
Civilians killed: **189**

#### Comparative figures (2013–2019):

Total deaths: **1,845**  
Terrorists killed: **1,121**  
Security personnel killed: **475**  
Civilians killed: **243**

#### Decline in casualties:

Terrorists: **25.7%**  
Security personnel: **57%**  
Civilians: **22.2%**  
Deadliest year: **2018 with 452 deaths**

#### Sharp decline post-abrogation:

Jan-July 2019: **233 deaths**

Aug-Dec 2019: **50 deaths (78.5%)**

#### Fatalities below 275 annually from 2021 onwards

Lowest fatalities: 2023: **134 deaths (12 civilians)**

2024: **127 deaths (31 civilians)**

2025 so far: **28 civilian deaths (including 26 in Pahalgam attack)**

### Statehood for J&K?

## Rumours Resurface On Eve Of Aug 5 Anniversary

#### Observer News Service

Srinagar: Rumours of Jammu and Kashmir regaining statehood have intensified after a series of high-level meetings in Delhi, including back-to-back engagements between President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The developments come a day ahead of the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, and have set off a storm of speculation on social media. PM Modi's meeting with President Murmu on August 3, which was not followed by the usual PIB statement, has particularly

drawn attention. Hours later, Shah also met the President in a one-on-one interaction.

Reports said that Shah has been holding a string of meetings with political stakeholders from J&K, including BJP's UT chief Ravinder Raina and Shia leader Imran Raza Ansari. PM Modi also called a key meeting of NDA MPs on Tuesday.

The flurry of meetings in Delhi's power corridors has not gone unnoticed. Retired Army officer and author Lt Gen (Retd) K.J.S. Dhillon, in a post on X, said, "There's a lot of speculation about what may be announced on August 5... Let's not rush into any hasty decision." | [More on P10](#)

## Nothing Will Happen: CM Omar



#### KO Web Desk

Amid swirling rumours about the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on

Monday said he does not foresee any immediate change, though he remains hopeful of a positive development during the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament. The buzz around J&K's statehood

to be restored started after President Droupadi Murmu had back-to-back meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. "I've heard every | [More on P10](#)

### 'Biometric, GPS Logs & IDs'

## No Local Among 3 Terrorists Killed: Officials



#### Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Security agencies have gathered evidence, including documents issued by the government of Pakistan and biometric data, confirming that the three slain foreign terrorists involved in

the deadly Pahalgam attack were Pakistani nationals, officials said on Monday.

The terrorists, identified as senior Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Dachigam forest on the | [More on P10](#)

## Kulgam Operation Enters 4th Day

#### Observer News Service

Srinagar: The anti-terrorist operation in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir entered the fourth day on Monday as security forces tightened the noose around the ultras engaged in the gunbattle with them.

"The encounter has entered its fourth day as intermittent exchange of firing has been going on since Monday morning," an official said.

He said the security forces were using all means, including drones and helicopters, to track down the terrorists.

One terrorist has been killed while at least | [More on P10](#)

## PM Modi Defiant As Trump Steps Up Pressure On India's Russian Oil Purchases

#### Ko Web Desk

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi struck a defiant tone in the face of US President Donald Trump's tariff threats, urging the nation to buy local goods as his administration signaled it would continue buying Russian oil.

PM Modi's government hasn't given Indian oil refiners instructions to stop buying Russian oil, and no decision has been taken on whether to halt the purchases, people familiar with the situation told Bloomberg, asking not to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter. Both state-run and private refiners



are allowed to buy from preferred sources, and crude purchases remain a commercial decision, several of the people said.

Over the weekend, PM Modi underscored the importance of shielding India's

economic interests during uncertain global conditions. The comments came just days after the US President Trump administration imposed a 25% tariff on Indian exports to the US. The White House is also threatening | [More on P10](#)

## Wildlife Crime Cases On Decline In J&K

#### Agencies

Srinagar: The number of wildlife crime cases reported in Jammu and Kashmir has declined steadily over the past five years while no incidents were recorded in Ladakh during the period.

This information was presented in the Lok Sabha on Monday in response to a question regarding wildlife trafficking.

According to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Jammu and Kashmir registered a total of 33 wildlife crime cases from 2020 to 2024. | [More on P10](#)

## HC Seeks Centre, EC Reply On J&K Bypoll Delay

#### Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Monday directed the Election Commission, the central government and the J&K government to file their response within four weeks over alleged delay in holding bypolls in two assembly seats. Justice Sanjay Dhar passed the directions after hearing a writ petition filed by former minister Harsh Dev Singh who



alleged by-elections in Budgam and Nagrota have not been held despite a mandate to hold such polls within six months of when the seat went vacant.

Budgam assembly seat fell vacant after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who won two seats in the assembly elections held in September 18-October 1, last year, retained the Ganderbal seat and vacated Budgam while taking oath.

Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana who | [More on P10](#)

#### Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has officially extended the Amnesty Scheme for Domestic Consumers till March 31, 2026, offering significant relief to households with pending electricity dues.

As per Government Order No. 114-JKPDD of 2025, issued by the Power Development Department, the extension is granted under the same terms and conditions as notified earlier in Order No. 103-PDD of 2022 and Order No. 47-JKPDD of 2024, with one key addition—a 100% waiver of interest and surcharge on

the outstanding amount as of March 31, 2025.

The decision, approved through the Council of Ministers Decision No. 074/14/2025 dated July 29, was formally notified today.

The order also clarifies that no further extension of the amnesty will be granted beyond this period.

KCCI Welcomes Move  
The Amnesty Scheme introduced last year proved beneficial for economically weaker consumers who were struggling to clear their pending electricity dues. It enabled them to pay with ease and also helped the department to recover | [More on P10](#)

## CM Flags Climate, Resource Challenges In Agri Sector Encourages Graduates to Be Job Creators, Not Seekers

#### Observer News Service

Jammu: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday underlined the need for a decisive shift towards sustainable and organic agricultural practices, citing growing climate and resource challenges facing the sector.

Addressing the 9th Convocation Ceremony of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Jammu, Omar Abdullah — who also serves as the Pro-Chancellor of the University — congratulated the graduating scholars and called agriculture and allied sectors "fields of promise as well as of responsibility."

He observed that fragmented land holdings, depleting water



resources and the unchecked use of chemical-based fertilizers are issues that demand urgent course correction, calling for a decisive shift toward sustainable and organic practices. He also emphasized the rising concerns

around microplastics in the food chain and climate vulnerability, noting that environmental awareness is no longer optional, but an operational imperative.

Encouraging the graduating students, Omar | [More on P10](#)



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Srinagar | Tuesday | 05-08-2025

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, MRS. NUZHAT MUSHTAQ LONE, R/o AL FAZIL COLONY, PEERBAGH, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR have lost the original RC of my car GRAND 110 NIOS bearing registration number JK 01 AW 8049 while travelling from Peerbagh to Baghat on 01.08.2025.

Now, I am applying for the duplicate of the same from the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, in this regard Objections, if any, shall report to the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice of this notice in the leading newspaper, after no objection shall be entertained.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of the death certificate of my mother, Shafiq Begum, who passed away on 02-01-1993 at Gohal Tangpora. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of the BDO Pattan within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Kulsoma Begum W/o Arif Hussain Dar  
R/o Vodhpora, Distt. Kupwara

FKO

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my Son MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM GANAIE the name and Fathers name is entered as MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM GANIE S/O SAMEER AHMAD GANIE while actual name is MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM GANAIE S/O SAMEER AHMAD GANAIE. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

SAMEER AHMAD GANAIE  
F/o MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM GANAIE  
R/o GOGOO HUMHAMA

mcb

### PUBLIC NOTICE

We are in the process of registering a travel agency under the name:

Travel Agency Name: Andaz e Kashmir

Owner: Ajaz Ahmad Yatoo

S/o: Manzoor Ahmad Yatoo

Office Address: Trigam, Shadipora

Contact No.: 7780977302

If anyone has any objections, concerns, or claims regarding the use of the name "Andaz e Kashmir", they are requested to contact the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ajaz Ahmad Yatoo S/o: Manzoor Ahmad Yatoo bmg\_r

R/o Chanderhama Pattan

Contact No.: 7780977302

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on the electricity bill bearing Consumer ID No. 42374 from Adil Ahmad Sheikh, S/o Bashir Ahmad Sheikh, to Bilal Ahmad Sheikh, S/o Ab Razaq Sheikh, R/o Ratnipora, Pulwama. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file them in the PDD Division Pulwama within seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Bilal Ahmad Sheikh  
S/o Ab Razaq Sheikh  
R/o Ratnipora, Pulwama

rskt

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on the electricity bill bearing Consumer ID No. 23759 from Syed Mushtaq Ahmad Andrabi, S/o Syed Bashir Ahmad Andrabi, to Syed Mushtaq Ahmad Jeelani, S/o Syed Bashir Ahmad Jeelani, R/o Puchal, Pulwama. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file them in the PDD Division Pulwama within seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Syed Mushtaq Ahmad Jeelani  
S/o Syed Bashir Ahmad Jeelani  
R/o Puchal, Pulwama

rskt

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on the electricity bill bearing ID No.: 0206050002383 from Abdul Rheem Bhat, S/o Asad Bhat, R/o Astaan Mohalla, Yargund, Khowsa, to Manzoor Ahmad Paray , S/o Late Ghulam Mohammad Parray, R/o Astaan Mohalla, Yargund, Khowsa. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file it in the office of the PDD Sub Division, Lawapora, within seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Manzoor Ahmad Parray  
S/o Late Ghulam Mohammad Parray  
R/o Astaan Mohalla, Yargund, Khowsa

bmg\_r

### From Office of the Advocate Ishfaq Rasool and Associates

In the case of  
1. Ghulam Rasool Kuchey  
2. Mohammad Akbar Kuchey  
Both Sons of Late Mohammad Subhan Kuchey  
Both Residents of Tantraypora Palhallan Pattan District Baramulla

( Caveator)  
V/s  
Public at large  
Non caveators

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

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

fko Sd/advocate

### From Office of the Advocate Ishfaq Rasool and Associates

In the case of  
1. Mohammad Ramzan Dar  
2. Ghulam Nabi Dar Both Sons of Abdullah Dar  
3. Mst Shakeela Begum Widow of late Habibullah Dar  
4. Aijyaz Ahmad Dar  
5. Zubair Ahmad Dar Both Sons of Late Habibullah Dar  
All Residents of Check Jamal Mir Palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla

( Caveator)  
V/s  
Public at large  
Non caveators

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

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

fko Sd/advocate

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my provisional certificate of Class 10 and intend to apply for a duplicate copy. If anyone has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the concerned department within seven days from the date of issuance of this notice.

Name: Tajamul Ahmad Pandith  
Roll No.: 327295  
Year: 2012  
School: Al Noor Educational Trust, Palhallan

FKO

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PCD(PHQ) J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR.

INVITING E-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No/EE-PCD/PHQ/57/2025-26 Dated: - 04-08-2025

Executive Engineer PCD PHQJ&K JAMMU/SRINAGAR on behalf of The President of India invites tenders by e-tendering on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. / CPWD / Railways and other State / Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs)	Earnest money (EMD)	Time Allowed for completion of tender	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Repair/ renovation of damaged electric Panels and Cables at APHQ Complex Srinagar.	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jammu/ Srinagar	4.30 lacs	300/-	8600/-	30 working days	13-08-2025	Electrical

1. Date of Publishing 05-08-2025 at 1600 hours.

2. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website http://jktenders.gov.in from 1630 hours on 05-08-2025

3. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website http://jktenders.gov.in from 06-08-2025 to 12-08-2025 upto 1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 1100 hours on 13-08-2025 on line.

4. The complete bidding process will be on line.

5. Technical bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar on 13-08-2025 at 1100 Hrs.

6. The lowest bidder i. e. 1. shall be intimated to deposit the original copy of required earnest money in shape of CDR/ FDR and hard copies of all relevant documents as mentioned in clause 2 of general instructions to the bidders within five days from opening of financial bids.

7. In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A/24(2017)-651 dated:- 07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of challan / receipt on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned for that the bidders must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M. H. 0055/ Revenue (others).

8. The cost of tender documents shall be submitted by the bidder in shape of treasury challan / receipt and upload the same.

9. Earnest Money:- The earnest money deposit (EMD @ 2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar shall be valid for minimum six months or more after the last date of receipt of bids of the successful bidder (L1) shall be released, only after defect liability period, the DLP shall be calculated from the date of successful completion of the work to the satisfaction report of Engineer incharge.

10. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website http://jktenders.gov.in Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

11. The site for the work is available. The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect the site of work before bidding.

12. Financial Bids will be opened on line in the office of the Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

13. The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited.

14. No Engineer or Gazetted rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the Government is allowed to work as a Contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from Government service, without permission of the Government. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained the permission of the Government as aforesaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the Contractor's Service.

15. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

16. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

17. The interested bidder can download the NIT/bidding document from the website http://jktenders.gov.in

18. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get (DSC) "Digital Signature Certificate" as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding. This certificate will be required for digitally signing the bid. Bidders can get above mentioned digital certificate from any approved vendors. The Bidders, who already possess valid (DSC) Digital Signature Certificates, need not to procure new Digital Signature Certificate.

19. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be uploaded without Digital Signature. No Proposal will be accepted in physical form.

20. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para 2(III).

21. Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid.

22. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids whatsoever reasons may be.

23. All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted online.

24. Bidders can contact the undersigned for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.

25. Original Registration certificate of GST No. shall be uploaded on line.

26. The guidelines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website http://jktenders.gov.in

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Police Construction Division  
PHQ, J&K, Jmu/ Sgr.

No:-e-NIT/EE-PCD/PHQ/2025-26/7910-20  
DIPK-4764/25 Dated: 04-08-2025

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER PIR-PANJAL FOREST DIVISION BUDGAM.

e-NIT NO:- 07OF 2025-26 DATED: 31-07-2025

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of J & K UT, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following work:-

S. NO	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. In lacs)	Bid Security (EMD) INR	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	Cost of Tender Document. Rs)	TIME OF COMPLETION
1	Repairment of Fencing of Old Closures and Enrichment Planting of Conifer Plants in various Compartments of Doodganga Range of Pir Panjal Forest Division, Budgam for the Year 2025-26 under the scheme CAMPA-NPV.	3.04	6080/=	"D" Class PWD Contractor/Forest Contractor/JKFDC Contractor	Rs. 200/=	Fencing Repair work & Pit work for Planting 30 calendar days. Planting work in the month of 15 Oct.-15 Nov. 2025
2	Repairment of Fencing of Old Closures and Enrichment Planting of Conifer Plants in various Compartments of Raitthan Range of Pir Panjal Forest Division, Budgam for the Year 2025-26 under the scheme CAMPA-NPV.	1.42	2840/=	"D" Class PWD Contractor/Forest Contractor/JKFDC Contractor	Rs 200/=	Fencing Repair work & Pit work for Planting 30 calendar days. Planting work in the month of 15 Oct.-15 Nov. 2025
3	Repairment of Fencing of Old Closures and Enrichment Planting of Conifer Plants in various Compartments of Sukhnag Range of Pir Panjal Forest Division, Budgam for the Year 2025-26 under the scheme CAMPA-NPV.	4.96	9920/=	"D" Class PWD Contractor/Forest Contractor/JKFDC Contractor	Rs 200/=	Fencing Repair work & Pit work for Planting 30 calendar days. Planting work in the month of 15 Oct.-15 Nov. 2025
4	BUC Planting of Conifer, Broad Leaved Plants & Patch-Sowing in various Compartments of different blocks of Raitthan Range of Pir Panjal Forest Division, Budgam for the Year 2025-26 under the scheme CAMPA-NPV & CAMPA-CA.	1.88	3760/=	"D" Class PWD Contractor/Forest Contractor/JKFDC Contractor	Rs. 200/=	Pit work for Planting 30 calendar days. Planting work in the month of 15 Oct.-15 Nov. 2025
5	BUC Planting of Conifer, Broad Leaved Plants & Patch-Sowing in various Compartments of different blocks of Doodganga Range of Pir Panjal Forest Division, Budgam for the Year 2025-26 under the scheme CAMPA-NPV & CAMPA-CA.	3.67	7340/=	"D" Class PWD Contractor/Forest Contractor/JKFDC Contractor	Rs. 200/=	Pit work for Planting 30 calendar days. Planting work in the month of 15 Oct.-15 Nov. 2025
6	BUC Trench Planting of Conifer, Broad Leaved Plants, Medicinal Planting & Patch-Sowing in various Compartments of different blocks of Sukhnag Range of Pir Panjal Forest Division, Budgam for the Year 2025-26 under the scheme CAMPA-NPV & CAMPA-CA.	4.89	9780/=	"D" Class PWD Contractor/Forest Contractor/JKFDC Contractor	Rs. 200/=	Pit work for Planting 30 calendar days. Planting work in the month of 15 Oct.-15 Nov. 2025

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website: -www.jktenders.gov.in.  
Position of AA: Accorded  
Position of T/S: Accorded  
Position of Funds : Budgeted.

Publishing Date:- 01-08-2025

Download Start Date:- 02-08-2025 from 09:00 AM

Bid submission Start Date:- 02-08-2025 from 09:00 AM

Pre-Bid Consultation & Venue:- 09-08-2025 Working hours Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam.

Bid submission End Date:- 14-08-2025 up to 04:00 PM

Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online:- 16-08-2025 at 10:00 AM in the Office of the Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle at Shiekh-Bagh Srinagar.

Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online:- 16-08-2025 after Technical Evaluations Completed. Date will be notified separately.

01. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: - https://jktenders.gov.in

02. The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above.

03. Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security Deposit in the shape of EMD for requisite amount and pledged to Divisional Forest Officer Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam.

04. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.

05. The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.

06. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e Bid security (EMD) , Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/Forest Dept. duly renewed for the current year 2025-26, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document).

07. The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.

08. In case the cost of lowest bidder is found below the advertised amount, the bidder has to deposit an Additional Security Performance in the shape of CDR/FDR before issuance of award of contract to the tune as per below details:-

- Upto 15% below rate over advertised cost Nil
- 15% to 20% below rate over advertised cost 5% of quoted cost in shape of CDR/FDR.
- 20% to 25% below rate over advertised cost 10% of quoted cost in shape of CDR/FDR.
- 25% to 30% below rate over advertised cost 15% of quoted cost in shape of CDR/FDR.
- Below 30% rate over advertised cost 20% in shape of CDR/FDR of quoted cost.

09. The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).

10. The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.

11. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

12. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

No:- DFO/PP/Actt/Tender/2025-26/438-43  
DIPK-4752/25  
Dated:- 04-08-2025.

Divisional Forest Officer,  
Pir Panjal Forest Division,  
Budgam.

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## Chinar Book Festival-II Draws Massive Student Participation



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The second edition of the Chinar Book Festival at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, has become a literary and cultural magnet, drawing enthusiastic participation from students across the Kashmir Valley.

The ongoing nine-day festival, which began on August 02, has witnessed packed halls and vibrant interactive sessions, especially with large-scale attendance by students from schools and colleges.

According to details, the festival is providing a rare platform for young minds to explore literature, creative arts, and career-building opportunities. Students are engaging not just with books, but also with authors, educators, and professionals in a stimulating atmosphere.

"This festival opened my mind. I had never been to such a literary event before.

I thoroughly enjoyed it and learned a lot," shared one student. Another participant, Danish Ahmad, said, "This session helped me relate classroom learning with the real world."

According to KNO, the booksellers present at the venue expressed delight over the active interest shown by youth. "This is not just a book event. It's a creative space for youngsters to ask questions, share opinions, and grow intellectually," said one bookseller.

The festival was inaugurated by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who remarked that India is experiencing a cultural, economic, and scientific renaissance under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Chinar Book Festival is set to continue until August 10, creating a unique intellectual and cultural buzz in the region.

### VIKSIT BHARAT-@2047

## Debate Competition Held At SP College



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** An Inter-college debate competition on the theme 'Empowering Young Minds for a Developed India' was successfully organised on Monday at Sri Pratap College, Srinagar, under the aegis of the Viksit Bharat @2047 Yuva Connect Programme, sponsored by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Moheen, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, was the chief guest on the occasion. While delivering an inspiring inaugural speech, he emphasized the role of youth in shaping a developed and progressive India.

In her address, Dr. Seema Naz, Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University Srinagar, passionately advocated for youth empowerment and warned against the rising menace of drug abuse. She urged the students to channel their energy into nation-

building activities, academic excellence, and social responsibility, rather than falling prey to destructive habits.

Prof. B.A. Sheikh, Principal of S.P. College, spoke about nurturing responsible and empowered youth who are prepared to lead the nation into a progressive future.

Prof. Mir Khusrul led the audience in the solemn oath-taking ceremony for the Viksit Bharat Pledge.

The debate competition, featuring 16 talented participants from various colleges, was evaluated by a panel of distinguished jury members. Winners of the event were declared after fair and meticulous assessment.

The programme also featured cultural performances, adding a festive and vibrant spirit to the academic event.

This initiative served as a platform for students to voice their ideas and sharpen their oratory skills, reinforcing the vision of a vibrant and intellectually empowered young India.

## DGP J&K Chairs High-Level Security Review Meeting

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Director General of Police (DGP) Jammu and Kashmir, Nalin Prabhut (IPS), chaired a comprehensive security review meeting today at the conference hall of Police Control Room (PCR) Kashmir, in view of Independence Day 2025 and other forthcoming events.

The meeting was attended by senior officers including Special DG Coordination J&K S.J.M. Gillani, ADG CRPF Rajesh Kumar, ADGP Armed J&K Anand Jain, ADGP CID J&K Nitish Kumar, JD SIB J&K/L, Inspectors General of Kashmir Zone, Jammu Zone, and Security J&K, IGs of BSF and CRPF (KOS and Srinagar), all Range DIGs, DIGs of Traffic, Railways Kashmir, ITBP Srinagar, SSB Jammu, and CISF Jammu. Also present were all district SSPs of

J&K, SSPs of PCR Kashmir, Railways, APCR, CID SBK, Security Kashmir, CID CIK, and SSPs of PC Srinagar and PC Jammu, among other senior officers.

At the outset, the DGP was briefed on the prevailing security situation in the Union Territory by the Zonal Inspectors General and heads of various security and intelligence wings. Intelligence officials also shared their assessments on recent developments.

The meeting focused on reviewing recent security trends, current challenges, and the strategy to counter emerging threats. DGP Nalin Prabhut emphasized the need to strengthen security plans, enhance coordination among forces, and implement effective counter-insurgency measures to ensure the peaceful and smooth conduct of all upcoming events. (KINS)

### KHAYAM ASSAULT CASE

## Police Arrest 5 Accused In Prompt Action

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a swift crackdown on anti-social elements, Srinagar Police have arrested five individuals in connection with a violent assault incident that occurred during the intervening night of August 3 and 4, 2025, at Khayam Chowk in the Khanyar area of the city. The arrests come as part of a decisive move by the police against growing instances of public disorder and violence.

According to a police spokesperson, the accused were allegedly

involved in creating a public disturbance and assaulting several individuals in the area. Taking prompt cognizance of the matter, the police registered a case under FIR number 40/2025 at Police Station Khanyar. The case has been filed under sections 109, 115(2), 126(2), and 324(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

As the investigation progressed, all five accused were identified and arrested. In addition, two vehicles used in the commission of the offence—a Mahindra Scorpio N and a

Toyota Glanza—were seized by the police as part of the probe.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Faheem Ahmad Khan, son of Mohammad Ayub Khan, resident of Botshah Mohalla, Lal Bazar; Talat Hassan, son of Ghulam Hassan Dhar, resident of Housing Colony, Chanapora; Nadeem Malik, son of Bashir Ahmad Malik, resident of Natipora, Mehjoor Nagar; Amir Rashid Molvi, son of Abdul Rashid Molvi, resident of Jogilanker, Rainawari; and Mudasar Ahmad Sheikh, son of Sheikh Nazir Ahmad, resident of Ikhranj Pora, Rajbagh.

Police said that further investigation is underway and reiterated their commitment to maintaining public safety and ensuring justice for the victims.

**“THE ARRESTS COME AS PART OF A DECISIVE MOVE BY THE POLICE against growing instances of public disorder and violence.”**

## Chhari Mubarak Leaves Srinagar For Holy Cave

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The sacred Chhari Mubarak—holy mace of Lord Shiva—on Monday embarked on its final journey towards the holy Amarnath cave, signifying the concluding phase of the annual Amarnath Yatra 2025, which is scheduled to culminate on August 9.

Led by the custodian of the holy mace, Head Priest Mahant Deependra Giri, the religious procession set off from Dashnami Akhara in Lal Chowk, Srinagar. It first reached the Sureshwar Temple in Sonwar where special prayers were offered before the procession continued its traditional route towards Pahalgam.

According to details, around 30–35 sadhus and devotees accompanied the holy mace, escorted under a tight security arrangement comprising Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF vehicles. Senior officials are overseeing the entire movement of the Chhari Mubarak convoy.

Speaking to the media, Mahant Deependra Giri stated that the Chhari Mubarak will adhere strictly to its traditional route. The procession will halt overnight at Pahalgam, and then proceed as follows: Chan-



danwari on August 06, Sheshnag on August 07, and Panchtarni on August 08. On the final day of the yatra, coinciding with Shravan Purnima, the sacred mace will reach the Amarnath cave shrine before sunrise for the final religious ceremonies.

The Amarnath Yatra this year began on June 29 and has witnessed strong turnout from devotees, showcasing enduring spiritual zeal despite fluctuating numbers in past years.

The journey of Chhari Mubarak

includes significant religious halts for puja at places such as Pampore, Bijbehara, Anantnag, Mattan, Aishmuqam, and Pahalgam. Mahant Giri expressed gratitude to the civil administration and health department for their cooperation and extended his prayers for peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to KNO, the annual pilgrimage will officially conclude on August 09 after the completion of rituals at the holy cave.

## J&K Handicapped Association Holds Protest

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Handicapped Association (JKHA) staged a protest at Press Enclave in Srinagar on Monday, calling upon the government to address the long-standing grievances of the disabled community.

Led by Association President Abdul Rashid Bhat, the protesters raised slogans demanding immediate redressal of core issues, including the enhancement of monthly disability pension from the existing Rs 1,250 to Rs 3,000

and the launch of special recruitment drives for qualified persons with disabilities.

Bhat said that although disability laws exist on paper, their implementation on the ground remains poor. "Despite various legal provisions, most of our basic rights remain unfulfilled. We demand proper enforcement of the 4% reservation policy in government and semi-government sectors," he said.

Among other demands, the association is seeking vertical reservations, dedicated service counters

for disabled persons in public offices and banks, and enhanced accessibility in public transport, government buildings, and official websites.

The protesters also urged the government to constitute an advisory board for the disabled community on the lines of the SC/ST and Pahari advisory boards. "There is a pressing need to ensure our representation in district-level meetings and decision-making bodies," Bhat added.

The association vowed to continue its peaceful struggle until their demands are met.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION BUDGAM KPDCL.

### SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE.

e-NIT No.: -EDB/28of 2025-26

Dated: 02-08-2025

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from Govt. approved Electrical Contractors, for works, as details below:

Name of the work Items	Est. Cost (Lacs)	Adv. Cost (Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	EMD	Completion Period	Status Of AAA
Estimate for illumination of Govt. buildings/bridges during independence/Republic Day celebrations falling under Jurisdiction of Electric Division Budgam.	2.5	2.5	200/-	Rs.5000/-	2 days	Order No.: SE-II/O&M/158 of 2025 Dated:- 02-08-2025

- Bidders are advised to study the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) / Tender Specifications carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examine, of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.
- The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a> from 02-08-2025; 4:00 PM
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	02-08-2025; 4:00 PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	08-08-2025; 4:05 PM
D	Clarification start date	03-08-2025; 10:00 AM
E	Clarification End date	03-08-2025; 4:00 PM
F	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format	03-08-2025; 4:05 AM
G	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	08-08-2025; 4:05 PM
H	Hard Copy of e-tender fee and EMD Instrument & Affidavit that the Firm/Contractor is not Black listed by any of the Govt. Offices.	Up-to 08-08-2025; 4:05 PM in office of the Executive Engineer ED- Budgam
I	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	08-08-2025; 4:10 PM
J	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
K	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	office of the Executive Engineer ED- Budgam

No: EDB/3405-08  
Dated:02-08-2025.

DIPK-NB-1490-25  
DT: 04/08/2025

S/d  
Executive Engineer  
ED Budgam (KPDCL)

- 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
- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



### HIGHWAY STATUS



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



**HIJRI  
CALENDAR**  
10 Safar  
1447

### PRAYERS

FAJR	4:10
ZUHR	12: 37
ASR	5:30
Magrib	7:32
ISHA	9:03

### This Day In History

- 1772- 1st Partition of Poland between Austria, Prussia and Russia is made public
- 1781- Battle of Dogger Bank (Fourth Anglo-Dutch War): a British strategic victory, although both sides claimed to have won
- 1812- War of 1812: Tecumseh's Native American force of 25 ambush Thomas Van Horne's 200 US militiamen at Brownstown Creek, in Michigan Territory; US forces retreat haphazardly with 18 killed, 12 wounded, and 70 abandoning the battle
- 1861- President Lincoln signs the first US personal income tax into law (3% of incomes over \$800)
- 1862- Battle of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Union forces prevent Confederate attempts to capture the city
- 1864- Battle of Mobile Bay won by the Union Navy, led by Rear Admiral David Farragut with the cry "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!"
- 1864 Spectrum of a comet observed for the first time by Giovanni Donati
- 1874- Japan launches its postal savings system, modeled after a similar system in England
- 1890- British and French accord to divide African colonization
- 1891 World's first traveler's cheques issued by American Express
- 1900- In Russia, anti-Jewish riots spread from Odessa into other parts of the country
- 1905- First meeting of the Russian and Japanese peace commissioners takes place in US President Theodore Roosevelt's home at Oyster Bay, New York
- Battle of Liège
- 1914- Battle of Liège: first battle of WWI, massive German assault on forts around Belgium city of Liège led by Erich Ludendorff
- 1914- Cuba, Uruguay, Mexico and Argentina proclaim neutrality in WW I
- 1914- Montenegro declares war against Austria-Hungary in World War I
- 1914- US and Nicaragua sign treaty granting canal rights to US
- 1914- WWI: Field Marshal Lord Kitchener appointed Secretary of War after British declaration of war on Germany
- 1915- Warsaw, evacuated by the Russians, is occupied by Germans
- 1917- British troops attack canal of Ypres in Boesinghe, Belgium
- 1918- Last German air raid on England in World War I occurs, with four Zeppelin airships dropping bombs in the Midlands and North East England
- 1921- Treaty of Berlin: US and Germany sign separate peace treaty
- 1926- French & German trade agreement signed
- 1930 The Norwegian Bratvaag expedition finds the remains, diaries and negative images of S. A. Andrée's ill-fated balloon polar expedition of 1897 on White Island in the Svalbard archipelago
- 1936- American athlete Jesse Owens wins the 200m in a world record time of 20.7 seconds, his third gold medal of the Berlin Olympics
- 1936- Italian athlete Ondina Valla runs a world record 11.6 in the semi finals of the 80m hurdles at the Berlin Olympics; wins final the next day but can't match the time
- 1942- British government cancels agreement of Munich
- 1942- German troops cross Russian Kuban River in Western Caucasus
- 1943 - World War II: at around 11 A.M during the Battle of Troina, Mount
- Etna erupts sending ash and lava miles into the sky.

## SC Questions Rahul Gandhi ‘How Do You Know China Took 2,000 sq km?’

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: If you are a true Indian, you wouldn't say such a thing, the Supreme Court on Monday said as it censured Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his alleged derogatory remarks about the Indian Army during his Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The top court, however, stayed the proceedings initiated in the matter against Gandhi before a Lucknow court.

A Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh Government and the complainant in the case.

“You are leader of opposition. Why don't you say things in Parliament, why do you have to say it on social media?” the Bench asked.

The top court continued, “How do you get to know that 2,000 sq km of Indian territory has been occupied by Chinese? Were you there? Do you have any credible material?”

The Bench further asked, “Why do you make these statements without having any material? If you are a true Indian, you won't say such a thing.”

Senior advocate Abhishek

Singhvi, appearing for Gandhi, submitted if the leader of opposition cannot raise issues, it would be an unfortunate situation.

“If he can't say these things which are published in the Press, then he can't be a leader of opposition,” Singhvi submitted.

On the Bench's true Indian remark, Singhvi replied, “It is also possible that a true Indian will say that our 20 Indian soldiers were beaten up and killed. This it is also a matter of concern.”

The top court then said, “When there is a conflict across the border, is it unusual to have casualties on either sides?”

Singhvi said Gandhi was only on the point of proper disclosure and raising concerns about the suppression of information.

Justice Datta said being a responsible leader of opposition, Gandhi ought not have done it as there was a proper forum to raise such questions.

While agreeing that Gandhi could have made the comments in a better manner, Singhvi said the complaint was nothing but an attempt to harass the petitioner.



## Air India Under Scanner Grounded Flights, Creepy Crawlies, Safety Fears

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Air India is under increasing scrutiny as a series of technical glitches and hygiene issues have plagued its operations in recent days, raising serious concerns over the airline's safety and service standards.

On Sunday evening, an Air India Express flight (IX2718) bound for Kolkata was forced to return to Bengaluru after being airborne for over two hours due to a technical snag. Operated with an Airbus A320, the aircraft circled mid-air to burn fuel before making a precautionary landing. While no injuries were reported, the airline arranged an alternative aircraft to ferry the passengers. The cause of the issue is currently under investigation.

That same day, another setback hit the airline when flight AI349 from Singapore to Chennai was cancelled due to a maintenance issue

discovered during pre-departure checks. The Airbus A321 aircraft required additional time for repairs, prompting the cancellation.

A Delhi-bound Air India flight from Bhubaneswar was also cancelled on Sunday due to “high temperature” in the aircraft cabin just prior to its departure for the destination, the airline said in a statement. This was the third incident of an Air India flight confronting a technical glitch in a day.

These incidents are part of a growing list of operational troubles for Air India. Just days earlier, on July 31, flight AI2017 from Delhi to London was forced to return to the bay moments before takeoff after a technical issue was detected.

Adding to the airline's woes, passengers aboard flight AI180 from San Francisco to Mumbai via Kolkata were alarmed by the presence of cockroaches mid-flight.

Two passengers were relocated after spotting the insects. The Boeing 777 aircraft underwent deep cleaning during a scheduled refueling stop in Kolkata. The airline has promised a comprehensive probe into the hygiene lapse and issued an apology to the affected travelers.

The mounting concerns have drawn attention from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), which, during its recent audit, flagged 51 safety lapses in the airline's operations—seven of which were classified as serious violations.

While Air India has assured corrective measures and investigations, these repeated failures point to deeper systemic issues in maintenance and service standards. With growing passenger dissatisfaction and regulatory scrutiny, the airline faces significant pressure to restore trust and ensure operational reliability.

## More Gazans Die from Hunger, Aid Scramble; Shrouds in Short Supply

Reuters

CAIRO/GAZA: At least 40 Palestinians were killed by Israeli gunfire and airstrikes on Gaza on Monday, including 10 seeking aid, health authorities said, adding another five had died of starvation in what humanitarian agencies warn may be an unfolding famine.

The 10 died in two separate incidents near aid sites belonging to the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, in central and southern Gaza, local medics said. The United Nations says more than 1,000 people have been killed trying to receive aid in the enclave since the GHF began operating in May 2025, most of them shot by Israeli forces operating near GHF sites.

“Everyone who goes there, comes back either with a bag of flour or carried back (on a wooden stretcher) as a martyr,

or injured. No one comes back safe,” said 40-year-old Palestinian Bilal Thari.

He was among mourners at Gaza City's Al Shifa hospital on Monday who had gathered to collect the bodies of their loved ones killed a day earlier by Israeli fire as they sought aid, according to Gaza's health officials.

At least 13 Palestinians were killed on Sunday while waiting for the arrival of UN aid trucks at the Zikim crossing on the Israeli border with the northern Gaza Strip, the officials added.

At the hospital, some bodies were wrapped in thick patterned blankets because white shrouds, which hold special significance in Islamic burials, were in short supply due to continued Israeli border restrictions and the mounting number of daily deaths, Palestinians said.

“We don't want war, we want peace, we want this mis-

ery to end. We are out on the streets, we all are hungry, we are all in bad shape, women are out there on the streets, we have nothing available for us to live a normal life like all human beings, there's no life,” Thari told Reuters.

There was no immediate comment by Israel on the incidents of shootings on Sunday and Monday.

Israel blames Hamas for the suffering in Gaza and says it is taking steps for more aid to reach its population, including pausing fighting for part of the day in some areas, air drops, and announcing protected routes for aid convoys.

Deaths from hunger

Meanwhile, five more people died of starvation or malnutrition over the past 24 hours, Gaza's health ministry said on Monday. The new deaths raised the toll of those dying from hunger to 180, including 93 children, since the war began.

## Peace offering? Donald Trump's Nobel Obsession

Associated Press

Washington: A craving for international prestige, a decade-long Obama rivalry and perhaps a dash of provocation: a mercurial melange of factors is at play in Donald Trump's obsession with the Nobel Peace Prize.

“It's well past time that President Trump was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize,” White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters on Thursday, prompting reactions of disbelief and sarcasm from the Republican leader's opponents.

“Since his January 20 return to power, the US president has brokered, on average, one peace deal or ceasefire per month,” Leavitt said, citing as examples his mediations between India and Pakistan, Cambodia and Thailand, Egypt and Ethiopia, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Serbia and Kosovo and others.

His leading spokeswoman also mentioned Iran, where Trump ordered US strikes against the Islamic republic's nuclear facilities, as evidence of decisions Leavitt claims have contributed to world peace.

She made no mention of the conflict in Ukraine, which Trump pledged multiple times to end on “day one” of his term, or the war in Gaza, which rumbles on and for which the US supplies Israel with weapons.

Pakistan, Israel

For some foreign leaders, mentioning the prestigious award has become a sign of



diplomatic goodwill toward an American president who envies himself as a peacemaker.

Pakistan nominated Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize, as did Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

During an early July meeting at the White House, a journalist asked the presidents of Liberia, Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea-Bissau and Gabon whether Trump deserved the award.

Basking in the flattering responses from the African leaders, a smiling Trump said: “We could do this all day long.”

Tens of thousands of people can offer a nomination to the Nobel committee, including lawmakers, ministers, certain university professors, former laureates and members of the committee themselves.

Nominations are due by January 31, with the announcement coming in October - this year on the 10th of the month.

Law professor Anat Alon-Beck, who is an Israeli-American, submitted Trump's name to the committee's five members, who were appointed by the Norwegian Parliament.

## Only Biharis for Bihar Teacher Jobs? Nitish Kumar

Press Trust Of India

Patan Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday announced a ‘domicile policy’ in the recruitment of government teachers.

The Chief Minister, however, did not specify what percentage of recruitments was to be reserved for those born and raised in the state.

The announcement came ahead of the Assembly elections in the state, which are due this year.

“The Education Department has been directed to make necessary amendments to the relevant rules to give priority to the residents (domicile) of Bihar in the recruitment of teachers,” Kumar said in a post on X.

“Since the formation of the government in November 2005, we have been continuously working to improve the education system. A large number of teachers have been appointed to strengthen the education system,” he said.

This will be implemented from the Teachers Recruitment Exam (TRE)-4, which will be conducted this year, while TRE-5 will be held in 2026, the Chief Minister said.



Instructions have also been given to conduct Secondary Teachers Eligibility Test (STET) before the organisation of TRE-5, he said.

Recently, amid growing clamour for a ‘domicile policy’ in Bihar, the Bihar Cabinet ordered that a quota of 35 per cent for women in government jobs will be restricted to only ‘permanent residents’ of the state.

In 2016, the state government introduced 35 per cent reservation for women in government jobs in the state at all levels.

Notably, the state has been witnessing attempts at public mobilisation on the issue of domicile, ahead of assembly elections. Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav has promised ‘100 per cent domicile’ if the RJD comes to power.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Shibu Soren: Who Played Key Role In Jharkhand Creation

Press Trust of India

Ranchi: Shibu Soren, the veteran tribal leader who played a key role in Jharkhand's creation and founded the JMM, leaves behind a legacy that shaped the country's politics.

The death of 81-year-old Soren marks the end of a political era that saw tribal movement rise to national prominence. Born on January 11, 1944, in Ramgarh district's Nemra village (then in Bihar, now in Jharkhand), Soren, who was popularly known as ‘Dishom Guru’ (leader of the land) and patriarch of JMM, is one of the most enduring political figures in the country's tribal and regional political landscape.

His political life was defined by continuous advocacy for the rights for tribals. According to Soren's family, his early life was marked by personal tragedy and



deep socio-economic struggles.

Soren was 15 years old when his father, Shobaran Soren, was allegedly killed by moneylenders in Lukaiyatand forest, some 16 km from Gola block headquarters on November 27, 1957. This left a deep impact on him and became a catalyst for his future political activism. In 1973, Soren co-founded the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) along with Bengali Marxist trade unionist AK Roy and Kurmi-Mahto leader Binod Bihari Mahto during a public meeting at Golf Ground Dhanbad.

The JMM soon became the primary political voice for the demand for a separate tribal state and got support across the Chotanagpur and Santhal Pargana regions.

Soren's grassroots mobilisation against feudal exploitation is said to have shaped him into a tribal icon. After decades of agitation, steered by him and others, the demand for a separate state was finally fulfilled with the formation of Jharkhand on November 15, 2000.

Soren's influence was not confined to state politics.

He was elected several times to the Lower House from Dumka - the eighth time between May 2014-2019 as member of the 16th Lok Sabha. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in June 2020.

As a key figure in the UPA government, he served as Union Coal Minister from May 23 to July 24, 2004; November 27, 2004 to March 2, 2005; and January 29 to November 2006.

## Mamata Names Nephew Abhishek TMC Leader In Parliament

Tribune News Service

Tinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee was on Monday named the party leader in Parliament replacing veteran Sudeep Bandopadhyay.

The announcement was made after a private virtual meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata took with party MPs today.

Abhishek, a three-term MP, is expected to take over from Mamata.

Bandopadhyay, a four-time MP from Kolkata North, had been the TMC leader in Parliament since 2011 after Mamata quit the post when she became Chief Minister.

In another development, Kalyan Banerjee quit as TMC chief whip in the Lok Sabha and Mamata announced that Kakoli Ghosh would handle daily coordination.

Serampore MP Kalyan later took to X saying he had resigned in protest of colleague Mahua Moitra ‘dehumanising’ comments in



West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee with party's National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee. PTI file

a TV podcast where she called him a “pig.”

“I have taken note of the recent personal remarks made by Ms. Mahua Moitra in a public podcast. Her choice of words, including the use of dehumanising language such as comparing a fellow MP to a “pig,” is not only unfortunate but reflects a deep disregard for basic norms of civil discourse,” he said.

'After Pahalgam Terror Attack, India Won't Relent On Terror'

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Describing Operation Sindoor as a major shift in India's counter-terror strategy following the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Monday said the 88-hour-long tri-services operation compelled Pakistan to seek a ceasefire.

The Army Chief was speaking during the inauguration of 'Agnishodh', a new Indian Army Research Cell at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras. The facility has been established as part of a broader effort to integrate academic research with operational needs and support the Indian Army's transformation agenda.

General Dwivedi said the Indian Armed Forces are preparing for fifth-generation warfare marked by non-contact operations and strategic psychological pressure. He said modern conflicts demand the co-existence of conventional forces and technological tools, where "boots must share space with bots".

He said the Army is working towards self-reliance through collaborations under national technology missions like IN-DIAai, Chip-to-Startup, and Project QuILA. Institutions like MCTE Mhow are acting as key strategic partners in these efforts, he added.

Gen Dwivedi mentioned the contributions of Army research cells at IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, and IISc Bengaluru, which are focused on translating academic knowledge into usable military applications.

He said the Agnishodh cell at IIT Madras will help convert lab-scale innovations into field-ready defence technologies. It will work with the IIT Madras Research Park and organisations such as the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Development Centre (AMTDC) and Pravartak Technologies Foundation.

These collaborations are expected to support Indian Army projects in additive manufacturing, cyber security, wireless systems, unmanned aerial platforms, and quantum computing.

He said the research facility would also help upskill Army personnel in emerging technologies, thereby building a more capable and tech-enabled workforce within the military.

During his visit to Chennai, General Dwivedi also visited the Officers Training Academy (OTA), where he reviewed infrastructure and training methods. He said the OTA is equipping cadets to handle evolving security challenges. He interacted with Army veterans and honoured four retired officers with Veteran Achievers Awards for their contribution to the Armed Forces.

The Indian Army, he said, is undergoing major changes under its "Decade of Transformation" plan, which includes doctrinal shifts and a focus on integrated responses to grey-zone conflicts.

The Army chief said initiatives like Agnishodh would support India's journey toward becoming a developed nation by 2047 through sustained progress in indigenous defence innovation—(KNO)



Peoples Conference leader Imran Reza Ansari met Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi, discussing the situation in J&K, rehabilitation of terror-hit families, and support during Muharram. He urged revival of banned processions and hoped for positive outcomes.

ASI Caught Red-Handed Taking Bribe In Jammu

Press Trust of India

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday arrested an assistant sub-inspector of police while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 20,000 from a man in a theft case in the Jammu district, officials said.

The ACB received a complaint alleging that ASI Mohd Akram Choudhary, posted at the Railway Protection Force in Jammu, allegedly demanded illegal gratification from the complainant, the spokesperson said.

The accused ASI allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 1,00,000 from

the complainant for not arresting or involving him in a theft case registered by the RPF, he said. However, the ASI agreed to accept Rs 50,000 and demanded the first instalment of Rs 20,000 after negotiation, the spokesperson added.

Since the complainant did not want to pay the bribe, he approached the ACB for legal action against the accused public servant. "On receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted, which corroborated the demand of bribe by the ASI, and accordingly, a case was registered and investigation taken up," he added.

9th Convocation Of SKUAST-Jammu

Women Driving Innovation In Agriculture: LG

► 'Farmer Welfare Is PM Modi's Top Priority'

► Says New Generation Of Scientists Must Focus On Smart Farming



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that the agriculture and allied sector is witnessing women-led development and that Nari Shakti is making significant contributions in driving innovation, enhancing productivity, and improving efficiency.

Addressing the 9th Convocation Ceremony of SKUAST-Jammu, the Lieutenant Governor said, "In areas like climate-smart crops, pest management, biotech solutions, and organic farming, the participation of women scientists has made invaluable contributions."

He said he was extremely proud that out of eight gold medalists among post-graduate and graduate students, seven were women.

"Out of 35 Certificates of Merit in PhD and Post-Graduate, 32 were awarded to our daughters. It is a symbol of the rising influence of Nari Shakti in agriculture and allied sectors, and I believe they will be driving innovation for sustainable agriculture and enhancing farmers' income," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasized the need for a stronger innovation and modern technology ecosystem to promote sustainable agricultural practices, improve farmer incomes, ensure risk mitigation, and strengthen farmer-industry linkages.

"Farmer welfare is the top priority of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

Highlighting progress in Jammu & Kashmir's agricultural transformation, the LG said: "Total transformation at all stages of Beej se Bazar tak—from Seed to Market—has been our mantra in J&K. The resolution of Lab to Land has been realised to make the small and marginal farmers self-reliant."

He urged young scientists and experts to focus on smart farming.

"Advancements in seed production, pest management, food processing, and farm mechanization have opened new avenues for young professionals in product development and quality control," the LG said.

On the occasion, LG Sinha inaugurated a state-of-the-art Ex-Situ Gene Bank, making SKUAST-Jammu the third institution in India to host such a facility.

The Gene Bank will preserve genetic material—such as seeds, plant tissue, and animal germplasm—outside their natural habitats, serving as a crucial resource for breeding and research.

He also laid the foundation stone for a 200-bed Farmers' Hostel and a new Faculty Building equipped with shared academic facilities.

A total of 446 degrees were conferred at the convocation, including 243 undergraduate, 157 postgraduate, and 46 doctorate degrees. Eight gold medals were also awarded to meritorious students.

The event was attended by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Minister for Agriculture Production Javid Ahmad Dar, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Shailendra Kumar, Vice Chancellor Dr. B.N. Tripathi, members of the University Council and Board of Management, faculty, students, and vice chancellors from various universities.

NEP Is PM Modi's Gift To Younger Generation: LG

**L**ieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that the National Education Policy is PM Modi's gift to the younger generation and it has empowered them.

Addressing the Medhavi Chhatra Samman Samaroh organized by Amar Ujala Group at Convention Centre Jammu here, LG said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has gifted to the nation's education system, which has empowered the younger generation and is set to change their destinies."

He said that the NEP lays emphasis on value-based education, and it has ensured that the young students not only gain knowledge but also develop a moral and ethical foundation to become responsible citizens. "True Knowledge is transformative. It changes the life of the seeker. It fosters new innovations, discoveries, and

research while instilling core values like integrity, patience, and honesty. The true Knowledge allows an individual to contribute meaningfully to society and the nation." LG Sinha said, adding, "We must understand that the right education triggers curiosity and creative thinking and inspires students to explore the unknown."

"It should be our prime responsibility to nurture future-oriented talent and create a conducive environment where the students acquire knowledge and education in their truest forms," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated the meritorious students of class 10th and 12th from JKBOSE. He congratulated and extended his best wishes to all the students.

"It is inspiring to see the soaring spirit of our young generation and equally firm resolve for nation building. The adventurous pursuit of

our students will ensure a bright future for the nation and humanity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the educational institutions and teaching community to focus on the overall development of the youth, impart life values, encourage new ideas, promote creativity and independent thinking among the students while ensuring they have access to global standards of education.

"I firmly believe that the right balance of science and sanskar will provide students with the ability to face the challenges of the future. To fully exploit the potential of India's growing economic power, school education must focus on developing scientific temper and curiosity among students," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Stringent Regulations Soon For Dressed Mutton, Chicken Supplies: FDA

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is set to bring stringent regulations on the supply of dressed mutton and chicken entering J&K from outside, with a specific focus on mandatory labelling and source disclosure, following public concerns over meat quality.

Commissioner FDA Smita Sethi, Commissioner Food and Drug Administration J&K, clarified that there was no ban on mutton or chicken supplies. She said all consignments must now strictly follow legal provisions related to labelling, hygiene, and traceability.

"We are not imposing a ban, but we are enforcing strict compliance. Whatever is brought into the valley must have proper labelling, a source of origin, processing details, and other necessary information so that customers know exactly what they are buying," she said.

The move comes in the wake of rising religious and public health concerns, particularly after several Muslim religious bodies, including the Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulama (MMU), the largest conglomerate of religious organisations in Jammu & Kashmir, questioned whether meat coming from outside J&K met halal standards.

Sethi said labelling transparency would help avoid hurting religious sensitivities and ensure legal accountability. "If you are not giving the right information to the consumer, that is a violation, and that will be dealt with as per law," she said.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner said the FDA has launched a full-fledged investigation into the recent recovery of 1200 kilograms of rotten mutton, which was reportedly being transported for local consumption, possibly to restaurants and hotels.

"We are establishing a complete chain. No one transports 1200 kg without a destination in mind. We are tracking who was involved and where it was meant to be sold," she said.

Sethi confirmed that some illegal storage points were identified and more locations were under scrutiny. "We are keeping the investigation confidential for now. Revealing too much at this stage could alert those involved and allow them to dodge action," she said.

The department will soon issue a public notice to raise awareness among consumers and vendors about labelling norms and food safety protocols.

A case has been registered in the case. As per the officials, an FIR bearing no. 48/25 U/S 271, 275, 61(1) BNS stands registered in Police Station Zakoor against the individuals selling spoiled and rotten meat in the market—(KNO)

Sakeena Inaugurates OPD Block At SDH Mandi



Observer News Service

**POONCH:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Monday conducted extensive tour of Haveli Constituency of Poonch district and inaugurated several public infrastructure projects besides laying foundation stone for multiple developmental projects.

During the visit, the Minister inaugurated Outpatient Department (OPD) block at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Mandi and also laid foundation stone for Dialysis Unit at the hospital.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Health Minister said that the operationalization of OPD at SDH Mandi is a critical step in bolstering healthcare facilities in this remote area. She added that this OPD block, equipped with modern diagnostic and consultation facilities, is expected to ease the patient load on the existing infrastructure and enhance service delivery for residents of Mandi and adjacent areas.

"This new OPD block is a testament to our commitment

towards improving the healthcare delivery in underserved regions. Timely and accessible medical care is not a luxury but a necessity and our government will ensure that no one is left behind," the Minister stated.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to grassroots level development, the Minister said that the Omar Abdullah led government is focusing on strengthening grassroots development and improving public health infrastructure across J&K. She added that Dialysis facilities are being established at all Sub District Hospitals of J&K so that public get better healthcare facilities near their vicinities.

Later, the Minister laid foundation stone for Government Degree College Mandi.

Addressing a mammoth gathering after inauguration, the Minister highlighted that with the efforts of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, the long pending demand of the public has been fulfilled. She expressed gratitude to Chief Minister for timely release of funds which will lead to timely construction of college.

CS Inspects Jammu's Premier Health Institutions

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** In a move to assess and strengthen the healthcare delivery system in Jammu, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Monday conducted an extensive tour of the city's major government-run medical institutions.

Those who accompanied the Chief Secretary included the Principals of concerned Medical Colleges, Medical Superintendents, Faculty Members, Chief Engineer (PWD) and others.

The visit aimed to take stock of the patient care facilities being provided in these premier medical facilities besides taking on spot assessment of the status of critical infrastructure projects currently under-way to upgrade healthcare services in the region.

The Chief Secretary commenced his visit from the Government Medical College (GMC), Bakshi Nagar, where he inspected the newly constructed 100-bedded Critical Care



Block, a vital addition to the hospital's capacity to handle high-dependency patients.

He also reviewed the progress on the site of the Department of Interventional Pulmonology and High-End Laboratory (DI-PHL), which is envisioned to further enhance the specialized care services at the institution.

Afterwards, the Chief Secretary visited the adjoining Bone & Joint Hospital and later the Shri Maharaja Gulab Singh (SMGS) Hospital at Shalamar, Jammu.

At SMGS, he undertook

a detailed inspection of the under-construction 243-bedded Gynaecological Block, being developed at a cost of Rs31.59 crore.

The Chief Secretary was apprised that the new block is poised to significantly strengthen the hospital's maternal and neonatal care services, with advanced Perinatology and Neonatology units. The facility is expected to reduce the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) besides cutting down the waiting time for planned surgeries considerably.

During the visit, the Chief

Secretary also reviewed the functioning and infrastructure of the State Cancer Institute (SCI), Jammu, which is being developed at an estimated cost of Rs104 crore. He took a first-hand assessment of various crucial services including Outpatient and Inpatient Departments (OPD/IPD), diagnostic laboratory facilities, chemotherapy and radiotherapy units and the PET Scan operations.

He also enquired about the ongoing work on three modern operation theatres, and the status of installation of Linear Accelerator (LINAC) and other high-end medical equipment, being facilitated by Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKM-SCL) here.

The Chief Secretary was briefed on other flagship projects taken up at GMC Jammu to further augment specialized patient services, including the establishment of a Catheterization Laboratory (Cath Lab) and other related infrastructure components.

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA

E-mail, id, xenmhdhandwara@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

e-NIT No:	M&HDH/TS/2025-26/eNIT/12
Date:	02/08/2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on items wise basis from Experienced registered/ reputed firms or authorized dealer's/workshop holders for the below mentioned works:—

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit(In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Repairs and maintenance to Snowcat DDC Farmtrac, Snowcat Farmtrac New, Snowcat Preet New, Snowcat Holland, M/c 48 and Mobile Van of Mechanical and Hospital SubDivision 1st Handwara.	1.26	200	2600	10days	Accorded	Accorded

Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www. jktenders.gov.in from 02-08-2025(18.00hrs)

2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 03-08-2025(10:00hrs) to 22/08/2025 (1200hrs) in two covers.

3. Opening of Bids : The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 22/08/2025 (1400hrs) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.

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

5. The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. (Cover-II)

No: - M&HDH/TS/767-73  
Dated: 02/08/2025  
DIPK-4733-25  
DT:04/08/2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical & Hospitals Division  
Handwara

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KO VIEW

Profit over duty?

The recent remarks by Jammu and Kashmir’s Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo, during her visit to the Children’s Hospital in Srinagar, has drawn attention to a certain pattern in our healthcare system: government doctors allegedly neglecting their duties and, in doing so, compelling patients to turn to expensive private hospitals for treatment.

This is not a new complaint though: It is true that for years, patients and their families, particularly those from low-income backgrounds, have voiced their frustration with public hospitals for being indifferent to patient needs. But when Health Minister herself voices these frustrations it signals a crisis that can no longer be ignored.

Speaking to the media, the minister did not mince words: she said it is doctors themselves who are “forcing” patients into private care. With health minister herself saying this, we have no option to believe her - albeit, we can’t extrapolate her claim to all doctors. There are certainly a significant number of doctors, who perform their jobs with dedication and honesty.

That said, her comments do reflect a deep rot: the very people charged with saving lives in government hospitals may be prioritizing personal gain over public service. Apparently, the minister’s surprise visits to several major hospitals, including SMHS in Srinagar, JVC in Bemina, and district facilities in Pulwama and Qazigund, have reportedly revealed glaring lapses: staff absenteeism, poor hygiene, and lack of urgency in patient care, provoking her to respond. In Kashmir, as elsewhere in the country, public hospitals are the only hope for thousands of families who cannot afford private treatment. When these institutions fail in their duty, or when their doctors are absent or unresponsive, the consequences can be devastating.

To be clear, doctors do work under enormous pressure. It is also true, our hospitals are sorely understaffed. So, the doctors are overburdened and under-supported. But this should never justify dereliction of duty. A government doctor, employed and paid by the state cannot fail to treat a patient with care and professionalism. This amounts to a breach of public trust. Worse, if such conduct steers patients toward the doctor’s private practice or any private facility, it raises ethical red flags.

The government’s decision to initiate a formal inquiry into these complaints is necessary, but it must be thorough, impartial, and followed by real accountability. The health system cannot be allowed to continue in this state of drift. Health is a right of every citizen, not a privilege.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Kashmir Needs RERA

Without real estate regulation, property deals in Kashmir remain risky and unclear. A functional RERA could change that.

Irshad Mushtaq

In most Indian states, the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) protects homebuyers from fraud, delays, and shady deals. In Kashmir, there’s no such safety net.

RERA, created in 2016, makes builders register their projects, follow timelines, and face penalties if they fail. It also offers buyers a formal channel to resolve disputes. In states where it’s enforced, trust in real estate has grown. But in Jammu and Kashmir, the system hasn’t taken root.

For ordinary Kashmiris, this means navigating a web of unclear rules and unpredictable outcomes. If you want to buy land, you’ll need a registered sale deed. If you want to prove ownership, that requires a mutation, a bureaucratic update in revenue records.

And if you want to build, you need municipal permission. Each step is loaded with delays and paperwork.

Local revenue and municipal offices often lack staff, transparency, and public trust. Citizens frequently turn to courts, believing them more reliable than government departments. In contrast, institutions like SEBI and RBI are widely trusted, because they follow clear rules and protect people’s interests.

The absence of RERA in Kashmir leaves the real estate sector exposed. Buyers are unsure, builders are unaccountable, and investment suffers. A functioning RERA could change that, by making property deals safer and encouraging market growth.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

The Great Lie of Meritocracy

From bureaucracies to ballot boxes, power in Kashmir increasingly passes from father to son, leaving little room for first-generation strivers.

Er. Umair Ul Umar

A few weeks ago, a countryside boy from a government school told me he wanted to “learn how to speak English like the rich boys in Srinagar.”

His teacher had praised his science marks, but he wasn’t sure if that meant anything.

“They still get better jobs,” he said, pointing toward the hilltop private school with gleaming buses and a tall iron gate.

He wasn’t wrong. In today’s Kashmir, the game is increasingly fixed.

We often talk about success as something earned. “Work hard,” they say, “and you’ll rise.”

Yet rising is no longer about hard work. It’s about where you were born, who your parents know, which school you went to, and whether your surname opens doors.

The myth of meritocracy survives only because it hides in plain sight, dressed in the language of aspiration.

Elite families, those who control land, businesses, politics, and culture, are consolidating than merely surviving.

The sons of Kashmiri landlords are now legislators. Their daughters head private schools. And their cousins run the bureaucracy.

These families have moved from orchards to offices without ever losing power. Generation after generation, they inherit institutions, not just assets. They shape syllabi, policies, hiring, even aesthetics.

Beyond ambition, this is aristocracy. In the 1990s, Kashmiri families lived side by side. A new child, a new cow, or a wedding was a shared joy. People borrowed sugar from each other’s kitchens. A meal of mutton was sent across fences without ceremony. There was pride, but not pretence.

Today, that landscape has shifted. Concrete walls have gone up, separating houses and hearts. You don’t knock anymore, you call first. If you’re not on the guest list, you’re not welcome.

The symbols of social life have changed. False ceilings, ornamental gates, and imported tiles are essentially about ranking than taste.

You drive a Gypsy, I drive an Audi. You send your child to elite private school, mine goes to the nearest government school with broken windows.

Even celebrations are curated for display. Wedding photographers, designer lehengas, and staged rituals for Instagram have festive facades.

It doesn’t stop there. When a boy from a humble family clears a government exam or starts a business, he often doesn’t invest in the community he came from. He begins to chase the same symbols of prestige that once excluded him.

His child won’t attend the village school. His parents won’t stay in the old house. He’ll build new friendships, pose with new acquaintances, and slowly forget where he came from.

This desire to “rise” has become corrosive. We mistake imitation for success, and replicate the habits of the powerful without asking what we’re losing.

And what we’re losing is social cohesion, the idea that we owe something to each other beyond envy or competition.

What used to be shared space has now become spectacle. A wedding is no longer a community affair, it’s a budgeted exhibition. A housewarming isn’t about warmth, it’s about showing what you could afford.

The deeper damage, however, is to the minds of the young.

In Kashmir’s villages and towns, children grow up internalizing this gap. A girl in a government school with top marks believes she’s still behind, because her uniform doesn’t match the elite. A boy with curiosity and courage doubts himself because he hasn’t seen the inside of a coaching center.

These kids aren’t lacking in ability, they’re cut off from advantage. And the worst part is:



Representational Photo

“We need policies that redistribute opportunity, not charity. Make public education competitive, mandate economic representation in decision-making bodies, break the monopoly of coaching empires, and perhaps most urgently, stop making opulence aspirational.”

like heirlooms.

Even when the entrance is open, the staircase is steeper for some.

This is how hope is killed: in small humiliations, repeated rejections, and the realization that the game was over before you started.

Public service has also become a tool of preservation rather than transformation. It used to be a way to uplift. Today, it’s a way to secure status.

Political tickets go from father to son. Bureaucrats raise future bureaucrats. Even when rules are open, unwritten advantages decide who crosses the line. One child has Wi-Fi, mentors, and fluency in English, another sits under a tin roof and translates notes on a borrowed phone.

The rot runs deep. The elite have shaped not only outcomes but values. They fund schools, control curriculum boards, own coaching institutes. They decide what “smart” looks like, what “success” sounds like.

And through media, they spread this culture far beyond their circle.

Suddenly, children in Budgam want what children in Bangalore want: branded clothes, a Western accent, an Ivy League degree. Local dignity has been replaced by distant aspiration.

This narrowing of imagination is dangerous. It does more than create inequality. It makes inequality feel permanent.

The danger is national, not just moral. A country where only the privileged can succeed becomes a place of simmering unrest. Crime grows when trust disappears.

When a child sees that effort doesn’t matter, he may no longer believe in books, but he may believe in anger. A society built on exclusion cannot build peace.

The solution is not to ask elite families to donate. It is to demand they stop hoarding the future.

We need policies that redistribute opportunity, not charity. Make public education competitive, mandate economic representation in decision-making bodies, break the monopoly of coaching empires, and perhaps most urgently, stop making opulence aspirational.

Let integrity, humility, and public service matter again.

A civilization isn’t measured by the height of its richest tower. It is measured by whether the child at the bottom can see the sky, and believe she can reach it.

- The author can be reached at umairulumar77@gmail.com. Views expressed in this article are author’s own and don’t necessarily reflect KO’s editorial policy.

Letter to Editor

The Ground Reality of Srinagar’s Smart City Is Hard to Ignore

Last week, I walked into a government hospital in Srinagar and saw a mouse scurry under a patient’s bed. In another corner, a relative was fanning a patient with a newspaper, trying to block the unbearable smell of overflowing toilets. Outside, the roads had just turned into temporary rivers after a half-hour rain, leaving vehicles stranded and schoolchildren wading through ankle-deep water.

And this is our Smart City. Srinagar’s Smart City project was launched with the promise of transformation. Glossy hoardings, bright

LED signs, and manicured footpaths suggest a city on the rise. But smartness isn’t measured by posters or digital clocks. A city is smart only when its systems work, consistently, efficiently, and for everyone.

But sadly, when the wind picks up or the clouds burst, the city breaks down, roads flood, power flickers out, and waste overflows. And then there’re some perpetual urban problems.

The Achin landfill, choking under tons of garbage, poisons the air of not just Srinagar, but neighbouring areas too. In summer, the stench travels far, pushing families away

from settling nearby or marrying into the area, despite good jobs or clean records.

There are barely any functioning sewage treatment plants. Hospital hygiene is stuck in the last century. Schools run in crumbling buildings with patchy electricity and scarce learning tools. Traffic jams are a daily ordeal. Signboards warn that corruption is a crime, but ask anyone inside a public office and they’ll tell you a different story.

Every department seems to run on its own terms. There’s little coordination, less accountability. Power cuts are normal, and in many neigh-

bourhoods, drinking water mixes with drain water.

And yet, we call this a Smart City. A city cannot claim that title unless its people feel secure, clean, healthy, and heard. It must be livable, not just visitable. Smartness lies in the systems, not statements.

Until then, let’s drop the label and fix what’s broken.

Sincerely,

Bilal Ahmad Khanday  
Shalabugh, Ganderbal.  
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# Stop Underestimating Kashmir's Gen Z

The generation we thought was lost is showing us the way forward, if we're brave enough to follow.

Seema Sangra

When a young student told me she wanted to study poetry and programming in the same breath, I hesitated. That shaky response came from my conditioning than confusion.

My own education had been about stability, clarity, and fixed outcomes. Couplets and codes sounded like contradiction.

The student looked at me, half smiling, clearly tired, and said, "Sometimes it's a mystic verse, sometimes it's the metaverse. That's how I make sense of this messy world."

And with that, she taught me the first of many lessons I would learn from Gen Z.

I'm part of a generation that inherited struggle and handed down expectation. Growing up in the tumultuous region of Jammu and Kashmir, we were told that a good life meant a steady job, a stable family, and a name that stayed out of the news.

We didn't ask for more, and didn't risk too much. We didn't, in many ways, know how.

Now I teach Gen Z students from across the globe - South Asians, Africans, Arabs, Uzbeks, Chinese - at a university in Dubai. And I parent one at home.

Between the lecture halls and late-night kitchen table conversations, I've been watching this generation with growing awe.

They have come of age in a collapsing world. Pandemic lockdowns cut through their adolescence like a knife. Screens became their school, therapist, escape, and prison.

They scroll through climate collapse, war footage, influencer tips, and therapy memes before breakfast. They see through performative politics, and they've learned that most institutions, like media, government, and even family, can be fragile facades.

And still, they keep it up.

In my early years of teaching, I used to hear older colleagues say things like, "These kids don't have focus" or "They want short-cuts." I believed it, briefly.

Then I began spending time with them, really listening. And that changed everything.

During a student-led social media campaign we ran at Amity University, we sur-



veyed over 500 students about their digital habits. We expected confessions of addiction, but what we got instead was something deeper: The Gen-Z were starving for connection despite glued to screens.

Most of them described their home environments as places where conversation felt one-sided.

"When I chose journalism over a government exam, my family was disappointed," says Fiza Masoodi, a young scribe from Srinagar. "For them, stability mattered more than passion. I understand that. But I wish they knew, we want to mean something, not just survive."

Sana Khan, a young Kashmiri poet and aspiring coder, echoes the same. "When I told my mom I wanted to learn coding, she said, 'But you already write poems.' To her, poetry and tech don't go together. For me, they do. Both are ways to make sense of chaos."

Every generation has its own struggles and strengths. Ours isn't to judge, but to support. And right now, many young people feel like what's missing most is empathy.

"People assume we're too fragile for serious work," continues Fiza. "Once, while reporting on domestic violence, a senior journalist told me I wouldn't last. But I spent days listening to women share their deepest pain.

We may be young, but we carry these stories with care."

Zaid Bashir, a student from Budgam, has heard the same skepticism.

"People say we have no spine. But I've seen students organize blood drives during curbs and run community classes when schools were shut. We may not talk about it, but we act. We've learned to adapt and survive in our own way."

These are young adults making sense of a world that's falling apart in real time. And yet, they keep reaching for meaning through art, activism, therapy, and dialogue.

The Deloitte Global Gen Z Survey from

2024, which gathered responses from over 23,000 young people across 44 countries, affirmed what I already saw in my classrooms: this generation seek fulfillment than aspiring to climb traditional ladders.

Many of them are rejecting the idea of success as salary alone. They want work that feels aligned, workplaces that feel human. They're defining life on their own terms.

I used to believe my role was to give answers. Lately, I've learned the value of asking better questions.

During that same social media campaign, one moment really stuck with me. A student raised his hand and said, "Why do professors and parents keep studying how tech affects us, but never think about how it's affecting them?"

It made me think. We're so quick to judge how they're coping, without owning up to the messy, unpredictable world we've handed them.

Parenting, teaching, or mentoring Gen Z takes a different kind of presence. They hate hierarchy and respond to honesty. They want to be heard, not managed.

What if we stopped trying to fix them and started learning from them? What if we admitted we're tired too, unsure sometimes, and that the old idea of success doesn't always hold up?

That wouldn't make us weak. It would make us human.

I'm still unlearning. I've realised control isn't care, perfection isn't the goal, and real connection is the most radical support we can offer.

When they ask for space, give it. When they reach out, meet them. When they question you, don't shut them down, listen.

They've lived through more than we did. And still, they write poems, learn code, and show up.

Sometimes, all they need is for someone to say: I see you. You're trying. And you're doing better than you think.

*The author, a native of Jammu & Kashmir, is the Program Leader for the Media Studies Department at Amity University, Dubai Campus. She also serves as the Media Advisor to the Kashmir World Film Festival.*

## Bring Back the Buzz

Stark unemployment and MSME collapse in Kashmir demand urgent, data-driven strategies, rooted in local realities, responsive schemes, and targeted support for small enterprise and youth.

Syed Arsalan Abid

Kashmir's economy can't afford to wait. The latest numbers paint a worrying picture, and they demand action.

As per the Baseline Survey Report 2024-25 under Mission YUVA, overall unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir is at 6.7 percent, almost double the national average of 3.5 percent.

Youth unemployment is even worse: 17.4 percent, compared to 10.2 percent across India. Women in working age face an alarming 53.6 percent unemployment rate in the region.

Some districts are hit harder than others. Rajouri has 9.3 percent joblessness, Anantnag 8.7 percent, while Jammu and Srinagar show 3.3 percent and 5.9 percent, respectively.

Things are just as tough for local businesses.

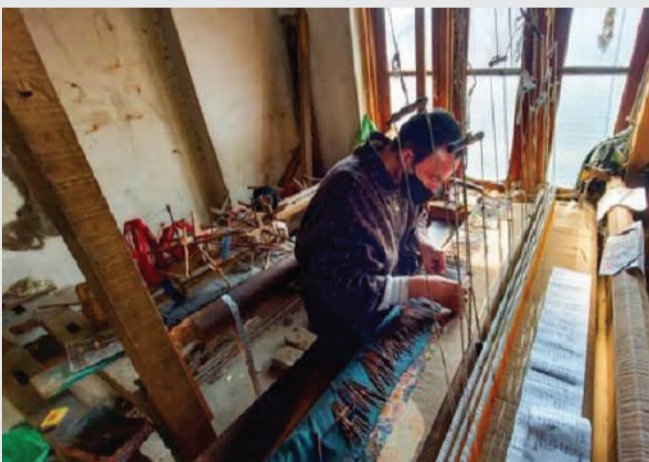
Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which drive much of the local economy, are shutting down.

Between mid-2020 and the end of 2024, 701 MSMEs closed shop in Jammu and Kashmir. National shutdowns are rising fast: from 6,222 in FY 2022 to 19,828 in FY 2024, with an estimated 35,567 expected in FY 2025.

Beyond businesses, MSMEs in Kashmir provide crucial jobs and keep local crafts and trades alive, especially in handicrafts, food processing, and horticulture.

Take apples, for example. This one industry alone supports 3.5 million people, makes up around 10 percent of Kashmir's total economy, and produces 75 percent of India's apples.

And it's not just apples. Around 340,000 artisans who



weave carpets, carve walnut wood, and make pashmina depend on micro-clusters to survive.

All this points to one thing: any real revival has to be grounded in facts.

That means we need practical, data-backed solutions rather than mega-projects that don't reach the ground.

MSMEs are struggling with delayed payments, loans they can't repay, and too much red tape. Sometimes, even small amounts of timely funding can help keep them afloat.

There's potential in trade too. The India-UK Free Trade Agreement opens up new markets for Kashmiri saffron, shawls, dry fruits, and carpets.

But unless local businesses get proper training in things like paperwork, packaging, and international standards, those markets will stay out of reach.

The government says nearly 9.58 lakh self-employment opportunities were created under schemes like Mumkin, Tejas-

wani, PMEGP, REGP, and Mission YUVA over the last four years.

But on the ground, many aspiring entrepreneurs can't access these schemes, either because the online systems are confusing, the portals are in unfamiliar languages, or there's no one to guide them.

With youth unemployment sitting at 17.4 percent, entrepreneurship needs to be more than a buzzword. It has to be a real option.

Mission YUVA plans to create 1.37 lakh businesses and 4.25 lakh jobs in five years. But without consistent support and mentorship, that goal will remain out of reach.

To change that, the government needs to send outreach teams into local neighbourhoods and markets, hold camps in Urdu and Kashmiri, and make applications easier and more accessible.

We also need a strong task force, one that includes economists, entrepreneurs, policymakers, trade experts, and civil society. And it shouldn't just

advise.

It should be able to take decisions and make things happen, with clear deadlines, measurable targets, and full transparency.

Think about it: what if the government co-invested with women's cooperatives to package walnuts for export? Or created digital service hubs in Srinagar linked to global trade networks?

Even a 5 crore marketing fund could help local dry fruit brands grow. Setting up cold storage in apple-producing areas could reduce post-harvest losses by 25-30 percent, based on similar examples elsewhere.

If we don't act, the cost will be high, more businesses will shut down, middlemen will take advantage, women will drop out of the workforce, and young people will either leave or turn to drugs, with no hope in sight.

These are real and close problems.

When young graduates walk aimlessly through markets with no jobs in hand, policies and statistics lose their meaning.

Fixing Kashmir's economy is urgent, and the data makes that crystal clear.

The closure of many MSMEs, soaring unemployment rate, the shockingly high joblessness among women, and the untapped power of apples and handicrafts call for action now.

Kashmir can't wait for hope to arrive. Hope has to show up in the form of jobs, support for small businesses, and restored confidence, starting today.

*The author is a Srinagar-based Supreme Court lawyer.*

## The Day My Son Heard Me

In a Srinagar hospital during the pandemic, my four-year-old son heard sound for the first time. What followed was years of therapy, sibling support, and daily hope.

Mohammad Hanief

In March 2020, I watched my four-year-old son burst into tears. We were in a hospital in Srinagar, and his cochlear implant had just been activated. It was the first time he had ever heard sound.

He was stunned. His eyes searched the room, his face trembled. Then, he smiled.

That moment still lives with me. It was when everything changed.

My son, Mohammad Numaan, was born in April 2015, two months early. He spent 15 days in an incubator at LD Hospital. His lungs were weak, and each hour felt like a wait.

When we finally brought him home, we thought the worst was behind us.

But as he grew, we noticed the silence. By the time he turned two, he hadn't said a single word. We saw doctors in Srinagar, then in Chandigarh and Delhi. Tests confirmed full hearing loss in both ears.

Someone mentioned cochlear implants. I knew little then, so I started reading everything I could, watched videos, joined online forums, and spoke to other parents. I had to know what we were signing up for.

We finally met Dr Mohammad Rafiq Pampori, a well-known ENT surgeon in Srinagar. He gave us the confidence we needed. Getting an MRI for the surgery took months. Sedation was tricky, and the wait was hard.

But we didn't give up.

On March 2, 2020, the surgery was done at Modern Hospital. Four hours later, we saw our son again, stitched but safe. A month after that, during the first Covid lockdown, his implant was switched on.

When sound entered his world, Numaan cried. And I knew we had a long road ahead.

The device needed daily care: charging, cleaning, protection from water. School would have to adjust. But technology was only part of the solution. The rest was speech therapy.

We found support at SMHS Hospital. Ur-

sila Bashir, an audiologist, began working with him three times a week. Still, most of the real work happened at home.

That's where the rest of our family stepped in.

His younger brother, Adnaan, became his shadow. He repeated words with him, sang rhymes, clapped when Numaan got things right. His cousin sisters, Aisha and Maryam, created flashcards, told stories, made lessons into games.

Every evening, our house turned into a classroom. Charts went up on the walls. Vocabulary practice became part of playtime. The bond between the children made each session joyful.

In 2021, we enrolled Numaan in LKG at Legends Public School near Hazratbal. His mother handled the online classes, checked his homework, guided him through Gmail and Zoom. He adapted fast.

By Class 2, he was speaking fluently. Today, in Class 3, he recites poems in front of his classmates, writes full pages, and makes art projects with his cousins.

Each morning, the three children pack their bags together. Adnaan still checks if the device is working. Aisha still helps with drawing. Maryam still tells him stories that build his vocabulary. They've turned into a team.

I often get asked if it was worth it. Well, every step, delay, tear, and therapy session was worth it.

If you're a parent facing similar questions, know this: learn as much as you can, but never underestimate what a family can do.

Today, when I hear my son laugh, argue, sing, or call me "Papa," I remember how far we've come. His voice is full of feeling, and light. And each time he speaks, I listen.

I know I'm hearing something more than words. I'm hearing resilience.

*The author is a Srinagar-based columnist. He can be reached at m.hanief@gmail.com.*

از نیا بیت پلہاں

عنوان :- درخواست: بلال احمد میر ولد مرحوم حبیب اللہ میر ساکنہ پلہاں تحصیل چن براء حصول  
لیگل بیئرٹیفکیٹ

اشتیہار ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست لغرض حصول لیگل بیئرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی  
ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں  
ہے کہ سائل کا برادر لطیف احمد میر بمطابق دستخطیہ بیئرٹیفکیٹ مورخہ 27-05-1997 کو  
فوت ہو چکا ہے متوفی کے بہمانگان بذیل ہے۔

داشا دوہنگم 65 سال گھر یلو کام بہن

غلام جھمیر 50 سال گورنمنٹ ملازم پدار

بلال احمد میر 43 سال مزدوری برادر

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کم نہیں ہے۔ بیئرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کراگر کسی شخص  
کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ جلد مشہور اخبار رسالت دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض و دلائل حذا  
کو فطری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے معاذ کو بی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تابع تحصیلدار FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed that I, Ramresh Pal Singh intend to register a homestay under the name – VIRSA RESIDENCY, located at Alochibagh Bund, Srinagar – 190009, with the Department of Tourism, J&K.

Any objections regarding the operation of this homestay may be submitted in writing to the Deputy Director, Tourism Department, Srinagar, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Ramresh Pal Singh  
S/o Mangat Singh  
Dated: 05-08-2025

mjkkb

Office of the  
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Rozy Akhter D/o Gh Mohd Hajam R/o Nehalpora with verified date of birth 02/02/1990 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD  
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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Office of the  
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. Application of Maryama Bano w/o Imtiyaz Hussain Yatoo R/o Kanloo for issuance of legal hair certificate..

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT is inform to general public that applicants husband legal hair certificate is under process in this office in this matter report Was sought to Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants husband namely Imtiyaz Hussain Yatoo s/o Gh Hussain Yatoo R/o Kanloo died on 05/04/2025 and left following legal hairs..

Name	Age	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
Maryama Bano	33	Wife	MARRIED
Tasir Ali Yatoo	4	Son	UNMARRIED
Hasnain Ali Yatoo	4	Son	UNMARRIED

In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD  
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PROCUREMENT , JAMMU POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED , JAMMU, RAIL HEAD, NARWAL, JAMMU, J&K PIN -180012

PHONE NO. 0191-2473402 TELEFAX- 0191-2472350 e-mail: epcjammu@gmail.com

No: SE/PRJ/TS/290 Dated:31/ 07/2025

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

e- NIT NO. SE/PRJ/07/2025-26 Dated: 28/07/2025

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Superintending Engineer, Procurement, JPDC, Jammu invites online e-bids from original Govt. registered manufacturers for supply of material as under for the requirement of JPDC:

NIT No.	SE/PRJ/07/2025-26 dated 28.07.2025
Description of Material & Quantity (In Nos.)	PURCHASE OF DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS OF EEL-II OF RATING : 400 KVA (Cu Wound) - 40 Nos. 630 KVA (Cu Wound) –10 Nos.

Detailed NIT maybe downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> upto 22th of August 2025 till 14:00 Hrs. The tender shall be accepted through online mode only. In case, the tender process does not get completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in the newspapers. The details regarding corrigendum may be seen on the above mentioned website.

DIPK-NB-1489/25 dated: 04-08-2025

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer, Procurement, JPDC Jammu

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

Phone:-01933-295302 E-mail:-techrbpu1786@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No: 25 /EEP/RNB/of 2025-26/ 3147-57 Dated: 02/08/2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on %age Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work :-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (In %age.)	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Accord Approval No:	Call No:
1	Girls Middle school Abhama ACR ( sno.750)	29.75	1100/	2% of Adv cost	150 working days	BEE,Aay	Samagra Shiksha during PAB 2024-25	59-CHIRAG of 2025 Dated: 21-02-2025	1st call

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02- 08-2025
2.	Bid downloading Start Date	02 - 08-2025 from 10:00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	02- 08-2025 from 10:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	21 - 08-2025 upto 0 4:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	22 - 08-2025 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within three (03) days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest successful bidder has to provide 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/ BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance security.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan /Receipt as per Annexure -C (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama (The Date of Treasury Challan and EMD should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date.

2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama

3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

4. EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama

5. The Contractors are advised to visit the site and to be aware of the conditions for launching at site of work before quoting the rates.

6. The contractor shall also be responsible for any theft/ damage to any of the component at site and the cost of damage/ theft if any shall be deducted from the work done or CDR of the Contractor till completion of work and handing over.

7. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/ FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama within three (03) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP

Head Draftsman  
DIPK-4773/25

Technical Officer  
dated: 04-08-2025

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Pulwama

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28<sup>th</sup> year OF PUBLICATION

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China Pushes Back At US Demands To Stop Buying Russian And Iranian Oil

Associated Press

WASHINGTON- US and Chinese officials may be able to settle many of their differences to reach a trade deal and avert punishing tariffs, but they remain far apart on one issue: the US demand that China stop purchasing oil from Iran and Russia.

"China will always ensure its energy supply in ways that serve our national interests," China's Foreign Ministry posted on X on Wednesday, following two days of trade negotiations in Stockholm, responding to the US threat of a 100 per cent tariff.

"Coercion and pressuring will not achieve anything. China will firmly defend its sovereignty, security and development interests," the ministry said.

The response is notable at a time when both Beijing and Washington are signalling optimism and goodwill about reaching a deal to keep commercial ties between the world's two largest economies stable -- after climbing down from sky-high tariffs and harsh trade restrictions. It underscores China's confidence in playing hardball when dealing with the Trump administration, especially when trade is linked to its energy and foreign policies.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, emerging from the talks, told reporters that when it comes to Russian oil purchases, the "Chinese take their sovereignty very seriously".

"We do not want to impede



on their sovereignty, so they would like to pay a 100 per cent tariff," Bessent said.

On Thursday, he called the Chinese "tough" negotiators, but said China's pushback has not stalled the negotiations. "I believe that we have the makings of a deal," Bessent told CNBC.

Gabriel Wildau, managing director of the consultancy Teneo, said he doubts President Donald Trump would actually deploy the 100 per cent tariff. "Realising those threats would derail all the recent progress and probably kill any chance" for Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping to announce a trade deal if they should meet this fall, Wildau said.

In seeking to restrict oil sales by Russia and Iran, a major source of revenue for both countries, the US wants to reduce the funding available for their militaries, as Moscow pursues its war against Ukraine and Tehran funds militant groups across the Middle East.

China plays hardball

When Trump unveiled a sweeping plan for tariffs on dozens of countries in April, China was the only country that retaliated. It refused to give in to US pressure.

Semiconductor Market To Reach \$1 Trillion By 2030, India To Play A Key Role

ANI

NEW DELHI- India is expected to emerge as a significant player in the global semiconductor market, which is expected to reach USD 1 trillion by 2030.

In an official statement released on Sunday, the central government highlighted that India's semiconductor market, valued at around USD 38 billion in 2023, is projected to grow to USD 45-50 billion by 2024-2025 and further expand to USD 100-110 billion by the end of the decade.

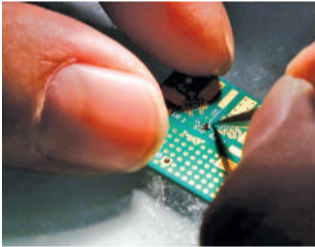
This rapid growth reflects the country's growing focus on strengthening its position in the global semiconductor value chain.

The government stated "The global semiconductor market is expected to reach USD 1 Trillion by 2030 with India's market occupying a substantial portion of it".

India's chip ecosystem is evolving rapidly, moving from policy formulation to production readiness. Several fabrication, assembly, and design hubs are taking root across the country, translating vision into reality. Major investments have been announced in various parts of India.

In June 2023, Micron Technology committed Rs 22,516 crore to set up an ATMP facility in Sanand, Gujarat.

In February 2024, Tata Elec-



tronics, in partnership with Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation, announced a Rs 91,000 crore investment in Dholera, Gujarat, with an output capacity of 50,000 wafers per month.

The same month, CG Power & Industrial Solutions, in collaboration with Renesas and Stars, proposed a Rs 7,600 crore plant in Sanand, capable of producing 15 million chips per day. Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt Ltd (TSAT) will set up a Rs 27,000 crore facility in Morigaon, Assam, with a daily capacity of 48 million chips.

In September 2024, Kaynes Semicon Pvt Ltd plans to begin operations in Sanand with an investment of Rs 3,307 crore and a production capacity of 6.33 million chips per day.

By May 2025, HCL and Foxconn's joint venture is expected to start a facility in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh, with an investment of Rs 3,700 crore and a production capacity of 20,000 wafers per month, or 36 million units annually.

CM Omar Inaugurates Agri-Infrastructure Projects In Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU- "Gradual and lasting transformation will come through inclusive and balanced regional development," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said as he inaugurated critical agricultural infrastructure projects at Talab Tillo and Narwal Fruit Mandi on Monday.

Stressing the need to bolster trade, tourism and manufacturing alongside agriculture, he underlined that such interventions are pivotal for holistic economic growth across Jammu and Kashmir.

At the Jammu and Kashmir Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd Complex in Talab Tillo, the Chief Minister commissioned a 5,145-MT cold storage facility built with NABARD assistance. The facility features 21 cold chambers and four scientific ripening chambers with automated temperature and humidity controls, Freon-based refrigeration and solar-powered backup.

Robust insulation, SCADA-based monitoring and dedicated docking bays will dramatically reduce post-harvest losses and extend the shelf life of perishables.

"Our endeavour is to establish assets that benefit the maximum number of people. Infrastructure must make farmers more resilient and their produce more valuable," he stated.

The event was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative



and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar; Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Transport; Science & Technology; Information Technology; Youth Services & Sports; ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma; MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta; Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar; Managing Director J&K Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd., Sandesh Kumar Sharma and Divisional Manager, A.H Salaria, besides other senior officers.

At Narwal Fruit Mandi, the Chief Minister inaugurated four new post-harvest and value-addition units to strengthen Jammu's agrifood value chain. These include a 2,000-MT cold store with ten chambers capable of temperatures down to -10 °C for apples, cherries, grapes and walnuts; a Common Incubation Centre under the PM-FME scheme for dairy and bakery processing; a 120-MT integrated pack house for onions and potatoes with cleaning, sorting, grading and pre-cooling lines; and a display and processing centre for agri-horti tools with

dedicated exhibition and sales space.

Addressing a gathering of traders and other stakeholders, the Chief Minister observed that increasing youth and women participation in agriculture, evident from higher enrolments at SKUAST-Jammu, reflects a sector in transformation. Echoing "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan," he reiterated agriculture's equal importance to national service.

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, emphasised agriculture's centrality to the UT economy, noting that a large part of the population depends on farming. He outlined government benefits through HADP and other centrally sponsored schemes, the expansion of post-harvest infrastructure and the establishment of satellite mandis to reduce crop wastage. A sub-committee has been formed on the directions of the Chief Minister, to address lease-expiry and other issues affecting fruit marketing agents, he informed.

Govt Releases ₹33.34 Lakh For Karkhandar Scheme In Kashmir Div

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, Monday announced release of ₹33.34 lakh for the implementation of its Karkhandar Scheme across the Kashmir Division.

This significant financial allocation, disbursed to the respective Assistant Directors of Handicrafts and Handloom, underscores the Government's commitment to preserving and promoting the rich artisanal heritage of the region while ensuring the welfare and economic upliftment of craftsmen.

The Karkhandar Scheme, notified in 2021, is a landmark initiative designed to revive languishing crafts like pottery and foster sustainable development of the craft sector in UT of J&K. Implemented by the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, the scheme aims to empower artisans, enhance skill development, and boost the livelihoods of



craftsmen through structured interventions.

Highlighting its role in revival of languishing crafts, a spokesman of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, stated that the Karkhandar Scheme focuses on preserving traditional crafts such as walnut wood carving, silver filigree, carpet weaving, Kani shawl weaving, Khatamband, papier-mâché, and others like Sozni, tapestry, and engraved copperware, which face a shortage of skilled artisans. "It prioritizes crafts at risk of extinction, ensuring their legacy endures. It also facilitates skill transfer from master

craftsmen, including National/State/Shilp Guru awardees, to the younger generation," he said, adding meritorious trainees from departmental training centres receive advanced training in nearby Karkhanas to enhance their expertise and productivity.

Trainees receive a monthly stipend of ₹2,000 during the six-month training period, disbursed via direct bank transfer. "Karkhandars are provided ₹25,000 in two equal installments to cover logistics, tools, equipment, and raw materials, along with ₹2,000 per trainee per month to support their efforts.



JKSDM Launches India Skills Competition 2025 Across 20 Districts Of J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The Jammu & Kashmir Skill Development Mission (JKSDM) Monday launched the India Skills Competition 2025 across all 20 districts of the Union Territory, signaling a significant push to empower the skilled youth of J&K and align them with national and global platforms of excellence.

The launch, held simultaneously across the districts, is part of the nationwide campaign initiated by the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to discover and reward the most skilled young professionals across India through India's largest skill competition.

On the occasion, the Mission Director, JKSDM, remarked that "India Skills 2025 is more than just a competition, it is a movement that recognizes skill as a tool for empowerment. Launching it across all the 20 districts ensures inclusivity and access for every aspiring youth in J&K. Our goal is to continue building on past successes and prepare our youth to meet world-class standards."

The district-level rollouts were conducted in collaboration with the District Skill Committees, ITIs, Polytechnics, educational institutions and industry partners. The activities included awareness sessions, orientation drives and registra-

tion support for the interested candidates. On the spot registration kiosks were setup and many candidates registered for the competitions. All the information related to India Skills was provided to the aspirants.

As per J&K's track record in the India Skills 2023-24, the UT showcased stellar performance during the India Skills 2023-24 competition, securing 3 Gold Medals, 4 Bronze Medals and 6 Medallions of Excellence.

This performance reflects the growing competence and potential of youth across the Union Territory. With expanded outreach and strategic mentoring, JKSDM is aiming for even greater success in the upcoming national rounds.

India Skills 2025 is featuring 63 official and provisional skill trades including sectors like Mechatronics, Welding, Web Technologies, Fashion Technology, Cyber Security, Bakery, Health, Social Care and many more.

All the eligible youth born on or after 01 January 2004 (and for select skills, after 01 January 2001) are encouraged to register for the competition. "There is no formal educational requirement for participation, the only eligibility criteria is that participant should fall in the specified age group and should have skills to showcase in the competitions even if acquired informally," said one of the Officers of J&K Skill Mission.

Sensex Rises 419 Pts To Close Above 81k Level On Gains In Metal, Auto Shares

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Benchmark BSE Sensex rose by nearly 419 points to close above the 81,000 level on Monday following gains in metal, commodities and auto shares amid a firm trend in global markets.

Snapping the two-day falling streak, the 30-share Sensex gained 418.81 points or 0.52 per cent to settle at 81,018.72 with 26 of its constituents ending higher and four down. During the day, it climbed 493.28 points or 0.61 per cent to hit an intraday high of 81,093.19.

The 50-share NSE Nifty jumped by 157.40 points or 0.64 per cent to close at 24,722.75. In the intraday session, it rose 169.3 points or 0.6 per cent to hit a high of 24,734.65.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Steel was the lead gainer, humping by 4.31 per cent. BEL, Adani Ports, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, HCL Technologies, Trent, Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement and Larsen & Toubro were the major gainers.

However, Power Grid, HDFC



Bank, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever were among the laggards.

"The domestic equity market edged higher, supported by strong performance in the metal and auto sectors. A weakening US Dollar, along with robust monthly auto sales and encouraging quarterly results from leading automakers, helped renew investor interest in these sectors.

"The Q1 earnings summary indicates that consumption-driven companies are benefiting from a rebound in volume demand. Meanwhile, rising unemployment and slower job creation in the US have reinforced expectations of a potential Fed rate cut. However, there still remains room for caution due to high US tariffs," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments, said.

Iran Moves To Remove Zeros From Plunging National Currency

AFP

TEHRAN- The economic commission of Iran's parliament revived long-delayed plans on Sunday to cut four zeros from the country's plunging currency, as part of efforts to simplify financial transactions.

"Today's meeting of the economic commission approved the name 'rial' as the national currency, as well as the removal of four zeros," said the parliament's website ICANA, quoting Shamseddin Hosseini, the commission's chairman.

Under the proposed system, one rial would be equivalent to 10,000 at the current value and subdivided into 100 gherans, according to ICANA.

The proposed redenomination was first mooted



in 2019 but then shelved. The current bill will have to pass a parliamentary vote and gain the approval of the Guardian Council, a body empowered to vet legislation.

It was not immediately clear when the parliamentary vote would take place.

In May, Iran's Central Bank Governor Mohammad Reza Farzin said he would pursue the plan, noting that the Iranian rial "does not have a favour-

able image" in the global economy.

The move comes as Iran faces deepening economic challenges, including runaway inflation, a sharply devalued currency, and the prolonged impact of international sanctions.

As of Sunday, the rial was trading at around 920,000 to the US dollar on the street market, according to local media and the Bonbast website that monitors unofficial exchange rates.

GST Evasion Of Rs 7.08 Lakh Cr Detected In 5 Years

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Central GST field officers have detected tax evasion of about ₹7.08 trillion in the last five years till 2024-25 fiscal, including input tax credit (ITC) fraud of about ₹1.79 trillion, Parliament was informed on Monday.

In 2024-25 fiscal alone, over ₹2.23 trillion of Goods and Services Tax (GST) evasion were detected by CGST field officers, according to the data shared by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in the Lok Sabha.

Of the 30,056 cases of GST evasion detected in FY'25, more than half or 15,283 cases pertained to ITC fraud, where the evasion was to the tune of ₹58,772 crore.

In the 2023-24 fiscal, ₹2.30 trillion worth GST



evasion was detected by CGST field officers, involving ITC fraud of ₹36,374 crore.

In FY'23, about ₹1.32 trillion GST evasion was detected, including ₹24,140 crore of fake ITC claims.

In FY'22 and FY'21, GST evasion stood at ₹73,238 crore and ₹49,384 crore respectively. This included ITC fraud of ₹28,022 crore and ₹31,233 crore respectively.

In the last five years (2020-21 to 2024-25), total GST evasion detected by CGST field officers stood at about ₹7.08 trillion in 91,370

cases. Taxes recovered during the period by way of voluntary deposit stood at over ₹1.29 trillion.

The evasion data includes ITC fraud of about ₹1.79 trillion in 44,938 cases between FY'21 to FY'25.

Chaudhary said the central government and GSTN are taking various steps to prevent tax evasion, such as digitization through E-invoicing, GST analytics, highlighting of outliers based on system-flagged mismatches, providing actionable intelligence and selection of returns for scrutiny and selection of taxpayers for audit based on various risk parameters.

"These measures are helpful in safeguarding the revenue and nabbing the evaders," Chaudhary said in a written reply in the Lower House.

Gold Climbs Rs 400 To Rs 98,020/10 G; Silver Rises Rs 500

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Gold prices climbed Rs 400 to Rs 98,020 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday due to fresh buying by stockists, according to the All India Sarafa Association. On Friday, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 97,620 per 10 grams.

In the national capital, gold of 99.5 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 300 to Rs 97,800 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) on Monday. The yellow metal had settled at Rs 97,500 per 10 grams in the previous market close.

In addition, silver prices increased Rs 500 to Rs 1,10,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Monday. The white metal had finished at Rs 1,09,500 per kg on Friday.

"Gold prices traded very strong, driven by a weak rupee and disappointing US macroeconomic data on Friday. The data supported gold prices in the international market, which climbed to USD 3,355 per ounce.

"Tariff-related concerns and rupee depreciation added to the upside momentum. In the week ahead, investors will shift their focus to the upcoming RBI monetary policy meeting and US manufacturing data to provide further guidance on the trajectory of bullion prices in the near-term," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst -- Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities.

# CUKashmir's DSW organises 'Youth Parliament', inspiring lectures

Observer News Service

Ganderbal, Aug 4: Under the aegis of Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme (VBYCP), Dean Students Welfare (DSW), Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) organised "Youth Parliament" to deliberate on "One Nation, One Election," on Monday and held Inspiring Online Lectures on Saturday and Sunday respectively.

Addressing the participants of the "Youth Parliament" held at the Tulmulla Campus of the Central University of Kashmir, Dean Academic Affairs and I/c Registrar, Prof. Shahid Rasool, said that the primary objective of organizing such programmes is to provide a platform for students to

unveil their hidden potential. "These events offer an excellent opportunity for students to display their articulation, debating skills, and share knowledge with peers," he remarked. Prof. Shahid emphasized that students are not just the future, but the active architects of the present. He urged them to take ownership and responsibility in realizing the dream of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, as envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. He encouraged the youth to rise beyond mere spectatorship and participate actively in the democratic process. Highlighting the changing face of Indian politics, Prof. Shahid noted that a growing number of educated young individuals are entering politics

and making a meaningful impact. "Irrespective of their political ideologies or affiliations, these new-generation leaders are working diligently and sincerely, raising issues that matter to the common people and ensuring their voices are heard," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Dean School of Legal Studies, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir, described the event as an integral component of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. "NEP 2020 envisions a holistic, flexible, and multidisciplinary approach to education, moving beyond traditional classroom learning. "A key component of this transformation is the emphasis on co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, which are now considered

integral to a student's overall and holistic development," he said.

"Students are the torchbearers of any nation, entrusted with shaping its future through their energy, vision, and sense of responsibility. When they step into the realm of politics, their role becomes even more significant. Politics, at its core, is a platform to serve society, uphold democratic values, and champion the welfare of the people." Prof. Mir said that as future policymakers, students must remember that true leadership is not about position, but about purpose—standing by the truth, protecting the rights of all citizens, and working selflessly for the nation's betterment.

During the programme, participants

took on the roles of ruling party members and opposition leaders and shared their viewpoints about the topic.

Nodal Officer (VBYCP) Dr. Adil Amin Nazki and Youth Welfare Officer, Dr. Samreen Geelani were also present. The jury for the session comprised Dr. Mohammad Syed,

Associate Prof. Deptt of Education and Er. Afaq Alam, Sr Asst Prof. Deptt of IT.

Ms. Tulba (Deptt of English, CUKashmir), Ms. Hurmat Mohammad (Deptt of Political Science, Government Degree College, Ganderbal) and Mr. Ahmad Mujtaba (Deptt of Law, CUKashmir) bagged the 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions respectively

Dr. Reehana Shawl, Asst Prof. Deptt of Law, conducted the programme and

Dr. Himabindu, Sr Asst Prof. Deptt of Politics and Governance, proposed the vote of thanks.

INSPIRING ONLINE LECTURES HELD  
Two online lectures on the themes "Higher Education: Youth & Society" and "NextGen Intelligence: Youth Leading the AI Revolution" were organised on Saturday and Sunday respectively.

Dr. Firdous Ahmad Sofal, Asst Prof. Deptt of Education, delivered the lecture on "Higher Education: Youth & Society" and highlighted the role of youth in nation-building, drawing inspiration from Swami Vivekananda's teachings on character development. He emphasized the need for ethical values, mindful employment, and skill en

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### 6 Years After

waning appeal of militancy among Kashmiri youth and the growing disconnect between local aspirations and Pakistan's proxy war.

India has responded with targeted counter-terror operations and intensified diplomatic engagement.

The designation of TRF as a global terrorist organisation by the US in July is seen as a major diplomatic win for New Delhi.

While Pakistan continues to project Kashmir as a disputed territory, India maintains that the region is an integral part of its sovereign territory.

The abrogation of Article 370, far from being a provocation, is framed as a constitutional correction -- one that affirms democratic governance and rejects externally sponsored violence.

### Rumours Resurface

Journalist Aarti Tikoo Singh echoed concerns about the Centre's reported move, even hinting at speculation around bifurcating Jammu and Kashmir into two separate states -- an idea she termed disastrous.

"What's even more bizarre is that rumor mills are suggesting that Kashmir and Jammu will be separated and reorganized into two separate states. If either is true, nothing could be more disastrous," Tikoo wrote.

Amid the growing buzz, NC chief Farooq Abdullah on Monday questioned the Union government over the delay in restoring statehood to the Union Territory.

"When are they going to return to statehood?" Farooq asked, recalling that the BJP had promised restoration once elections were held. "They said that the minute you have elections and the government is formed, the statehood will be restored. What has happened to that?" he said.

He also questioned the delay in holding Rajya Sabha elections from J&K, saying, "Now they are saying that they will hold elections in two vacant assembly seats, but what about elections to four seats in the Rajya Sabha? Why are they denying people the right to get to that House to speak of their problems?"

BJP General Secretary Ashok Koul on Monday said the party would congratulate everyone if the Union government grants back the status.

"If statehood is restored, we congratulate everyone," Koul said.

He however said he has no information if the statehood would be restored. "The PM and HM have already said that statehood would be restored but I don't know when," he said, responding to unconfirmed reports suggesting that the Centre might announce the restoration of statehood on the anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370.

Commenting on J&K leaders meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, Koul said it was a positive step. "It is good they are meeting since he is everyone's Home Minister," he added.

The demand for restoring statehood has been simmering since August 5, 2019, when the erstwhile state was bifurcated into the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Since then, PM Modi and Shah have promised its restoration "at an appropriate time" but without a fixed timeline.

In December 2023, the Supreme Court upheld the abrogation of Article 370 but directed the Centre to restore statehood "at the earliest". Though the Centre agreed in principle, no formal announcement has followed.

### Terror Deaths

six-year spans.

The trend becomes clearer when viewed annually. The year 2018 remains the deadliest of the last decade, with 452 fatalities, comprising 271 militants and 86 civilians. Before 2019, yearly fatalities frequently exceeded 170.

For example, 2013 recorded 172 deaths, followed by 189 in 2014, 175 in 2015, 267 in 2016, and 357 in 2017. Security forces faced heavy losses during this period, especially in 2016 and 2017, which saw 88 and 83 personnel killed, respectively.

A sharp shift was observed in the second half of 2019. From January to July that year, 233 terror-related deaths were recorded. But in the five months following the abrogation, from August to December, the number dropped sharply to just 50, reflecting a 78.5% decline in fatalities in the latter part of the year.

The following year, 2020, registered a spike in overall deaths, reaching 321.

Officials attribute this to an increase in counter-insurgency operations that resulted in the deaths of 232 terrorists. However, from 2021 onwards, annual fatalities consistently remained below 275.

The lowest fatality figures of the decade were recorded in 2023 and 2024. In 2023, a total of 134 people lost their lives in terrorism-linked incidents, followed by 127 deaths in 2024, marking a 62% and 65% drop, respectively, from the 2018 peak.

Civilian deaths followed a general downward trend but with fluctuations. The year 2023 saw

only 12 civilian fatalities, the lowest in over a decade. This number rose to 31 in 2024.

As of August 2025, 28 civilian deaths have been reported, with 26 of those occurring in a single major attack in Pahalgam on April 22.

### Nothing Will Happen:

possible permutation & combination about what to expect in J&K tomorrow so let me stick my neck out and say nothing will happen tomorrow - fortunately nothing bad will happen but unfortunately nothing positive will happen either. I'm still optimistic about something positive for J&K in this monsoon session of Parliament but not tomorrow," Omar tweeted, responding to the rumours.

Omar clarified that he has not had any discussions with the Union leadership in New Delhi. "This is just a gut feeling. Let's see this time tomorrow".

### No Local Among 3

outskirts of Srinagar on July 28 during an operation code-named 'Mahadev'. They had been hiding in the Dachigam-Harwan forest belt since the April 22 attack in Pahalgam's Baisaran meadow, which claimed 26 lives.

The evidence collected shows that no local was among these terrorists, the officials said.

Biometric records of Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), voter identity slips and digital satellite phone data, including logs and GPS waypoints, are among the clinching evidence gathered by the security agencies confirming the Pakistani nationality of the three terrorists, the officials said.

They said the post-encounter investigation, including ballistics weapon-to-cartridge match and statements of two detained Kashmiri helpers, corroborated the terrorists' involvement in the Pahalgam attack.

"For the first time, we have government-issued Pakistani documents in hand that nail the nationality of the Pahalgam attackers beyond doubt," a senior official said.

Forensic, documentary and testimonial evidence collected during and after 'Operation Mahadev' conclusively shows that all three attackers were Pakistani nationals and senior LeT operatives who had been hiding in the Dachigam-Harwan forest belt since the day of the attack, the officials said, adding that no Kashmiri was part of the shooting team.

The slain terrorists were identified as Suleman Shah alias "Faizal Jatt", an A++ category terrorist, mastermind and lead shooter; his close associate Abu Hamza alias 'Afghan', an A-grade commander and the second gunman; and Yasir alias 'Jibran', also an A-grade commander and the third gunman, the officials said.

Along with weapons, the security forces recovered Pakistani government-issued documents, such as two laminated voter slips issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan, from the pockets of Shah and Hamza, they said.

According to the officials, the voter serial numbers correspond to electoral rolls in Lahore (NA-125) and Gujranwala (NA-79), respectively.

The officials said the NADRA-linked Smart-ID chips -- a micro-SD recovered from a damaged sat-phone contained the NADRA biometric records (fingerprints, facial template, family tree) of all three men -- confirming their Pakistani citizenship and addresses in Changa Manga (Kasur district) and Koian village near Rawalakot, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Pakistan-manufactured personal items like wrappers of 'CandyLand' and 'ChocoMax' chocolates (both brands produced in Karachi) were found in the same rucksack that carried spare magazines, the officials said, adding that lot numbers printed on wrappers were traced to a May 2024 consignment shipped to Muzaffarabad, PoK.

On forensic and technical confirmation, the officials said, the 7.62x39 mm casings found in Baisaran were test-fired against the three AK-103 rifles seized on July 28 and the striation marks matched 100 per cent while mitochondrial profiles extracted from blood on a torn shirt found in Pahalgam were identical to the DNA of the three bodies of the terrorists.

The terrorists crossed the Line of Control (LoC) through north Kashmir's Gurez sector in May 2022, when the intelligence intercepts placed their radio check-in from the Pakistani side, the officials said.

On April 21, they moved into a 'dhok' (seasonal hut) at Hill Park, 2 km from Baisaran, as was stated by two detained helpers, Parvaiz and Bashir Ahmad Jothar, who sheltered them overnight and provided them cooked food before they trekked to Baisaran the next day to carry out the attack.

The GPS waypoints recovered from Shah's Garmin device match the exact firing positions reported by eyewitnesses, the officials said, adding that they escaped towards Dachigam after carrying out the attack.

The shell casings at the scene matched the three rifles recovered from the terrorists after the encounter, the officials said.

On digital footprints, they said a Huawei satellite phone (IMEI 86761204-XXXXXX) used by the terrorists had been pinging Inmarsat-4 F1 every night between April 22 and July 25. Triangulation narrowed the search grid to four square kilometres inside Harwan forest.

Jammu and Kashmir Police released sketches of three people -- Hashim Musa, Ali Bhai alias 'Talha', and local Adil Hussain Thoker -- on April 24. However, after the July 28 encounter, the agencies clarified that those sketches were based on a photograph found on a phone retrieved from an unrelated December 2024 shootout and the actual attackers were different.

Another crucial evidence of Pakistan's involvement in the attack was the command and control links inside the neighbouring country, the officials said.

They said LeT's south-Kashmir operations chief, Sajid Saifullah Jatt of Changa Manga in Lahore, was the overall handler as his voice samples from the recovered sat-phone matched his earlier intercepted calls.

LeT Rawalakot chief Rizwan Anees also visited the families of the slain attackers on July 29 to organise 'Ghaibana Namaz-e-Janaza' (funeral prayers in absentia) and its footage is now part of the Indian dossier, they said.

### Kulgum Operation

four security forces personnel were injured in the encounter which began on Friday after security forces launched a cordon and search operation in a forest area at Akhal in the south Kashmir district, following specific intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists there.

After an initial exchange of fire between the two sides on Friday evening, the operation was halted for the night, the officials said.

The cordon was strengthened, and additional reinforcements were rushed to the area.

In a post on X, Chinar Corps of the Indian Army said, "OP AKHAL, Kulgum. Intermittent and intense firefight continued through the night. Alert troops responded with calibrated fire and tightened the noose while maintaining contact."

"One terrorist has been neutralised by the security forces so far. Operation continues," the post added.

The Indian Army last night kept the terrorists engaged in intense gunfights to prevent them from escaping in the dark. This is one of the longest anti-terrorist operations, as it has taken four days and is likely to take more time.

Top police and Army officials, including the Director General of Police (DGP) and senior commanders from the Army's 15 Corps, are closely monitoring the operation.

The encounter has stretched beyond 72 hours, with fierce exchanges of fire in dense and difficult terrain. "The thick forest and challenging landscape are slowing the progress," the official said.

He said that to track and neutralise the remaining terrorists, the forces have deployed high-tech surveillance systems, drones, elite Para forces, and attack helicopters like the HAL Rudra. Ammunition was dropped through a hexacopter to eliminate the terrorists, he added.

The official said the source said additional deployments of security forces have been activated to maintain pressure on the hiding terrorists. "The cordon has been extended to a larger area," he said. (inputs from Agencies)

### PM Modi Defiant

more action if India continues Russian oil purchases.

"The world economy is going through many apprehensions - there is an atmosphere of instability," PM Modi said at a rally in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday. "Now, whatever we buy, there should be only one scale: we will buy those things which have been made by the sweat of an Indian."

India has become one of Mr Trump's top targets as he looks to pressure Russian President Vladimir Putin to end his war in Ukraine. The US president lashed out at India last week, criticizing it for joining the BRICS grouping of developing countries and maintaining close ties with Russia, saying "they can take their dead economies down together."

The rebuke marked a stunning shift in tone for the US, which for years had overlooked India's close historical ties with Russia as it courted the nation as a counterweight in Asia to China. Now, US President Trump appears willing to undo that strategy to gain leverage against Putin, who has resisted the US president's efforts to end the fighting in Ukraine.

'Get Real'

Stephen Miller, Mr Trump's deputy chief of staff, on Sunday accused India of imposing "massive" tariffs on American goods and "cheating" the US immigration system in addition to purchasing about as much Russian oil as China.

"President Trump, he wants a tremendous relationship and has had always a tremendous

relationship with India and the prime minister," Mr Miller said. "But we need to get real about dealing with the financing of this war."

"So, President Trump, all options are on the table to deal diplomatically, financially and otherwise with the ongoing war in Ukraine, so we can achieve peace," Mr Miller added.

US President Trump last week told reporters he "heard" India would no longer be buying oil from Russia, calling it "a good step." Bloomberg reported last week that refiners were told to come up with plans for buying non-Russian crude, but one of the people said the instruction amounted to scenario planning in case Russian crude were to become unavailable.

The New York Times reported Saturday that India would keep buying Russian crude despite a threat of penalties from Mr Trump, citing two senior Indian officials it didn't identify. An Oil Ministry spokesperson didn't reply to messages from Bloomberg seeking comment outside of regular business hours.

India's refiners have been singled out by the European Union and the US for supporting Moscow during its war in Ukraine with the oil purchases. It has become the world's biggest buyer of Russian seaborne exports of crude, soaking up discounted barrels and ramping up its purchases from almost zero to about one-third of its imports.

Although China is the primary economic and diplomatic backer of Russia, Mr Trump's leverage against the world's second-biggest economy is limited due to Beijing's control of rare-earth magnets the US needs to make high-tech goods. The US and China have held talks in recent months aimed at stabilising the relationship after they both hiked tariffs on each other's goods well beyond 100% earlier this year.

'Time-Tested Partnership'

India has defended its ties with Russia, one of its biggest suppliers of weapons dating back to the Cold War. The two nations have a "steady and time-tested partnership," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters on Friday.

"Our bilateral relationships with various countries stand on their own merit and should not be seen from the prism of a third country," Mr Jaiswal said. Asked about ties with the US, he added that he's "confident that the relationship will continue to move forward."

India expects US trade negotiators to visit the country toward the end of the month to continue talks on a bilateral deal, an official in New Delhi said Friday. The nation will hold its ground and won't give the US access to its dairy and agriculture sectors, the official said, citing political and religious sensitivities.

PM Modi's renewed emphasis on domestic manufacturing and consumption echoes his long-standing "Make in India" initiative. However, the message has taken on new urgency after the US tariffs.

"The interests of our farmers, our small industries and the employment of our youth are of paramount importance," PM Modi told the rally on Saturday.

### Wildlife Crime

The data, provided by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) shows that 18 cases were registered in 2020, followed by four in 2021, one in 2022, five in 2023 and none in 2024.

No case has been reported from the Union Territory of Ladakh between 2020 and 2024, the data reveals.

In the written reply, Minister of State Kirti Vardhan Singh stated that wildlife conservation and protection, including measures against illegal trafficking, fall under the jurisdiction of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations as per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The Act empowers local authorities to register offences and conduct seizures in the event of violations.

The Ministry also informed Parliament that the WCCB works in coordination with state governments and enforcement agencies to collect and share intelligence, conduct joint operations and issue alerts related to illegal wildlife trade.

It further conducts training programs, inter-agency meetings and public awareness initiatives aimed at improving the response to wildlife trafficking. (KNO)

### CM Flags Climate,

Abdullah urged them to imbibe the ideals of SKUAST and contribute to the broader mission of rural transformation. "Let your innovation create employment, let your knowledge build enterprises and let your compassion redefine agriculture," he said, calling on the new graduates to be job creators rather than seekers.

Commending the University's efforts, the Chief Minister appreciated the launch of the Ex Situ Gene Bank, highlighting its role in conserving native seed varieties and crop diversity. "Such infrastructure will only bear fruit when paired with the right talent," he said, urging

students and faculty to make full use of the facilities to address the evolving challenges of agri-science.

The Chief Minister also lauded the students' academic excellence and equal participation in developmental narratives, expressing confidence that SKUAST-Jammu's alumni will drive innovation and entrepreneurship in the agri-sector.

Among other dignitaries present at the Convocation of SKUAST-Jammu were Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha as the Chief Guest, Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Javid Ahmed Dar; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; and Principal Secretary Shailendra Kumar, who congratulated the university on its silver jubilee and commended the Vice Chancellor and faculty for their visionary alignment with national frameworks such as NEP-2020, Startup India and Viksit Bharat @2047.

Presenting the University Report, Vice Chancellor Prof. B.N. Tripathi highlighted SKUAST-Jammu's consistent achievements in education, research, innovation and outreach. "Our commitment to excellence is reflected in the patents we've secured, the start-ups we've incubated and the knowledge we've transferred to empower the farming community," he noted.

The convocation saw the awarding of 446 degrees, including 157 Master's, 46 Doctorates and 243 Undergraduate degrees, in addition to 8 Gold Medals for meritorious students. Several Professors of Practice, innovators and entrepreneurs were also felicitated for their contributions to agri-technology and rural entrepreneurship.

The ceremony also marked the inauguration of a Farmers' Hostel and a state-of-the-art Faculty Building funded under CAPEX-NABARD and J&K Government, bolstering SKUAST-Jammu's capacity for academic and research excellence.

The event was attended by senior officials, members of the University Council and Board of Management, faculty, students, farmers and members of the public.

### Power Amnesty

much-needed revenue.

In the meantime, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has welcomed the government's recent decision of extending the power amnesty scheme for domestic consumers in Jammu and Kashmir till March 31, 2026.

While appreciating this timely relief for households, KCCI has urged the administration to extend similar amnesty benefits to commercial power consumers across the Union Territory.

"Thousands of commercial establishments in Jammu and Kashmir--ranging from small shops and service units to hotels, industrial units, and offices--are under financial strain due to the accumulation of power dues. The continuing burden of these outstanding bills poses a serious threat to business continuity, employment, and overall economic stability," KCCI said.

It also said that though the J&K government announced an amnesty for commercial power consumers, it was never implemented on the ground.

KCCI emphasised that a power amnesty scheme for commercial consumers would provide much-needed financial relief, help avert business closures, and support the recovery and resilience of the region's economy. "Such a measure would also encourage timely compliance in the future and improve the overall revenue collection environment in the power sector."

The Chamber has further urged that the commercial sector be treated with the same consideration extended to domestic consumers. "In the wake of prolonged disruptions in the past caused by successive lockdowns, pandemic-related losses, and low demand cycles, businesses have faced extraordinary challenges and now require targeted support to regain financial footing."

National Conference senior leader Tanvir Sadiq also expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister, calling the decision timely and beneficial for thousands of domestic power consumers.

### HC Seeks Centre,

had won the Nagrota seat died on October 31 last year, necessitating a bypoll from the constituency.

Singh, who appeared in person, said the by-elections in the two constituencies have been denied in violation of plethora of rulings of various courts and the provisions of Section 151A of Representation of the People Act (RPA), which mandate holding such elections within a period of six months from the date of occurrence of such vacancies.

"The existing laws required the elections to be held before ending March 2025," the petitioner said.

The next hearing in the case has been listed for September 8.

# Test Cricket Should Be Left As It Is: Captain Gill

Only format which gives a second chance: Gill

Press Trust of India

**LONDON:** Five Tests between India and England going down to the wire should be enough to convince the sport's authorities not to tinker with the format, reckoned Shubman Gill after a dramatic win at The Oval on Monday.

All five games were stretched to day five, making it an ideal promotion for the format that faces threat from franchise cricket boom. On a lighter note, Gill said a four-day Test in this context would have led to four drab draws.

"Test cricket should be, as it is, in my opinion, it is the most, rewarding and satisfying format, you work the hardest, to be able to, get a win, and, the best thing, about this format, is it always gives you a second chance, which none of the other formats give," Gill said in the post-match press conference.

"So, if you keep working hard, if you keep doing the right things, there is always a second chance. So, in my opinion, this is the most rewarding, and satisfying format, I don't think there should be any changes made to this format," said a beaming Gill.



India-England Rivalry Has Always Been Big: Stokes On Ashes Comparison

England captain Ben Stokes said it was special to be part of the series though he ended up missing The Oval Test due to a shoulder injury.

So, is the rivalry at par with the Ashes?

"I think it's always been a very big rivalry — India and England.

It obviously just doesn't have that Ashes attachment to it. But this series has always been big. I don't think that will change," said Stokes.

"It's been a pretty special one to be a part of. It's been full of ups and downs, ebbs and flows throughout every game. India being in control, we've been in control. Then it's gone back to them, then it's come back to us."

The just-concluded series led Stokes' memory back to the 2023 Ashes at home.

"So to be a part of it and be able to experience five games like this has been pretty special. We had a similar situation here in '23 with the Ashes when we had to come here and win the game. And that, again, was another special series to be a part of," added Stokes.

## Mohammed Siraj Is Every Captain's Dream: Gill

A bowler of Mohammed Siraj's calibre and skill-set is every captain's dream, feels Indian captain Shubman Gill, terming the 2-2 scoreline as a "fair reflection" of the quality of cricket that was on display in the five-Test series against England.

Gill, who was India's 'Player Of The Series' with 754 runs and four hundreds, was all praise for Siraj, whose lion-hearted effort got him nine wickets in a series levelling performance at the Oval.

"Siraj is a captain's dream. Gave it his all every ball and every spell he bowled. 2-2 is a fair reflection. It shows how passionate both teams were and how well they played," Gill told Michael Atherton at the post-match presentation ceremony.

He also reserved praise for pacer Prasidh Krishna, who got eight wickets in the game even as he went for a few runs.

"When you have bowlers like Siraj and Prasidh, captaincy looks easy. I think the way we responded today was magnificent. We were confident, even yesterday, we knew they were under pressure," Gill said. (PTI)

## DYSS Budgam Hosts Selection Trials For Netball & Softball Players

Dabirah Hassan

**BUDGAM:** Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam organised selection trials for Netball and Softball for boys of all age groups at the Sports Stadium Budgam on Monday. The event was held under the guidance and supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam Ghulam Hassan Lone.

The trials were officially inaugurated by Ghulam Hassan Khanday, Activity Incharge DYSSO Budgam, in the presence of senior officials and physical edu-



cation staff. A large number of students from various institutions across the district participated in the trials, showcasing high levels of skill, passion, and sportsmanship.

The initiative is part of DYSS Budgam's ongoing efforts to promote sports cul-

ture, talent identification, and grassroots participation in diverse sporting disciplines across the district.

The department extends its best wishes to all participants and encourages continued dedication towards excellence in the field of sports.

## District Level Volleyball & Cricket Tournaments Held In Anantnag

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag on Monday inaugurated the District Level Inter-Zonal Volleyball Tournament for Girls in the U-14 and U-17 age groups. The event is being hosted at Middle School Bondailgam.

The inaugural day witnessed around 230 girls from both categories taking part in the event.

Meanwhile, in the ongoing Zonal Level Inter-School Cricket Tournament under Zone Anantnag, Boys Model Higher Secondary School Anantnag emerged victorious.

The final match saw



BMHSS Anantnag take on Shemford School. Opting to bat first after winning the toss, BMHSS posted a target of 108 runs. In a strong display of bowling and fielding, BMHSS successfully defended the total, restricting Shemford School to 74 runs.

Ovais Imtiyaz, who consistently delivered match-winning performances, was

deservedly named Man of the Series for his brilliant contributions throughout the tournament.

Both tournaments were inaugurated and later concluded under the supervision of District Activity Incharge Mohammad Abbas Dar, who was accompanied by senior PEM Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat and other officials from DYSS Anantnag.

## Provincial U19 Girls Football Championship Begins In Ganderbal

Younis Paray

**GANDERBAL:** Ganderbal came alive with sporting energy as Department of Youth Services and Sports Ganderbal inaugurated the much-awaited Inter District Provincial Level Football Championship for Girls U-19 at the picturesque grounds of GCOPE Gadoora.

Building on the momentum of the recently concluded U-17 girls' event, the U19 championship drew spirited participation from all 10 districts of Kashmir Division.

Day one of the tournament saw back-to-back league encounters played on two parallel pitches, setting the stage for an action-packed championship. Notably, District Srinagar and District Baramulla dominated their respective fixtures, remaining unbeaten



through the day.

The championship continues on Tuesday with more league matches and the commencement of knockout rounds, where teams will battle for a coveted spot in the finals.

In parallel sporting action, Zone Ganderbal organised an Inter-School Zonal

Level Badminton competition for Boys U17 and U19 at Qamaria Higher Secondary School. The event witnessed participation from student-athletes from across the zone. Top performers in both age categories were felicitated with medals for their exceptional skills and sportsmanship.

## World University Games: KIIT's Medal-Winning Athletes Felicitated

Partha Chatterjee

**BHUBANESWAR:** KIIT and KISS felicitated 11 athletes from KIIT University who represented India in various sporting events and won medals at the recently concluded World University Games 2025 in Rhine-Ruhr, Germany.

KIIT is the first university in India to have won so many medals in WUG in the last 65 years.

Each athlete who won a silver medal at the WUG received a cash prize of Rs 3 lakh from KIIT and KISS, while bronze medal winners were awarded Rs 1 lakh. The awards were presented by Dr. Achyuta Samanta, founder of KIIT and KISS, in the presence of several sporting personalities, including Olympians. Expressing his delight



over the achievement, Dr. Samanta said that the highest number of players in the Indian contingent at the World University Games were from KIIT. India secured a total of 12 medals in the event, with KIIT athletes contributing 6 of them. This accomplishment is a matter of pride for both KIIT-KISS and Odisha, he added.

Three KIIT students — Ankita in the 3000m Steeplechase, Praveen Chithirawal in the Triple Jump, and Seeman in the 5000m Final — each won silver medals. Additionally, the Men's 4x100m Relay Team, the Women's 20km Race Walk Team, and Avinash Mohanty in Badminton secured bronze medals.

## England Coach McCullum Expresses His Admiration For Siraj

Press Trust of India

**LONDON:** England head coach Brendon McCullum on Monday expressed his admiration for India pacer Mohammed Siraj for his lion-hearted effort with the ball in the final Test here and termed the five-match series as one of the best he has been part of.

Siraj was the standout performer, delivering one of his finest performances under pressure. He grabbed nine wickets in the fifth Test, which India won by six runs, and finished the series with 23 wickets, the highest across both teams.

"When Siraj took that final wicket, as much as we were incredibly disappointed, (I had) admiration for him and the fight he

has got as a cricketer and the way he was able to do what he did," McCullum said on Sky Sports after the match.

The Test series turned out to be one of the most intensely-fought and drama-filled showdowns in recent times.

"That is the best five-match Test series I have ever been a part of and witnessed. It just oscillated so much right throughout the six weeks and I felt it had everything. I thought there was quite a lot of hostilities at times, camaraderie at times, great cricket at times, there was some average cricket because of the pressure both sides were under," said the former dashing Kiwi batter.

"We knew it was going to be



hard coming into the series, we knew they were going to test us physically and mentally. I think it tested both teams a lot more than what was expected. It was a cracking series and I think 2-2 was a fair reflection."

Talking about the physical and mental challenges in such high-intensity contest, he said, "Playing all five days of all five Tests becomes a mental exertion. Obviously, we had to call in fresh legs in this last Test match. You know it is coming but you don't know what is coming until it hits you."

"It is the hardest thing in cricket playing a five-game series and being tested as much as you are for as long as you are. It challenges not just as a sportsperson

but your character. It questions how much you want it. As a fan of a game, I thought it was an unbelievable spectacle."

The series saw some mistakes committed by both teams as well as some turning points.

"You are always going to have missed opportunities throughout a series. India will probably look back at some opportunities they had -- maybe in first test at Headingley. Even at Lord's, the natural rhythm of a game will always serve up certain situations.

"Even last night, we had Brook and Root playing as well as they were. For India to come back and take 7-60, it is another great example of what can happen in this great game we play," he said.

## In Numbers: India Score Their Slimmest Test Win

**M**ohammed Siraj's strong-hearted effort across five Tests reflected in his numbers as well, returning with 23 wickets to go equal with Jasprit Bumrah as an Indian bowler with most wickets in a Test series in England.

Bumrah achieved the feat during the 2021-22 series to go past Bhuvneshwar Kumar (19).

Siraj is also the highest wicket-taker of the newly-minted Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy.

### NARROWEST WIN

The six-run win that they scored at the Oval was India's smallest in terms of runs in Test cricket, surpassing the 13-run victory that they had achieved against Australia at Mumbai in 2004.

Meanwhile, India made a total of 3,809 runs in this series, which is the most ever scored by a team in a five-match Test series.

### WINLESS STREAK

India have also managed to extend England's winless streak in Test rubbers against them to four dating back to 2018.

This is England's second longest barren run in the traditional format after they went winless in five series between 1996 and 2011.

### ROOT EQUALS GAVASKAR

Senior England batter Joe Root's 104 in the second innings of the Oval Test was his 13th hundred against India in Tests and 16th overall, going equal with Australian Steve Smith for the most number of centuries against India in international cricket.

Root also equalled batting legend Sunil Gavaskar's record of making 13 hundreds against the West Indies, and now he has only Don Bradman (19 hundreds vs England) ahead of him for most Test hundreds against a single nation. (PTI)

## AIFF To Meet 8 ISL Club CEOs On August 7

**T**he top brass of the AIFF will meet the CEOs of eight clubs of the country after the latter expressed concerns over the "current status and direction" of the country's football with the Indian Super League (ISL) being put on hold.

Worried about their future, eight ISL clubs had written to the All India Football Federation after the top-tier league was put on hold by the organisers -- Football Sports Development Limited -- due to the lack of clarity on the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) with the national federation.

The 15-year MRA between the AIFF and the FSDL -- the national federation's marketing partners -- ends on December 18.

Earlier, the eight ISL clubs had written to the AIFF that they found themselves unable to plan with the level "that professional football operations require" in the absence of proper interaction with the AIFF or FSDL.

The letter, calling for a "constructive dialogue" with the AIFF, was signed by Bengaluru FC, Jamshedpur FC, FC Goa, Hyderabad FC, Kerala Blasters, NorthEast United FC, Odisha FC and Punjab FC. (PTI)

## Pakistan Wins 3rd T20 By 13 Runs To Clinch Series

**S**aim Ayub posted a half-century in a 138-run opening stand with Sahibzada Farhan and then took a key wicket as Pakitsan beat West Indies by 13 runs to clinch the Twenty20 cricket series 2-1.

Pakistan posted 189-4 and then bowled tightly enough to restrict West Indies to 176-6.

Pakistan's opening partnership ended when Farhan was out for 74 runs in the 17th over, his 53-ball innings finishing when he hit a low full-toss from Shamar Joseph (1-57) directly to Shai Hope at long-off.

Ayub continued until the last ball of the penultimate over of Pakistan's innings, when he hit a full ball from Jason Holder (1-34) to Sherfane Rutherford in the covers and was out for 66 from 49 deliveries.

West Indies raced to 33-0 after two overs in reply, taking 16 off the first over from Hasan Ali and 17 in the second from Mohammad Nawaz.

Alick Athanaze scored 60 from 40 deliveries, sharing further partnerships of 30 with Hope (7) and 36 with Rutherford. Rutherford kept West Indies in the contest with 51 from 35 balls but his dismissal in the last over ended any chance of a comeback win.

Both teams travel to the Caribbean for a series of three one-day internationals. (AP)

## Tottenham Signs João Palhinha On Loan From Bayern

**T**ottenham has bolstered its midfield ahead of its return to the Champions League by signing Portugal international João Palhinha on loan from Bayern Munich with an option to buy.

The defensive midfielder returns to London and the Premier League a year after leaving Fulham for a much-hyped but largely unsuccessful move to Bayern. He has three years left on his Bayern contract. Bayern and Tottenham both confirmed the move Sunday.

Palhinha offers a similar defensive midfield option to Spurs' Rodrigo Bentancur or Yves Bissouma. Expectations for Palhinha at Bayern were high but his time spent there had ended with the Portuguese midfielder spending most of the Club World Cup on the bench.

Palhinha only started 10 of the 25 games he played for Bayern in all competitions and was an unused substitute in four of Bayern's five games at the Club World Cup.

It's the second time this off-season that Tottenham has signed a player who was out of favor at Bayern after making forward Mathys Tel's loan move permanent. (AP)

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