

## Sick And Struggling: How Healthcare Is Breaking Kashmiri Families

As medicines grow costlier and insurance schemes fail to deliver, falling ill in Kashmir increasingly leads to financial ruin.

Malik Daniyal

Srinagar: Earlier this summer, outside SMHS Hospital in Srinagar, a carpenter waited in the shade with his wife. She rested on his shoulder as they stood in line for her prescriptions. Her heart medicine costs

₹3,500 a month, about half of what he earns.

"We skip meals sometimes," he said. "She misses doses when we can't afford them. I borrow when there's no other way."

The carpenter's story is not an exception. It's becoming the rule in Kashmir, where healthcare is turning into a punishing



**PEOPLE COME WITH PRESCRIPTIONS, look at the total, and walk away without buying the full dose."**

economic burden.

With strained public hospitals, pricey private care, and patchy insurance coverage, falling sick now means falling behind.

Rural areas face the hardest blows. In 2024, government records showed only 1,030 out of 1,677 sanctioned rural medical officer posts filled. Nearly half

of specialist posts at community health centers were also vacant.

"There's a huge gap between demand and supply," said Dr. Iqbal Mir, who runs a primary health centre in South Kashmir. "Patients often wait weeks or travel hours for even routine check-ups."

This shortage | [More on P10](#)

## Ex-J&K Guv Satyapal Malik Dies At 79



Satyapal Malik  
1946 - 2025

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satyapal Malik died on Tuesday at a hospital here after a prolonged illness, his personal staff said. He was 79.

Malik, who had also held the positions of governor of Goa, Bihar, Meghalaya, and Odisha, besides being a member of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in his long political career, died at 1.12 pm at the Ram Manohar Lohia hospital here.

He was in the ICU of the hospital for a long time, getting

## 'The Fax That Never Came'

One of the most bizarre and politically charged moments during Satya Pal Malik's tenure in J&K came in the form of a 'broken' fax machine. It was 2018, just months before the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A. The BJP had pulled out of its alliance with the People's Democratic Party (PDP), plunging the state into political uncertainty.

| [See full story on kashmirobserver.net](#)

## Kulgam Operation Enters 5th Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The anti-terrorist operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district entered the fifth day on Tuesday as security forces tightened the noose around the ultras engaged in the gun battle with them.

As tight cordon has been laid in the Akhal area, the authorities on Tuesday evacuated some of the villagers who needed medical attention.

"The encounter has entered its fifth day as intermittent exchange of firing has been going," an official said.

| [See full story on kashmirobserver.net](#)

# On August 5, 2019, A New J&K Was Born: LG

» Hands Over Appointment Letters To 158 NoKs of Terror Victims

» 'Wounds That Persisted for Decades Are Now Being Healed'



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that a new Jammu Kashmir was born on 5 August 2019.

Addressing a gathering of terror victims here, Sinha said, "The new Jammu and Kashmir is one

where the terrorist elements sitting in the government system are being cleaned out one by one and the decades-old wounds of terror victim families are being healed."

"The new Jammu Kashmir is one where common Kashmiris are being embraced and not the separatists. | [More on P10](#)



"A new Jammu Kashmir was born on August 5, 2019."

"We are wiping the tears of common Kashmiris, not terrorists."

"The long wait for justice is over."

"Invisible scars remain, but healing has begun."

"I promise, every terror victim will get justice."

"There is no place for terrorism in a civilized society."

"If terror is state policy, it will face a forceful response."

## Art 370 Anniversary: Statehood Demand Takes Centre Stage

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Rumours of Jammu and Kashmir regaining statehood had reached a fever pitch after a flurry of high-level meetings in the national capital, with many expecting a major declaration to coincide with the August 5 anniversary. All eyes were on Delhi, but no such announcement was made on Tuesday.

However, the day saw sharp political mobilisation in both Jammu and the Valley. Political parties across

Jammu and Kashmir hit the streets demanding restoration of statehood, accusing the BJP of backtracking on its promises. Congress, National Conference, and PDP workers on Tuesday staged demonstrations demanding restoration of statehood and constitutional safeguards.

The three parties, along with Jammu-based All Parties United Morcha (APUM) - a group of various social and political parties -, observed August 5 as a "black day" in a denunciation | [More on P10](#)

## SC Hearing Set For August 8

The Supreme Court is likely to hear on August 8 a plea seeking directions to the Centre for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan mentioned the matter on | [More on P10](#)

## Omar Writes To Chiefs Of Parties

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday wrote to the presidents of over 40 political parties seeking their support for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, saying it "must not be viewed as a concession, but as an essential course correction". According to officials, Omar, in his two-page letter, called for bringing a legislation for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir during the current Parliament session. | [More on P10](#)

## Shah Becomes India's Longest Serving HM

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: From the abrogation of Article 370 to completely overhauling criminal laws and from setting a March 2026 deadline to eliminate the Naxal menace to ensuring the surrender of 10,000 militants in the Northeast, Amit Shah has achieved several milestones in his over six-year tenure as the Union Home Minister, the longest in history.

Known as the second most influential figure in the country after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shah has completed 2,258 days in office, surpassing L K Advani's 2,256 days as Union Home Minister.

He has been the pivotal force of Prime Minister



Modi's government, giving new directions to the Ministry of Home Affairs in charting its course in maintaining internal security and peace across the country.

At the NDA parliamentary party meeting on Tuesday, the Prime Minister praised the Home Minister and noted that Shah has become the longest-serving incumbent in the MHA. | [More on P10](#)

## ADMINISTRATIVE RESHUFFLE

## Anshul Garg Is New Div Com Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Anshul Garg, a 2013-batch IAS officer, was on Tuesday appointed as the divisional commissioner of Kashmir as the government carried out a reshuffle in the administration.

Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, is transferred and posted as divisional commissioner, Kashmir, an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), said.

The current divisional commissioner, V K Bhiduri, was transferred by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to Delhi on May 16 this year.

Ten IAS officers and four JKAS officers were on Tuesday transferred on the orders of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. Six districts of J&K also got new deputy commissioners.

Naveen S L, Secretary, Transport Department, is transferred and posted as Secretary, Civil Aviation Department along with additional charge of Commissioner, Civil Aviation, relieving Shahid Iqbal Choudhary of the additional charge of the posts, the order said.

It said Avny Lavasa, awaiting orders of posting | [More on P10](#)

## No Official Word Yet on Panchayat Polls: Govt

Agencies

Srinagar: The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Jammu and Kashmir, has issued a strong clarification regarding a fake government order being widely circulated on various social media platforms, which falsely claims that Panchayat elections in the Union Territory will be conducted after November 2025.

A purported government notification titled "Conduct of Panchayat Elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir - Post November 2025" bearing Order No: 45-RD&PR of 2025 and dated 05-08-2025 is being shared online.

The officials from the department of RDD&PR have confirmed that no such order has been issued by the department and the | [More on P10](#)

## Trump Warns of Sharp Tariff Hike on India Within 24 Hrs

Press Trust Of India

New York: US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said India has not been a good trading partner and announced that he will raise the tariffs on New Delhi "very substantially" over the next 24 hours because it is buying Russian oil.

"With India, what people don't like to say about India, they're the highest tariff nation. They have the highest tariff of anybody. We do very, very little



business with India because their tariffs are so high," Trump said in an interview with CNBC Squawk Box.

"India has not been a good

trading partner, because they do a lot of business with us, but we don't do business with them. So we settled on 25% (tariff), but I think I'm going to raise that very substantially over the next 24 hours, because they're buying Russian oil. They're fuelling the war machine. And if they're going to do that, then I'm not going to be happy," he added.

When asked about the trade deal with India that seemed imminent, | [More on P10](#)

## Russia Backs India's Right to Choose Trade Partners

Russia on Tuesday said sovereign countries have the right to select their partners in trade and economic cooperation based on their interests, a day after President Donald Trump threatened to "substantially"

raise US tariffs on India for buying Russian oil. "We believe that sovereign countries must have and do have the right to choose their trade partners, the partners in trade and | [More on P10](#)

## Pvt Schools Warned On Deposit Rules

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Committee for Fixation and Regulation of Fee of Private Schools (FFRC) Monday said that some private schools were violating the fee regulations by charging 'security deposit and admission fee'.

Chairperson of FFRC Justice (Retd) Sunil Hali in a communique said, "Complaints have been received by the committee that some private educational institutions are reportedly charging 'Security Deposits' from parents and guardians at the time of admission of their wards, ostensibly in

lieu of admission fee."

"This practice is arbitrary and is viewed as an indirect attempt to circumvent the statutory provisions and fee regulatory mechanism established under law," it reads.

It also said, "In this regard, attention is drawn to the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Act, 2002 particularly Section 20-C, which prohibits the collection of any fee or charges by private schools without prior approval from the Fee Fixation and Regulation Committee (FFRC)."

"Furthermore, under Rule 8(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Private Schools (Fixation, | [More on P10](#)

## J&K Cracks Down On Drug Misuse 8 Pharmacy Licences Cancelled, 75 Shops Sealed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Drug and Food Control Organisation in Jammu and Kashmir has cancelled the licence of eight pharmacies and suspended operations of 75 retail outlets as part of its crack-down against misuse of pharmaceutical drugs.

"In a significant move to ensure the public safety and curb the misuse of pharmaceutical drugs, the government of Jammu & Kashmir has launched a special enforcement drive across Jammu and Kashmir, targeting the pharmacies and drug outlets for compliance with legal and regulatory standards," an official

spokesman said on Tuesday.

During the drive, officers of Drug and Food Control Organization (DFCO) carried out surprise inspections at various locations across Jammu & Kashmir.

The objective of the initiative is to identify the pharmacies operating in violation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and to strengthen the mechanisms preventing the unauthorised sale of psychotropic substances and prescription drugs, the spokesman said.

The inspection teams cancelled the drugs sale licences of eight pharmacies for non-maintenance of sale records of habit-forming drugs and not adopting the | [More on P10](#)







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2

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my Voter ID card as Jabina, whereas my correct name as per Aadhaar Card is Mahjabeena Akhter. I have now applied for the correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file it in the concerned office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Mahjabeena Akhter  
D/o Ali Mohammad FKO

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my son's name from old name Nouman Ali Dar to Arshman Ali Dar, S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar, R/o Arampora Singhpora Pattan. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Pattan, within 7 days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Arshman Ali Dar  
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar R/o Arampora Singhpora Pattan. bmg

## THE UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR HAZRATBAL, SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE



I have got correction order against my Name & Father's Name issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education in the year 2024.

I passed/appeared B.Sc. (1st Year/2nd Year/3rd Year) & B.Ed. under Roll Nos.: 1257, 2107, 1968 & 4459 in the Year: 1996, 1997, 1998 & 2001 respectively through the University of Kashmir, Srinagar.

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

This is published for the information of the general public. The correct particulars as per records of J&K BOSE, Srinagar are as under:

Name: GHULAM MOHAMMAD GAVGOJRI  
Father's Name: MOHAMMAD SIDIQ GAVGOJRI  
Mother's Name: SUNDARI BANO  
Date of Birth: 11-03-1975  
Residence: Tral-i-Payeen, Tral (Pulwama) INF

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION BARAMULLA

e-mail, ID: xenmhdbla@gmail.com

### CORRIGENDUM

Subject: Amendment to Annexure 'A' (General Terms & Conditions) regarding Un-Balanced Bids.

Reference: e-NIT Nos. 17, 18 & 19 Dated: 28.07.2025

e-NIT Nos. 20 & 21 Dated: 29.07.2025

Tender IDs:  
2025\_PWDJK\_282589\_1  
2025\_PWDJK\_282591\_1  
2025\_PWDJK\_282594\_1  
2025\_PWDJK\_282691\_1  
2025\_PWDJK\_282694\_1

In continuation of the existing General Terms & Conditions outlined in Annexure 'A' of the above-mentioned e-NITs, the following clause is hereby added and shall be deemed an integral part of all tender documents:

Unbalanced Bid:  
"In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee within 07 days after opening of price bid as per the relevant clause of J&K (PWD) Engineering Manual 2020."

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical & Hospitals Division  
Baramulla

No: - M&HDB/TS/1134-36  
DIPK-4832/25  
Dated: - 05-08-2025

## Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee

chairman.spcc@jk.gov.in  
membersecy.jkpc@jk.gov.in  
0191 - 2472881, 2476925



Parivesh Bhavan, Forest Complex  
Transport Nagar, Jammu, 180006  
Silk Factory Road  
Rajbagh, Srinagar, 190 008

## Advertisement for empanelment of Chartered Engineer / Chartered Institute for Third Party Certification.

### Empanelment of Chartered Engineer / Institute.

Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee intends to empanel Chartered Engineer/Institute for preparation/verification/certification of environmental data and submission of applications for all category of industries and development activities for the purpose of obtaining consent to establish and consent to operate and renewal thereof under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection), Act, 1986 and the Rules made thereunder, as per details given below:

### Qualification and Experience for Chartered Engineer

Degree in Environmental Engineering or a Degree in Civil Engineering with specialization in Environmental Engineering as an elective subject awarded by the recognized University or Institute in India; or,

A Degree in Chemical Engineering/Technology awarded by a recognized University or Institute in India; or,

Master's/Doctorate in Natural Sciences/Environmental Science/Microbiology/Biochemistry /Chemistry/Biotechnology awarded by a recognized University or Institute in India;

AND

Having at least 10 years practical experience in the field of environmental pollution control for the candidates having Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/Technology/Master's Degree in Science Branches and 05 Years for the candidates having Master's Degree in Engineering/ Technology/ Doctorate Degree in Science Branches.

### Qualification and Experience for Chartered Institute.

The Chartered Institute team must have at least 4 members having either of the individual qualifications as below:

Degree in Environmental Engineering or a Degree in Civil Engineering with specialization in Environmental Engineering as an elective subject awarded by a recognized University or Institute in India; or,

Degree in Chemical Engineering/Technology awarded by a recognized University or Institute in India; or,

Masters/Doctorate in Natural Sciences/Environmental Science/Microbiology/Biochemistry/Chemistry/Biotechnology awarded by a recognized University or Institute in India;

AND

having an experience of at least 10 years in the field of environmental pollution control / research & development / teaching environment related subjects for the candidates having Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/Technology/Master's Degree in science branches and 05 Years for the candidates having Master's Degree in Engineering/Technology /Doctorate Degree in Science Branches.

The Qualification(s) mentioned above must have been obtained by the Candidate through Regular mode of education.

The institute should have an experience of at least 5 years in the field of environmental pollution control/research & development/teaching environment related subjects.

The Chartered Engineer / Institute shall charge service charges from the industries / projects as per rates prescribed by the Board. The term of the Chartered Engineer / Institute will be for a period of two years, which may be further extended from time to time after assessing the performance of Chartered Engineer / Institute. The details of the policy of the Committee regarding empanelment of Chartered Engineer / Institute along with the application form are available on J&K Pollution Control Committee's website i.e. <https://jkpcb.jk.gov.in>.

Applications complete in all respects along with testimonials in support of qualifications and experience can be submitted on prescribed format during office hours on working days at the following addresses:

- 1) Parivesh Bhawan, Forest Complex, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu-180006
- 2) Silk Factory Road, Rajbagh, Srinagar - 190008.

This empanelment is a continuous process.

The Empanelment Committee shall consider all applications received during quarter in the second week of the next quarter for assessment of eligibility. The selection committee reserve the right to reject any or all the applications without assigning the reason.

DIPK-NB-1511/25  
DATED: 05-08-2025

(Ghansham Singh) JKAS  
Member Secretary 10-7-25  
JKPCC, Jammu

Form No 3

[See Regulation -13(1)(a)]

## DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT I)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35

Sector-17 A, Chandigarh

Case No. OA/1598/2024

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

Exh. No: 27945

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED  
VS  
Mr. Pervaiz Ahmad Chopan

To.

- (1) Mr. Pervaiz Ahmad Chopan  
S/o Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Chopan  
R/o Rinjee Sopore, Baramulla Jammu And Kashmir-193121
- (2) Mr. Muzaffar Ahmad Sheikh S/o Mr. Farooq Ahmad Sheikh, R/o Nadihal Baramulla Jammu And Kashmir-193101
- (3) Mr. Ishfaq Ahmad Wani S/o Mr. Mohammad Akbar Wani, R/o Wizer Wagoora Baramulla Jammu And Kashmir-193198
- (4) Mr. Dalbir Singh S/o: Mr. Gurbaksh Singh Bawa, R/o Singhpora, Kallan Baramulla, Jammu And Kashmir-193101
- (5) Mr. Yasir Akbar Dar S/o Mr. Mohammad Akbar Dar, R/o Khambiyar Pattan Baramulla Jammu And Kashmir-193121

### SUMMONS

Whereas , OA/1598/2024 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 25.04.2025

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 2190127.50/- (application along with copies of documents etc, annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you. the defendants are directed as under:-

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3 A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 20.08.2025 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 28.04.2025

Signature of the Officer Authorised to  
issue summons

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zaffar Mehraj Bazaz intend to rectify the name of my ward (Maryam Zaffar Bazaz) studying in the grade 4th, Session 2025, under Admission no 6365-20M, Section Green, in Mallinson girls school, Sheikh Bagh Forest Complex, Forest Lane, Lal Chowk, Srinagar, 190001, from Khadija Yousuf to Maryam Zaffar Bazaz which is inadvertently recorded in the school record. Should there be any objection in this regard, from any person or quarter, the same may be reported to the principal of the institute within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there is no objection from any quarter.

Zaffar Mehraj Bazaz  
Fo Maryam Zaffar Bazaz  
R/o Motiyar Kocha Widan Rainawari Srinagar

## NOTICE

I, Maqsooda Gulzar , had earlier opened a Saving Account at Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Lal Bazar, Srinagar branch under the name Masooda Gulzar W/o Gulzar Ahmad Beigh. Subsequently, I want to change my name on the account to Maqsooda Gulzar W/o Gulzar Ahmad Beigh R/o Qadeem Masjid Lane, Lal Bazar Srinagar as per Aadhar. I now intend to restore my name, Maqsooda Gulzar W/o Gulzar Ahmad Beigh R/o Qadeem Masjid Lane, Lal Bazar Srinagar, in the records of the said bank branch. Any person having any objection to this change may approach the concerned bank branch or relevant authority within 7 days from the date of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained, and the correction will be deemed final.

## NOTICE

I, Mehjabeen Akhter, had earlier opened a Saving Account at Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Botsha Mohalla, Srinagar branch under the name Mahjabeen Akhter D/o Gh Mohd Bhat. Subsequently, I want to change my name on the account to Mehjabeen Akhter W/o Firdous Ahmad Bhat R/o Kachlachpora, Amda Kadai, Lal Bazar Srinagar as per Aadhar. I now intend to restore my name, Mehjabeen Akhter W/o Firdous Ahmad Bhat R/o Kachlachpora, Amda Kadai, Lal Bazar Srinagar, in the records of the said bank branch. Any person having any objection to this change may approach the concerned bank branch or relevant authority within 7 days from the date of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained, and the correction will be deemed final.





## MAKYAJ Herbal Beauty Products Launches First Exclusive Store

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant step toward expanding its footprint in the Valley, MAKYAJ Herbal Beauty Products on Sunday launched its first exclusive store in the heart of Srinagar city, bringing its globally trusted herbal skincare range closer to local customers.

The store was inaugurated by District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Malik, who was joined by MAKYAJ CEO Shamim Malik, Co-founder Iqbal Mirza, and the company's Authorized Distributor for Jammu and Kashmir, Mir Feroz Ahmad. The ceremony witnessed the presence of a large number of dignitaries, business leaders, and enthusiastic visitors. Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest lauded the entrepreneurial initiative of CEO Shamim Malik and her team, commending their vision of introducing a global herbal brand to the local market.

"This venture will not only promote herbal wellness in the region but also create employment and entrepreneurial opportunities," he remarked after reviewing the store's stock and offerings.

CEO Shamim Malik, while interacting with the media, said that MAKYAJ products have garnered a loyal customer base across various parts of the world, and the move to open a dedicated store in Kashmir was driven

**AFTER THOROUGH ASSESSMENT AND STRONG DEMAND,** we made the decision to open this store so that people here can directly benefit from our authentic herbal range,"

by overwhelming demand and positive feedback from earlier visits to the region.

"This isn't our first interaction with Kashmir—we had visited before, met a great number of people, and received encouraging feedback. After thorough assessment and strong demand, we made the decision to open this store so that people here can directly benefit from our authentic herbal range," she said.

Mir Feroz Ahmad, the authorized distributor for J&K, expressed gratitude to the company leadership for their trust. "It is an honor to be a part of this mission. We are committed to ensuring that MAKYAJ reaches every corner of Jammu and Kashmir, helping the brand grow while also empowering local customers and retailers," he added.

The store launch marks a promising beginning for MAKYAJ in the Valley and is expected to attract significant footfall in the coming weeks.

## Tiranga Rally Held To Mark Article 370 Abrogation



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** To commemorate the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders and workers on Tuesday organized a 'Tiranga Yatra' in Srinagar, reaffirming their commitment to the ideals of unity and national integration.

Led by senior BJP leader and DDC member Srinagar, Er. Aijaz Hussain started from Pantha Chowk and culminated at the Clock Tower in Lal Chowk here.

The event witnessed participation from party workers, youth and members of civil society from the Lal Chowk constituency.

According to KNO, holding national flags and chanting patriotic slogans, participants walked in solidarity to celebrate what they termed as a "historic move that ushered in a new era of equality and constitutional unity in Jammu & Kashmir."

"This rally is not just a celebration, but a pledge to stand for 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' and the vision of One Nation, One Constitution, One Flag," said Hussain while addressing the gathering at Lal Chowk.

Meanwhile, the event concluded with patriotic speeches, stressing peace, progress and pride for a united India.

## SAD DEMISE

It is to inform with grief and sorrow that Munshi Suhail Nazir son of Late Munshi Nazir Ahmed resident of Sheribhat passed away in Bhogal, New Delhi on 04.8.2025 evening after a brief illness. He was a pious, down to earth and staunch believer of Ahlulbait a.s.

Burial will take place at his ancestral graveyard at Baba Mazar Zadibal today at around 8.00 p.m. His congregational prayers shall be observed on 07-08-2025 (Thursday) at 6.15 a.m in the morning at his ancestral graveyard at Gulistan-e-Baba Mazar Zadibal and afterwards the day long condolences will continue at Darul Safdar (opposite Baba Mazar Zadibal Graveyard) for the rest of the day.

### BEREAVED

Munshi Haseeb Suhail , Munshi Aleem Suhail (Sons)  
Syed Shabir Safvi, Syed Zaffar Safvi, Syed Fayaz Safvi



# Experts Urge Caution At Eateries After Rotten Meat Seizure



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Following the seizure of over 1,200 kilograms of rotten meat from a cold storage unit in Srinagar, health experts and dietitians have raised serious concerns about meat safety in local eateries and urged the public to exercise caution.

Dr. Nadeem Ahmad, a senior health officer, warned that consuming stale or poorly stored meat can cause food poisoning, gastrointestinal infections, and long-term digestive issues.

"Such incidents reflect regulatory lapses. Until accountability is ensured, people should avoid eating meat at

restaurants and dhabas," he said.

Echoing similar concerns, dietician Shazia Maqbool said that the source and storage conditions of meat in commercial outlets are often questionable. "Poor refrigeration, lack of hygiene, and unethical sourcing are widespread. Home-cooked food is a safer choice, especially for children and the elderly," she advised.

Earlier this week, Food Safety Department teams destroyed a large cache of decayed meat at Zakura Industrial Estate. The meat, reportedly headed to local markets, was foul-smelling and unfit for consumption.

The incident has triggered public outrage and alarm, with experts

urging surprise inspections, license cancellations of defaulting suppliers, and more transparency in the meat supply chain.

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has also demanded stricter food safety enforcement, stating that public health must not be sacrificed for profit.

Civil society groups and consumer forums have called on people to report dubious meat-selling practices and ask for hygiene disclosures from food outlets.

"It is better to err on the side of caution," Dr. Nadeem stressed. "Until the supply chain is verified as safe, avoid eating meat outside." (KNT)

## Several Legislators Call On CM Omar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Several Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) Tuesday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, to discuss a range of public concerns and development issues of their respective constituencies.

The legislators who met the Chief Minister included Ali Mohammad Dar (Chadoora), Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani (Beerwah), Saifuddin Bhat (Khan Sahib) and Javed Iqbal Choudhary (Budhal).

During the meeting, the MLAs brought to the Chief Minister's attention various constituency-specific issues relating to infrastructure development, public service delivery and implementation of welfare schemes. They urged for swift redressal of pressing public demands to ensure timely benefits reach the people.

The MLAs further urged the Chief Minister to take necessary measures for early opening of tourist destinations of Tosamaidan and Doodhpathri in Budgam district, as the livelihoods of the local population depend on these areas.



The legislators also expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for recently extending the power amnesty scheme to electricity consumers across Jammu and Kashmir. They lauded the initiative as a significant step towards providing relief to thousands of households grappling with non-payment of timely power bills resulting in interest and penalty on principal amount

and making it difficult for them to clear the payments.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah assured the legislators that the government remains committed to addressing the genuine concerns of the people and emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts between the administration and elected representatives for inclusive development.

## Sakeena Enquires About Health Of Injured Student



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Tuesday visited the SMHS Hospital Srinagar to enquire about the well-being of young student Adfar Imtiyaz of Ichigam Budgam who sustained serious injuries due to an electric shock incident.

During the visit, the Minister held detailed deliberations with the attending doctors and medical staff to get first-hand information about the student's condition and ongoing treatment. She directed the Principal GMC to ensure best

possible treatment to the injured student.

Expressing deep concern over the unfortunate event, the Minister also interacted with the family members and attendants of the injured student. She assured them every possible support from the government during this difficult time.

The Minister assured them that accountability will be fixed on this incident and swift action will be taken against those responsible for this negligence.

She also extended prayers for speedy recovery of the injured student and expressed solidarity with the family.

## Sgr Police Observe Integrity Pledge Ceremony

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a resolve effort to uphold the principles of transparency, accountability, and ethical governance, Srinagar Police on Tuesday observed the Integrity Pledge ceremony across all its units including District Police HQ, District Police Lines, Police Stations and Police Posts.

The pledge ceremony was organized as part of the Vigilance Awareness Week to emphasize the commitment of Jammu & Kashmir Police in promoting integrity and combating corruption in public service, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

Senior officers administered the oath to all the police personnel across all units of Srinagar Police, collectively affirming their dedication to ethical conduct in both professional and personal spheres.

Speaking on the occasion, senior officials reiterated the importance of fostering a corruption-free environment and maintaining public trust through honest and responsible policing.

They emphasized that integrity forms the backbone of effective law enforcement and good governance.

The Integrity Pledge initiative is in line with the directives of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), which encourages all public institutions to instill a strong culture of integrity and vigilance. Srinagar Police remains committed to serving the citizens with transparency, fairness, and unwavering ethical standards, the statement added.

- 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**  
11 Safar  
1447

### PRAYERS

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

### This Day In History

- 939- Battle at Simancas - Spain beats Moors
- 1726 - Treaty of Alliance between the Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI and the Russian Empire signed at Vienna
- 1824 - Battle at Junan - Simon Bolívar's army defeats the Spanish
- 1825 - Bolivia gains independence from Peru (National Day)
- 1861 - The British annex Lagos, Nigeria
- 1870 - Battle at Spicheren: Prussia beats France
- 1896- France annexes Madagascar
- 1914- WWI: Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia
- 1914 - WWI: Serbia declares war against Germany
- 1915 - The British land more troops at Suvla Bay on the northern shore of Gallipoli in an effort to break the stalemate on the peninsula during WWI
- 1918 - Ferdinand Foch becomes Marshal of France during WWI
- 1918 - World War I: Second Battle of the Marne ends
- 1919 - 1st air flight over a major body of water in Australia (Harry Butler)
- 1940- Estonia is annexed into Soviet empire
- 1945 - Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima by the US B-29 Superfortress "Enola Gay"
- 1960- The UN Security Council lay down rules which would allow UN forces to enter Congo
- 1990 - President Ghulam Ishaq Kahn dismisses Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan
- 1990 - UN Security Council votes 13-0 (2 abstentions Cuba and Yemen) to place economic sanctions against Iraq
- 1995 - Thousands gather in Hiroshima for the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the city
- 1996 - NASA announces that life may have existed on Mars after examining meteorite ALH84001, thought to be from Mars
- 1996 - Korean Air Flight 801 crashes in the United States territory of Guam, killing 228 people
- 1997 - Sri Lanka slams world record 952 for 6 in the 1st cricket Test against India in Colombo; Sanath Jayasuriya 340, Roshan Mahanama 225 - record partnership 576
- 1997 - Microsoft announces it will invest \$150 million in Apple Computer Inc
- 2008 - A military junta led by Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz stages a coup d'état in Mauritania, overthrowing president Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdallahi
- 2011 - A helicopter containing members of Navy SEAL 6 is shot down in Afghanistan killing 38
- 2013 18 people are killed and 55 are wounded by a car bomb explosion in Damascus, Syria
- 2013 - 25 people are killed and 60 are wounded by a series of car bombs in Baghdad, Iraq
- 2018 - South Sudan peace accord signed between South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar in Sudan attempting to end 5 years of civil war
- 2019- A quarter of humanity is running out of water with 17 countries under extreme water stress including Cape Town, Los Angeles and Bangalore, according to report by the World Resources Institute
- 2020 COVID-19 detected cases in Africa pass 1 million with 21,983 deaths
- -US COVID-19 death toll could reach 300,000 by 1 December, about 70,000 lives saved if masks worn consistently, according to University of Washington study
- 2021- Jamaican 100/200m champion Elaine Thompson-Herah claims her third track gold medal of the Tokyo Olympics as part of the winning Jamaican 4x100m relay team



## Air India Cancels Delhi-Milan Flight After Tech Snag

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Air India on Tuesday cancelled its flight from Delhi to Milan due to a technical snag detected in the Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft prior to departure.

"Flight AI137 scheduled to operate from Delhi to Milan on 5 August has been cancelled due to a maintenance task identified prior to departure which required additional time for rectification. Our ground colleagues in Delhi are making every possible effort to minimise the inconvenience caused to the passengers due to this unforeseen disruption," the airline said in a statement.

The airline also said that arrangements are being made to fly the passengers to Milan at the earliest.

"Hotel accommodation is being provided, and full refunds on cancellation, or complimentary rescheduling is also being offered to passengers based on their preference," it added.



**Flight AI137 scheduled to operate from Delhi to Milan on 5 August has been cancelled due to a maintenance task identified prior to departure which required additional time for rectification**

Details about the number of passengers were not disclosed.

The flight, to be operated with a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner plane, was scheduled to take off in the afternoon, as per information available on flight tracking website Flight-radar24.com.

In recent days, Air India has cancelled and delayed certain flights due to technical issues with aircraft.

## Priyanka: Judges Can't Decide Who's a True Indian



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday rallied behind Rahul Gandhi, her brother, over the Supreme Court's reprimand, saying it is not up to the judges to decide who is a "true" Indian.

She said her brother has the highest respect for the army and will never say anything against it. As the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi is liable to ask questions of the government, Priyanka said.

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the proceedings against Gandhi before a Lucknow court over his remarks on the army during his December 2022 Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The top court, however, censured the Congress leader, saying if he is a "true Indian," he would not say such a thing.

Asked about the court's observations, Priyanka told reporters at the Parliament House complex, "With due respect to the honourable judges of the Supreme Court, they do not decide who is a true Indian. It is the job of the oppo-

sition leader. It is his duty to ask questions and to challenge the government."

The Wayanad MP added, "My brother would never say anything against the Army. He holds the army in the highest respect. So it is a misinterpretation (of his remarks)." Later, she said, "With due respect to the judiciary, it is outside its purview to decide who is a true Indian and who is not."

"Justices can't decide on this. Rahul ji has always respected the army, soldiers and officers. In all his speeches and comments, that respect is reflected. It is the responsibility of the Leader of Opposition to ask questions of the government, and he fulfils that," she added.

Congress general secretary organisation K C Venugopal said Rahul Gandhi's remarks are the thoughts of every Indian.

"When we ask questions inside the House or outside, they (the government) do not answer. We are termed anti-national for asking questions. But we are the true Indians who demand answers," he told reporters in the Parliament House complex.



A Palestinian child poses for a picture from inside a shelter in the Daraj neighborhood in Gaza City on August 3, 2025. (AFP)

## UNICEF: Israel Killing 28 Children A Day In Gaza

Trans Asia News

New York: UNICEF said in a post on X on Tuesday that the children are dying due to the regime's ongoing bombardment of the territory and its inhumane restrictions on the delivery of desperately needed humanitarian assistance.

"Death by bombardments. Death by malnutrition and starvation. Death by lack of aid and vital services," the UN agency wrote.

UNICEF reiterated that children in Gaza are in urgent need of food, clean water, medicine, and protection. "More than anything, they need a ceasefire – NOW."

Since Israel launched its devastating war on Gaza in October 2023, more than 18,000 children, roughly one every hour, have been killed.

In the last 24 hours alone, at least eight Palestinians, including one child, have starved to death in the besieged strip.

Israel is deliberately starving Gaza's youngest population through its continued blockade and the closure of all border crossings.

Last month, the Gaza Media Office warned that over 100,000 children, including 40,000 infants under the age of one, were facing imminent death due to the total lack of baby formula and nutritional supplements. It described the crisis as a "massacre in slow motion."

According to the office, Palestinian mothers have resorted to feeding their babies only water for days, in the absence of formula, while hospitals and health centers are overwhelmed with cases of acute and life-threatening malnutrition.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), out of the 74 malnutrition-related deaths recorded this year, 63 occurred in July alone – including 24 children under five, one child over five, and 38 adults.

WHO said most of these victims were declared dead on arrival at health facilities or died shortly afterwards, with their bodies showing clear signs of severe wasting. It warned that this crisis remains entirely preventable.

The UN special rapporteur on the right to food, Michael Fakhri, who first warned in early 2024 that Israel was orchestrating a campaign of deliberate mass starvation in Gaza, now says the international community cannot feign surprise at the horror unfolding.

"Israel has built the most efficient starvation machine you can imagine," Fakhri told the Guardian. "So while it's always shocking to see people being starved, no one should act surprised. All the information has been out in the open since early 2024."

"Israel is starving Gaza. It's genocide. It's a crime against humanity. It's a war crime," he stated.

## 'No Compromise on Sovereignty' Hezbollah Stands Firm on Weapons

The Cradle

BEIRUT: A member of Hezbollah's parliamentary bloc said on 5 August that the resistance group will not sign off on an agreement to "destroy Lebanon's sovereignty," hours ahead of a highly anticipated cabinet meeting set to discuss the issue of weapons.

Ali al-Miqdad, member of Hezbollah's Loyalty to the Resistance bloc, told Sputnik on Tuesday there has been a "media and political hype" around the session, aimed at portraying it "as pivotal or historic."

"The first and most important thing is to hold pivotal sessions to discuss crucial issues such as the occupied territories, prisoners, and reconstruction. Is this session necessary for Lebanon, or for the Israeli and American enemy?" Miqdad added, while condemning those in Lebanon who have "identified



with Israeli and American discourse."

"We will not sign a resolution that would destroy Lebanon's sovereignty and protection, or erase a large portion of the Lebanese people from existence," he went on to say.

"The solution to internal crises must be Lebanese, away from external pressures. The priority today is protecting the country from the existential threat. President Joseph Aoun is en-

trusted with the constitution. [Aoun] spoke of Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and the cessation of attacks, before referring to the issue of weapons as an internal Lebanese matter."

Miqdad also rejected the idea that the events of 7 May 2008 could repeat. At the time, clashes erupted across Beirut following a government call demanding the dismantlement of Hezbollah's telecommunication system.

## President's Rule in Manipur Extended by 6 Months

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Parliament on Tuesday approved a statutory resolution to extend President's Rule in Manipur for another six months beyond August 13.

The resolution, which was passed by the Lok Sabha last week, was approved by the Rajya Sabha, amid uproar by Opposition members over the issue of electoral rolls revision in Bihar.

As Opposition MPs continued their protests on SIR, Deputy Chairman Harivansh

tion improved after so many months of President's Rule or not? Minister should inform us... The Centre should take responsibility, removing an elected government and imposing President's Rule repeatedly is also not good," he said.

Moving the resolution for passage in the House, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said a rift was formed between two communities in Manipur due to a court order.

"A rift was created between two communities in Manipur due to an order of



Manipur was put under President's Rule in February this year after Chief Minister N Biren Singh stepped down, nearly two years after the ethnic conflict began in the state between the valley-based Meitei community and the hills-based Scheduled Tribe Kuki-Zo group of communities. (Representational image/File)

said it was a "constitutional obligation" to pass the resolution. "It's a statutory resolution. All of us, as MPs, have to follow constitutional provisions. These have a time limit within which it has to be disposed of..." Harivansh said.

He then asked YSRCP member Subhash Chandra Bose Pilli to speak on the resolution. Opposition MPs however started raising slogans against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls exercise with TMP MPs raising slogans while standing next to the YSRCP member.

BJD MP Muzibulla Khan said, "When Manipur law and order situation was bad, Article 356 was imposed. Today, the situation of law and order in Odisha is bad..." "Double engine government in Manipur failed.... Has the situa-

tion improved after so many months of President's Rule or not? Minister should inform us... The Centre should take responsibility, removing an elected government and imposing President's Rule repeatedly is also not good," he said.

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## DRDO Guest House Manager Held On Suspicion Of Spying For Pakistan

Press Trust Of India

Jaipur: Manager of a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) guest house was detained in Jaipur district on suspicion of spying for Pakistan, police said Tuesday.

Mahendra Prasad, a resident of Uttarakhand's Almora, was posted as the manager of DRDO guest house in Chandan area of Jaipur.

"He was detained on Mon-

day. A joint interrogation will be conducted today," Superintendent of Police, Jaipur, Abhishek Shivhare said.

"He is suspected to have provided sensitive information related to strategic operations and activities in the region," the police said.

DRDO conducts tests and trials of missiles and weapons in Pokaran firing range in Jaipur, and experts and officials involved in the process stay in the guest house.

**He is suspected to have provided sensitive information related to strategic operations and activities in the region**

## Satyapal Malik's Political Journey From Loyalist To Controversial Critic

New Delhi: iVeteran politician Satyapal Malik's five-decade-long political career spanned across multiple political parties and included several high-profile gubernatorial appointments before he transitioned into an outspoken critic of the very establishment he had served.

He served as the governor of four states — Bihar (2017), Jammu and Kashmir (2018), Goa (2019), and Meghalaya (2020). But his most impactful assignment commenced in August 2018, when he was named the governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

The tenure saw two significant events — the 2019 Pulwama attack, in which 40 CRPF personnel lost their lives, and the August 5, 2019 revocation of Article 370 and the division of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories — Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Malik was the last governor of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Malik, 79, who had been hospitalised for some time, passed away in a Delhi hospital on Tuesday, which marks the sixth anniversary of Article 370 revocation.

Though he rose to prominence as a loyalist in BJP, his recent years have been characterised by his vociferous condemnation of the central government's policies, rework-

ing his public image from that of a seasoned administrator to that of a vocal dissident. From Jammu and Kashmir, he had been relocated to Goa, where his relationship with the state government soured as he was

(Obituary)

openly critical of its Covid response and accused it of corruption. His term in Goa came to an abrupt halt and he was posted to Meghalaya, his final assignment.

On retirement from governorship, he publicly confronted the central government over crucial matters, which included a contention that the Pulwama attack was an outcome of governmental indifference, and vocally backed the farmers' protests against the three central laws, contending



that the government had not listened to them.

During his last days of life, Malik was also

named in the CBI chargesheets filed in May this year in connection with the alleged corruption in the Rs 2,200 crore Kiru

Hydro power project. He strongly refuted the charges from his hospital bed, calling it "political vendetta".

Malik was born on July 24, 1946, in the Baghat district of Uttar Pradesh. His political journey started as a student leader with socialist ideology but his career was later characterised by party hopping as he switched from the Bharatiya Kranti Dal (BKD) to the Congress, then the Janata Dal and finally BJP.

The Jat leader was first elected to the Uttar Pradesh Assembly in 1974 on Charan Singh's BKD party.

Malik was elected twice to the Rajya Sabha — from 1980 to 1986 and then from 1986 to 1989 — before he decided to contest the Lok Sabha elections on the Janata Dal ticket. He won from the Aligarh parliamentary seat.

The then VP Singh government appointed him as the Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism.

After the fall of the VP Singh government and the subsequent turmoil in the Janata Dal, Malik switched to BJP, where he became a party vice-president and also acted as in-charge of its Kisan Morcha (farmers' cell).

PTI



## BJP Celebrates Anniversary Of Art 370 Abrogation



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir BJP unit on Tuesday marked the anniversary of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A with celebrations across all the Union Territory.

From cities to border villages, BJP activists held public programmes, hoisted the tricolour, organised 'Tiranga Yatras', and conducted patriotic events to commemorate the historic decision taken on August 5, 2019, by the Narendra Modi-led central government.

J&K BJP president Sat Sharma, while addressing a gathering in Akhnoor, said that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A has brought constitutional unity, equal rights, and dignity to every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir.

"This day reminds us of our collective achievement, which led to the welfare of the neglected and oppressed communities of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

J&K BJP general secretary Ashok Koul said that the historic step of nullifying Articles 370 and 35A has ushered in a "new dawn" of development and governance in the Union Territory. "The BJP is reaching the last person in the queue, with the benefits of welfare schemes now flowing uninterrupted," he said.

All senior BJP leaders participated in different programmes organised across Jammu and Kashmir, reaffirming the party's commitment to building a new Jammu and Kashmir.

According to PTI, the BJP leaders also participated in various programmes organised by different sections of society across the region, which witnessed large public participation in Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Kathua, Samba, Reasi, Ramban, Poonch and various districts of the Kashmir valley.

Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir BJP Pawan Sharma said that August 5 marks the "real independence" for the people here, as it was on this historic day in 2019 that the "shackles of Articles 370 and 35A" were removed, paving the way for true integration, equality, development, and dignity for all residents of the Union Territory.

"True democracy was restored on August 5. For the first time, people in all parts of J-K – be it the Gujjar-Bakawal community, refugees from West Pakistan, Valmiki Samaj, or the women who had been denied their rights – were given their constitutional due. This is the day when every citizen of J-K became an equal citizen of India in spirit and in law," said Sharma.

Sharma credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their "visionary and courageous leadership". The BJP SC Morcha marked the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 with great enthusiasm at its headquarters in Trikuta Nagar. Morcha president Dharminder Kumar said that the "bold decision" has brought Jammu and Kashmir closer to the rest of India, ensuring a brighter future for its residents.

BJP vice president Rekha Mahajan, who was a special invitee, highlighted the transformative impact of the abrogation, noting that it has brought about a "new era of progress, peace, and prosperity to the region".

## ₹13.12 Crore MGNREGS Wages Pending in J&K, Centre Informs Lok Sabha

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Government of India on Tuesday revealed that wage liabilities amounting to ₹13.12 crore are pending in Jammu and Kashmir under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) as of July 30, 2025.

Minister of State for Rural Development, Kamlesh Paswan, shared the information in a written reply in the Lok Sabha. He clarified that the pending dues belong to the ongoing financial year, while wage liabilities for the year 2024-25 have been fully cleared. "Wage payments are made directly into the beneficiaries' bank accounts using the Aadhaar-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system," he stated.

Paswan also noted that job cards are not deleted merely

due to failures in Aadhaar-bank account linkage. However, to streamline the process of job card deletions and restorations, the ministry issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in January 2025. This SOP mandates verification by the Gram Sabha, public display of proposed deletions, a redressal mechanism for grievances, and the settlement of any pending dues before cancellation.

The Minister further added that the release of funds under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is an ongoing process, with approvals being granted daily through the Public Finance Management System (PFMS) after necessary procedures.

He reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to timely wage disbursements and said any delays reported by states or stakeholders are actively addressed.

## J&K's GeM Procurement Share Drops To 0.4%

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir's share in total procurement through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has seen a consistent decline over the last five financial years, falling to just 0.40% in 2024-25, according to data provided in the Lok Sabha by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday.

In 2020-21, J&K accounted for 2.29% of the total procurement on GeM. This figure dropped to 1.41% in 2021-22, then further to 1.06% in 2022-23 and 0.57% in 2023-24 before reaching its current low of 0.40%.

Despite the decline in procurement share, seller participation in Jammu and Kashmir remains strong. The number of new sellers and service providers from the Union Territory onboarded on GeM in 2024-25 was 4,455, while 746 new buyers joined the

platform during the same period. In comparison, 6,318 new sellers joined in 2020-21, followed by 6,132 in 2021-22, 5,146 in 2022-23, and 4,852 in 2023-24, the data. A copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer reads.

The number of new buyer registrations, though lower than seller registrations, showed fluctuating trends, with 3,159 new buyers in 2020-21, 4,369 in 2021-22, 2,178 in 2022-23, and 1,211 in 2023-24, it added.

Responding to the parliamentary question, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada, said the total procurement value through GeM across India since inception has reached Rs 14.77 lakh crore.

The platform's usage by central government entities has significantly increased over time—from 54.5% in 2020-21 to 88.8% in 2024-25—while the share of State and UT procurement has dropped.

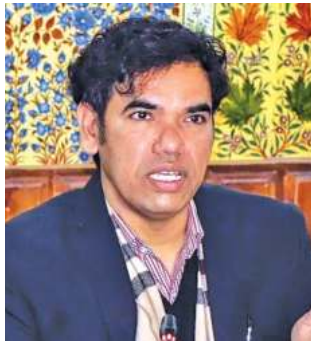
## Govt Jobs For Terror Victims' Kin A Tribute To Families: Div Com

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a moving gesture of solidarity, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, reaffirmed the government's commitment to families affected by terrorism, stating that support for them goes far beyond official protocols.

He was speaking at an event held at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar, where Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha handed over appointment letters for government jobs to the next of kin (NoKs) of terrorism victims.

Calling the occasion a moment of deep pride, Bidhuri remarked, "This is not merely a government event—it is a heartfelt tribute to the brave families who have endured unimaginable



loss. These letters, while official documents, carry a deeper meaning. They represent hope, solidarity, and our shared promise that these families are not alone in their pain."

He emphasized that the initiative under the leadership of LG Manoj Sinha is part of a compassionate approach aimed at healing and rebuilding

lives with dignity. "Let's not view today as a simple distribution of job letters. This day is about reaffirming our collective stand against terrorism and honoring those who stood resilient in the face of it," he added.

The Divisional Commissioner urged all to take the day as a pledge to uphold humanity and extend unwavering support to affected families. "This is about restoring not just livelihoods, but also dignity and recognition," he said.

He also noted that the presence of numerous families at the event underscored the strong bond between the government and its people. "We are here today to salute the courage and sacrifice of these families. Their strength inspires us all," Bidhuri said.

**LET'S NOT VIEW TODAY AS A SIMPLE DISTRIBUTION OF JOB LETTERS. This day is about reaffirming our collective stand against terrorism and honoring those who stood resilient in the face of it,"**

## Centre Hosts I&PR Conference To Boost Creative Economy

Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI:** The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting convened a high-level conference with Information & Public Relations (I&PR) Secretaries of States and Union Territories at Vigyan Bhawan in the national capital. The event, held on August 5, 2025, was chaired by Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr. L. Murugan, alongside I&B Secretary Shri Sanjay Jaju and other senior officials. The primary objective of the conference was to enhance Centre-State coordination in public communication, facilitate the seamless implementation of the Press Sewa Portal and revamped India Cine Hub, and explore collaborative frameworks for expanding India's film and creative sectors across regions.

During his address, Dr. Murugan emphasized the transformation of the Indian Cinema Hub into a unified single-window portal offering streamlined access to filmmaking permissions nationwide. With GIS-based features and simplified processes, the portal strengthens ease of doing business in the creative



sector. The Minister also underlined the government's commitment to grassroots cinema, particularly in empowering women and local communities through low-cost theatre models. Events like WAVES 2025 and IFFI Goa, he said, are drawing global attention and fostering cultural diplomacy. He also highlighted the launch of the Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT), which aims to train youth in animation, gaming, music, and more, thereby boosting India's creative economy.

I&B Secretary Sanjay Jaju stressed the importance of Centre-State collaboration in public communication and

media development. A major focus of the conference was onboarding State and UT officers to the Press Sewa Portal, developed under the PRP Act, 2023. This platform serves as a single-window for periodical registration and compliance. Similarly, the revamped India Cine Hub, which went live on June 28, 2024, now functions as a comprehensive film facilitation portal, providing access to filming permissions, location mapping, incentives, and services across government levels. Seven States and two UTs have fully integrated, with twenty-one States and six UTs onboarded through a Common Application Form.

## Farmers Demand Accountability As ₹400 Cr National Saffron Mission Fails

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Once known for producing the world's finest saffron, Pampore—the saffron town of south Kashmir's Pulwama district has been continuously witnessing a sharp decline in saffron cultivation and yield, with growers raising alarm over the complete failure of the National Saffron Mission (NSM) on the ground.

Farmers and stakeholders alleged that despite a Rs 400 crore investment under the National Saffron Mission, the project has failed to rejuvenate saffron cultivation or provide the much-needed sprinkler irrigation facilities.

Ashiq Hussain, a saffron grower from Pampore, said the entire project has remained confined to paperwork.

"We've been hearing about the mission for over 15 years now, but nothing has changed on the ground. There's a Spice Park in Dusoo and we have GI tagging, but what use is it when reproduction is on decline?" he asked.

He said that despite assurances, no functional irrigation system has been implemented, leaving fields dry and productivity stunted. "Currently, it is time for the irrigation process of our saffron fields but despite spending crores farmers still rely on rains," he said.

Growers said the production, in 2024 year was only 30-40% of the expected output, continuing a decade-long down-



ward trend and it is going to go down further if positive steps won't be taken.

According to official data, the area under saffron cultivation has dropped from 5,707 hectares in 1996-97 to just 2,387 hectares by 2019-20—a staggering 65% decline.

Ghulam Rasool, another distressed grower, warned of dire consequences if immediate measures are not taken. "Every year the yield is falling. If this continues, there will be no saffron left in Pampore by 2030," he said. "The government must act now—stop the blame game and focus on reviving this heritage crop."

Growers said that three main challenges plaguing the saffron industry include lack of irrigation infrastructure, especially sprinkler systems, unavailability of quality saffron corms, rapid conversion of saffron land for other agricultural or commercial uses.

Some farmers have already shifted to other crops like mustard, while others are moving

towards horticulture due to low returns from saffron.

The growers are now demanding an in-depth probe into the National Saffron Mission, alleging large-scale failure and possible mismanagement of funds.

"This was a Rs 400 crore project. Where has the money gone? Why are there no irrigation systems in place?" questioned one of the farmers. "Those responsible must be held accountable so that the people get the promised facilities and this dying crop gets a chance at revival."

They appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and the Agriculture Minister to personally intervene in the matter and ensure revival efforts are seriously pursued.

They said that if immediate and serious steps are not taken—especially regarding irrigation, seed availability, and land protection—the future of Pampore's saffron industry looks bleak—(KNO)

## Vital Trenz To Arihal Road In Shambles



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Trenz to Arihal road in South Kashmir continues to lie in a dilapidated condition, with locals expressing deep resentment over the authorities' failure to carry out macadamisation work for several years.

The road, which serves as a vital link connecting parts of Kulgam and Shopian to Srinagar via Pulwama, has turned into a nightmare for commuters.

The stretch passes through several key villages including Trenz, Sheikhpora, Sanzan, Al-lowpora, Marhang, Ahgam and Arihal.

Residents say the road is riddled with potholes, causing frequent damage to vehicles and posing serious risks to the lives of passengers, especially during emergencies.

"This road hasn't seen blacktopping in years. It's full of deep potholes and large cracks. We struggle every day, whether it's school children, patients or daily commuters," said Reyaz Ahmad, a local from Marhang.

Locals added that despite raising the issue repeatedly with concerned departments, no concrete steps have been

taken to improve the condition of the road.

"When MLAs and other political leaders could stage protests against the shifting of the Deputy CEO's office from Shopian, why can't they protest over this critical public issue that affects thousands daily?" questioned Mir Asif, a resident of Trenz.

People have demanded immediate intervention by the district administrations of both Pulwama and Shopian and political representatives to ensure that the road is macadamised at the earliest.

"We are not asking for luxury, just a basic right to safe and motorable roads. The silence of the authorities is disappointing," said another local from Arihal.

Locals urged the R&B department and the district administration to prioritize the Trenz-Arihal road in upcoming developmental plans and provide some relief to the suffering population.

Meanwhile, an official from R&B Pulwama told KNO that macadamisation for this stretch hasn't been sanctioned as of now. He, however, said that efforts are on to get it sanctioned and macadamise the road at an earliest.

## J&K Reports 5 Rabies Deaths In 2024: Centre

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir recorded five human rabies deaths in 2024, up from four in 2023 and none in 2022, according to data tabled in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying said the deaths were linked to the stray dog menace, which has been rising across several states.

The Centre said municipalities are responsible for controlling stray dog populations under Article 243(W) of the Constitution and are implementing the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme, which focuses on neutering and anti-



rabies vaccination.

It said that in November 2024 and again in July 2025, the advisories were issued to all states and Union Territories, including Jammu and Kashmir, to ensure effective ABC implementation and to develop required infrastructure.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of general public that I have changed my wards name from Muhammad Ruwwad UI Haq to Muhammad Ruwwad in future he will be know as Muhammad Ruwwad.

If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days after which no objection will be accepted.

Sajjad Hussain Sofi  
F/o Muhammad Ruwwad  
R/o Malla Bagh, Srinagar, Kashmir



### از نیابت پہلوان

عنوان :- درخواست: حمیدہ بیگم زوجہ مرحوم غلام نبی تانتیر سے سائنڈ پھالان تحصیل پٹن برادر

حصول لیگل ہیئر ٹیفیکٹ

اشتہار ہرغاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائنڈ ہے ایک درخواست لغرض حصول لیگل ہیئر ٹیفیکٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بنواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائنڈ کا شوہر غلام نبی تانتیر سے بمطابق ڈیٹھ سرٹیفیکٹ مورخہ 07-03-2018

کوفت ہو چکا ہے متوفی کے پسماندگان بذیل ہے۔

حمیدہ بیگم	56 سال	گھر یلکام زوجہ
انجلا زہد تانتیر سے	35 سال	مزدوری پر
نبی پور جان	32 سال	گھر یلکام دختر
زبیدہ اختر	29 سال	زیر تعلیم --
اشفاق احمد تانتیر سے	27 سال	-- پر
ربحانہ اختر	25 سال	-- دختر
توحیدہ نبی	23 سال	-- --

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کہہ نہیں ہے۔ سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کرا کر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا ریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد شہر اخبار رسالت کے اندر اندر آئے پنے عذر یا اعتراض واداستہ خدا کو دفتر می اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میجا کو نبی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

FKO



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KO VIEW

Kashmir's  
Fertility Crisis

If the current trends are anything to go by, rising infertility is one of the serious public health challenges faced by Kashmir. Diagnostic clinics, hospitals, and outreach workers across the Valley are reporting a significant increase in cases of hormonal disorders, early menopause, and reduced fertility. As a report in this paper makes it clear, the trend is no longer anecdotal as it is being observed across age groups.

More young couples are struggling to conceive. Women are reporting irregular menstrual cycles, early menopause, and polycystic ovary syndrome. Similarly, men are undergoing fertility testing. Clinics across the Valley are seeing rising numbers of such cases. The pattern is becoming difficult to ignore.

One key factor that has been found to enable this trend is the sharp increase in the use of chemical sprays in orchards. A decade ago, farmers typically used a few basic treatments. Today, many orchards receive up to 20 chemical applications a season, including plant growth regulators (PGRs) and systemic pesticides. These are not only stronger but also more harmful. Some are known to interfere with human hormones and have been linked to reduced fertility and certain cancers. These chemicals leave a long-term health impact, more so, when they are used near homes, schools and water sources.

There are other factors too: Kashmir is experiencing rising unemployment, particularly among educated youth. This has delayed marriage and family formation. According to doctors and social scientists, late marriages are now a key factor in declining fertility rates. Stress, financial uncertainty, and the growing social pressure to delay marriage until economic conditions improve are all contributing to this demographic shift.

The issue of infertility, in turn, has been found to further complicate the marital landscape, with childless couples facing heightened strains and increased likelihood of divorce. While once considered a taboo topic, divorce has gradually shed its stigma, empowering couples to seek liberation from unhappy unions.

Mental stress is another factor, and in fact, a more common one. Over the past few decades, Kashmir has become one of the saddest places in the country because of the rise in mental health issues, triggered by a combination of joblessness, family pressure, and social isolation. This, in turn, is not just taking a toll on the physical but also reproductive health of young Kashmiris.

Infertility in Kashmir is thus a layered issue. And to get this right not just needs proper health facilities to treat this epidemic but also a broader response to mental health crisis and joblessness, which, in turn, fuels late marriages and consequent infertility.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Investor Shield

For Kashmiris facing financial deceit, the real strength lies in knowing who to call.

Irshad Mushtaq

When a stock investment goes wrong or an insurance claim stalls, many Kashmiris feel helpless. Some turn to lawyers, others give up, but there's a better path: faster, cheaper, and built for ordinary people.

India's financial regulators are powerful tools. SEBI handles grievances related to shares, mutual funds, and ETFs. IRDAI steps in when insurers deny or delay claims. RBI resolves banking disputes. AMFI keeps fund houses and agents in check.

The process is simple. Start with the company: broker, bank, or insurer. If they ignore you, escalate. File a complaint online with the regulator, attach proof, and keep it factual. Most cases don't need lawyers.

This system works. In 2024, SEBI resolved over 80% of complaints in a month. RBI's Ombudsman handled over four lakh cases nationwide. Yet in Kashmir, very few people know about these platforms.

Financial literacy hasn't kept pace with digital growth here. Young Kashmiris are investing through apps. Older citizens are buying insurance. But when things go wrong, they're left without guidance.

Legal battles take years. Regulators act in weeks. And their word carries weight.

It's time Kashmir's investors claimed what's rightfully theirs: support from a system designed to serve them. No one should lose money for lack of knowledge.

Empower yourself. Learn the process. Use the tools. The system is there. You just have to knock.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Kashmir's Bloodline Stamp

It's no longer enough to say, "He was my father." The state wants it written, stamped, and sealed.



Mohammad Amin Mir

In a place like Kashmir, where not everyone was born in hospitals or registered with the municipality, the Blood Relation Certificate becomes the only proof of kinship.

A few weeks ago, a young woman from North Kashmir visited a local government office. Her father, a government driver, had passed away suddenly. She wanted to apply for a job under the compassionate appointment rule, a system meant to support families after the death of a government employee. But before anything else, she was asked to prove she was really his daughter.

She pulled out her Aadhaar card. Her name matched her father's, so did the ration card. Yet, the official told her these weren't enough. What she needed was a Blood Relation Certificate.

That one paper would decide whether she would get the job, or whether her family would slip deeper into hardship.

In many parts of India, families are still close-knit. In Jammu and Kashmir, those family ties must often be stamped and certified.

The Blood Relation Certificate may sound like a simple form, but it plays a big role in the lives of people here. It helps you claim land, get jobs, receive pensions, apply for visas, or even access welfare benefits.

For years, there were no clear rules on how to get this certificate. Some people got it easily, others were asked for endless documents.

In some places, officials below the required rank signed off. In other places, applications were delayed or denied without reason. That changed earlier this year.

On March 27, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir administration issued Statutory Order No. 75. This order laid out, in clear terms, who can issue a Blood Relation Certificate, what it can be used for, and what documents are needed.

It put the Tehsildar, the local revenue officer, in charge and made sure no one below that rank could sign it.

Now, to apply, you must submit an application, an affidavit,

identity proof, sometimes a death certificate, ration card details, and a verification report from the local patwari. You also need two witnesses to confirm your claim.

If all goes well, the certificate should be ready within 15 working days.

On paper, this sounds fair. In reality, things are more complicated.

In villages, patwaris are often overburdened. Some offices are understaffed. Field verification can take weeks. And if the case involves a land dispute or a large property, it might take months.

Sometimes, two people claim to be the child of the same deceased parent. Without birth certificates, which many older people

becomes even more difficult.

Even embassies now ask for this document.

When Kashmiris apply for family visas, especially to Canada, the Gulf, or the UK, the certificate often replaces a missing birth record.

In a place like ours, where not everyone was born in hospitals or registered with the municipality, the Blood Relation Certificate becomes the only proof of kinship.

So, what can be done to make this process better?

First, there should be a digital family database linked with Aadhaar and land records. This would help reduce fake claims and make verification faster.

Second, for high-value inheri-

This document matters more than most people think. It decides who inherits, who gets a job, who gets support, and who doesn't.

don't have, it's hard to verify.

Then there's pressure.

In politically sensitive areas, Tehsildars often face requests, or even demands, to approve or block certain certificates. Some applicants bring forged documents. Others exaggerate or hide facts in affidavits. For the officials on the ground, it's not always easy to spot the truth.

Still, the certificate remains important. It affects many lives.

Think of families where someone died in service: a policeman, a teacher, a government clerk. Their children or spouses apply for support jobs. Without this certificate, the process doesn't move.

Or think of landowners who pass away without leaving a will. The heirs must prove they're related to get their names on the property.

For children of second marriages, adopted children, or widows living away from home, this

tance cases, a public notice could be issued so others can raise objections if needed.

Third, short video recordings of applicants and their witnesses might help verify claims and discourage fraud.

And finally, Tehsildars must be given proper staff support, training, and protection from undue pressure.

This document matters more than most people think. It decides who inherits, who gets a job, who gets support, and who doesn't.

The new rules are a good step, but they will only work if they're followed fairly, everywhere.

At the heart of it, this is about saying: Yes, this person is family. And that should never take months to prove.

The author is a legal affairs writer based in South Kashmir.

Letter to Editor

Srinagar Is Losing More Than Manholes

In the last few weeks, more than 45 manhole covers have disappeared across the city. They were taken from Srinagar's main arteries, from roads that carry schoolchildren, elderly vendors, working women, and daily commuters.

The CCTV footage that recently surfaced is chilling in its normalcy. A man stops his auto-rickshaw, steps out, lifts a heavy manhole cover with practiced ease, loads it into his vehicle, and drives away. His movements are calm, unhurried, as if what he's doing is just another job.

We are used to blaming thefts on poverty, unemployment, or weak policing. But what this pattern shows is

something much worse: a moral drift that turns wrongdoing into routine.

Srinagar calls itself a Smart City now. We have LED-lit footpaths, gleaming bicycle tracks, and cameras on poles. Yet, when a child trips into an uncovered drain, what good are digital dashboards?

If a city has smart infrastructure but people stop caring, what's left?

Engineers with the Srinagar Smart City Limited have been racing against time out of a growing fear: that someone might fall in and lose their life. That fear shouldn't be carried by engineers. It should be shared by citizens. It should be ours.

An open manhole is a risk map

carved into asphalt. Every uncovered hole is a question about where we stand as a society. Are we so absorbed in ourselves that we no longer notice danger unless it touches us? Or have we convinced ourselves that it's someone else's problem?

This is how civic decay begins. It begins with small silences. We don't speak when we see someone prying open public property. We simply step over the danger, hoping it won't find us next.

But the danger is spreading. If manhole covers can disappear in broad daylight, what stops someone from stripping electric wires, uprooting traffic signals, or disabling

street lights?

Once theft becomes normalized, there's no telling what's off-limits.

Technology can make a city efficient, but only citizens can make it safe.

The smarter the city becomes, the harder the mirror it holds to its people. These manhole thefts don't just expose roads. They expose us.

And if we keep ignoring them, we risk falling into a deeper hole, one no engineer can fix.

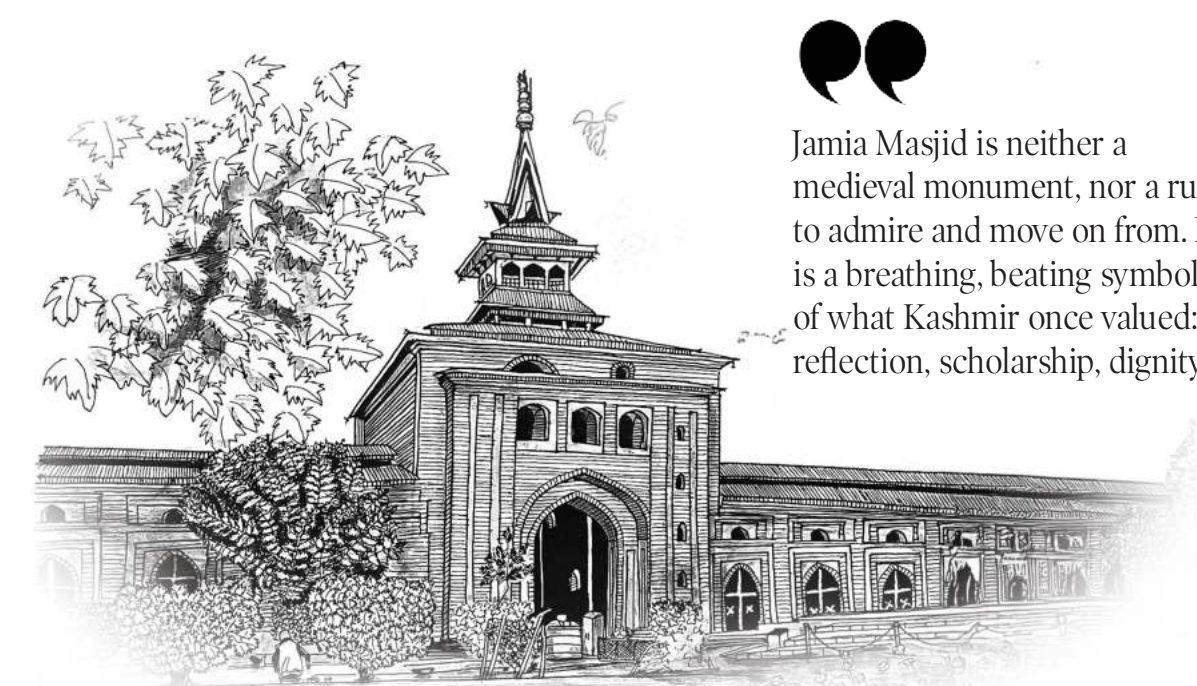
Sincerely,

Kaisar Ahmad Malla  
Magam, Budgam



# Grace of Grand Mosque

Jamia Masjid Srinagar has survived fire, floods, and centuries of change. What it may not survive is our indifference.



Zain ul Abi Din Raina

On a recent Friday, I stood near the arched wooden gate of Jamia Masjid and watched a motorcycle slide past a group of elderly men removing their shoes for prayer. It weaved between street vendors shouting over each other, then stopped beside a tea stall where the mosque's old stone wall had turned into a shelf for paper cups.

This wasn't a surprise. It's become a scene we've grown used to. And that's exactly the problem.

Jamia Masjid is more than 600 years old, a relic of grace and faith from an era when buildings were made to reflect the soul.

Commissioned in 1402 by Sultan Sikandar Shah and expanded by his son, the beloved Budshah Zain-ul-Abidin, it was designed not only as a mosque but as a symbol of harmony, community, and learning.

Its 378 deodar pillars still hold it up, even after three devastating fires and cycles of war, flood, and lockdown.

Yet what it faces today feels more dangerous than those past calamities. It's the slow decay that comes from within, from carelessness, overcrowding, and a failure to draw the line between reverence and routine.

The streets around Jamia used to grow silent before prayers. Now, they choke with honking vehicles, loud bargaining, selfie sticks, and the occasional fight over parking.

The lanes leading to the mosque, historically walked with wuzu and inward

focus, now double as shortcuts for commuters and commercial overflow.

On Fridays, the crowd spills far beyond the courtyard, but so does the chaos.

The real damage isn't just the physical strain from structural vibrations or air pollution, though those are serious. It's the erosion of sanctity.

People come and go, barely noticing they've walked into a 15th-century house of prayer. Some smoke outside its gates. Some vendors blast music beside the abutment tank.

And in the middle of all this, a prayer call still rises, even if few pause long enough to hear it.

Growing up, I was taught that Jamia Masjid was a madrasa for the heart, a space where sermons sparked ideas and softened egos. It was a living witness to Kashmir's philosophical and political life, a place where we were reminded, every Friday, what it meant to be part of a collective.

Today, those lessons are drowned out by commerce and crowd. The mosque still stands, but what it stands for is fading.

This erosion didn't happen in a day. It came with people treating the mosque like an Instagram stop or a shortcut between errands. It came with authorities turning away, too busy or too uncertain to protect what clearly needs protecting.

There are practical steps we can take. Designate the entire mosque area as a pedestrian-only zone. Establish parking lots at a respectful distance. Regulate vendors, ban vehicles near the prayer space,



Jamia Masjid is neither a medieval monument, nor a ruin to admire and move on from. It is a breathing, beating symbol of what Kashmir once valued: reflection, scholarship, dignity.

and launch an awareness campaign led by religious leaders and historians who understand what's at stake.

But we also need something deeper: a cultural reawakening to the idea that sacredness is worth preserving.

Jamia Masjid is neither a medieval monument, nor a ruin to admire and move on from. It is a breathing, beating symbol of what Kashmir once valued: reflection, scholarship, dignity.

Letting it dissolve into noise and convenience is a rejection of that legacy.

I say this not as an academic or an outsider. I'm from Gund Sonamarg, but I have spent years walking Srinagar's lanes, praying beneath Jamia's wooden canopy, feeling its centuries-old coolness in summer and its worn stone warmth in winter.

I've sat under its chinar, watching children play, listening to old men speak of things that no longer made it to street shrill. I've felt the weight of that place, and I know what it meant to people who had little else to hold on to.

We say we want to protect our heritage. Then we must prove it. We must stop treating this mosque like a through-lane and start treating it like the heart of our spiritual and civic life again. If we fail to do this, the building may remain, but its meaning will not.

And one day, our children will walk through it and feel nothing.

That's what scares me most.

The author hails from Gund Sonamarg.

# Deconstructing Dabashi

In turning doctrine into metaphor, Dabashi replaces centuries of Shia thought with psycho-political impressions.

Shujaat Hussain

For decades, Hamid Dabashi has cut a striking figure in academic and cultural circles.

An Iranian-American professor at Columbia University, he's known for his wide-ranging commentaries on cinema, Islam, revolution, and exile.

His prose is lyrical, references layered, and style unapologetically bold.

Shi'ism: A Religion of Protest, published in the wake of dashed hopes following the Iranian revolution, carries his familiar voice: part theorist, part memoirist, and always a provocateur.

But this time, Dabashi's literary confidence comes at a cost.

His core claim, that Shi'ism is not a theological system but a cultural posture rooted in historical grief, raises eyebrows for reasons deeper than scholarly disagreement.

The book may be stirring, but it trades doctrinal accuracy for poetic mood, and collapses centuries of intellectual tradition into a metaphor of endless defiance.

In Dabashi's hands, Shi'ism becomes a ritualized resistance narrative.

From the martyrdom of Imam Hussain at Karbala to the chants of modern protestors, Dabashi reads the entire tradition as a theatre of dissent.

For him, power corrupts theology, while defeat preserves its soul.

This view, while emotionally charged, struggles to align with Shia sources or the tradition's own self-understanding. Faith, in this telling, lives only in mourning. Once it governs, it dies.

The problem isn't that Dabashi notices protest within Shia history, any student of Karbala or the Safavid era can confirm that defiance has deep roots. The issue is that he elevates protest into a theology of its own, sidelining core doctrinal pillars: divine unity, prophecy, and most crucially, the Imamate, divinely guided leadership central to Shia belief.

These concepts form a framework of knowledge, authority, and meaning. They cannot be reduced to metaphors of rebellion without losing their spiritual substance.

Dabashi's approach leans heavily on psychoanalysis. He recasts the Karbala tragedy as a site of inherited trauma, drawing from Freudian motifs rather than Qur'anic exegesis or hadith literature.

The Shia community, he suggests, is locked in an unconscious cycle of guilt and revolt. But grief in Shi'ism is a moral covenant, rather than a psychological wound. Commemorating Hussain's sacrifice is a pledge to justice, a reaffirmation of divine principles. It isn't an act of helpless mourning.

Dabashi misses this.

The omissions pile up. There is barely a serious discussion of jurisprudence, scripture, or theology. Names like Shaykh al-Tusi, Allama Hilli, or Ayatollah Sistani don't enter

his landscape. Instead, we get Zoroastrian imagery, Iranian cinema, and flashes of revolutionary nostalgia.

Even basic facts falter: claims about the Prophet's miracles, the Prophet's family, and early Islamic history are drawn from contested accounts and presented as fact, often at odds with Shia teachings.

His scope is equally narrow. While claiming to speak for global Shi'ism, the book remains steeped in post-revolutionary Iranian politics.

Shia communities in Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, and East Africa receive scant attention, and when they do appear, they serve as supporting actors in an Iran-centered drama.

The diversity of practice, interpretation, and leadership across the Shia world is flattened into a single narrative of disillusionment.

Gender is another blind spot. Central female figures, Fatimah al-Zahra and Zaynab bint Ali, are treated briefly, if at all. Yet their roles in theology, history, and devotional life are indispensable.

Shia spirituality, like its politics, is shaped by women's voices, acts of remembrance, and claims to authority. To overlook them is to misread the tradition.

Perhaps the most troubling assertion in the book is its conclusion: that Shi'ism, once it seizes power, collapses. Here, Dabashi offers not theology, but resignation. For him, the tradition's only truth lies in resistance, never in responsibility.

But Shia thinkers have long grappled with questions of ethical rule, legal reasoning, and statehood. Imam Ali's caliphate, though marked by turmoil, was rooted in a vision of just governance. Jurists across centuries have sought to balance divine law with worldly responsibility. Shi'ism has never feared power. It has tried to sanctify it.

To be clear, Shi'ism: A Religion of Protest isn't without value. It captures a moment in Iranian intellectual history, a sense of despair among those who saw revolution fade into repression.

As a political memoir filtered through religious symbolism, it has power. But as a study of Shi'ism, it falls short. It mistakes poetry for theology, nostalgia for scholarship.

Faith, especially one as rich and contested as Shi'ism, deserves more than metaphor. It requires engagement with scripture, tradition, and the lived realities of its followers.

Shi'ism doesn't vanish in authority. It struggles to make authority just. Its truth isn't silenced by history, it lives through it.

Dabashi wanted to write about protest. In doing so, he forgot to listen to the faith he sought to interpret.

The author is an English poet and an avid reader of Islamic philosophy, theology, and political thought. He lives in Budgam, Kashmir.

# Is Your Health Really Covered?

Non-communicable diseases are silently crippling Indian families. It's time for insurance to focus on prevention, not just treatment.

Bhaskar Nerurkar

Outside a clinic in Srinagar, a 42-year-old mechanic waits for a blood test he can't afford. His fingers are swollen, his breathing is heavy. For months, he brushed off the signs, until his body gave out.

His insurance covers hospitalization, not the check-ups that might have caught the disease earlier. Now he's being screened for chronic heart failure.

He's one of millions stuck in a healthcare catch: health insurance in India is growing, but most plans only kick in after you get sick.

The idea of insurance that helps people stay healthy in the first place still feels unfamiliar, when it should be foundational.

Across India, families are paying a steep price for this gap in coverage.

More than half of all deaths in the country are now caused by non-communicable diseases, conditions like heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory disorders.

These non-contagious diseases don't come from polluted water or mosquito bites. They grow silently from our diets, routines, and stress.

And they are growing fast. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have dominated India's disease burden for over three decades. The numbers are staggering.

The economic cost of NCDs in India is projected to exceed 511 lakh crore (US\$6.2 trillion) by 2030. Obesity and overweight-related illnesses alone cost the country 2.8



lakh crore annually, more than 1% of our entire GDP.

These numbers translate into skipped meals to pay for medicine, lost workdays, breadwinners gone too soon. They show up in overcrowded emergency rooms, and in the silence of funeral homes.

And many of these tragedies could have been prevented.

Health insurance in India has made progress. Schemes like Ayushman Bharat have improved access for many. Private players have expanded offerings. But most policies are still built around one model: wait until someone

falls sick, then pay the bill.

That model is outdated.

A modern healthcare system must shift from treating illness to preventing it. And that starts with redefining what insurance should cover.

A preventive healthcare plan is a life-saving tool. It covers regular health check-ups, early diagnostic screenings, vaccinations, diet and fitness consultations, even mental health support. Instead of reacting to disease, such plans reduce its chances of ever occurring.

This is about addressing systemic risk than pampering policyholders with wellness

perks.

When people have access to early screening, they're more likely to detect blood pressure spikes before strokes, monitor cholesterol before heart attacks, or catch sugar imbalances before diabetes sets in.

Apart from lives, preventive care saves money, time, and human potential.

Yet, the majority of Indian insurance policies don't include preventive benefits, or offer them only as costly add-ons. That has to change.

Globally, the preventive healthcare market is booming. It's expected to grow to US\$197 billion by 2025, at a compound annual growth rate of 22%.

We're seeing signs of momentum in India. Some forward-looking insurance providers now offer preventive packages with broader benefits, ranging from non-accidental dental services and wellness consultations to diabetes management plans and family floater options.

These innovations matter. A family floater plan, for instance, allows all members to get regular preventive check-ups under one umbrella. Some providers are even introducing child-specific plans that ensure kids are monitored closely from birth to adolescence.

Yet access remains deeply unequal. Lower-income households often skip check-ups due to out-of-pocket costs. Many aren't aware such plans exist. And policy frameworks have yet to catch up with the urgency of the moment.

We're facing a public health challenge that

requires coordination between government, insurers, employers, and citizens. Preventive care should be a core feature of all health insurance.

Every delayed diagnosis has a human story. A driver in Bangalore who ignores chest pain until it's too late. A homemaker in Jaipur who lives with chronic fatigue, unaware it's a symptom of diabetes. A student in Anantnag who faints in class and wakes up to a diagnosis that could have been prevented with a routine test.

These are the costs of a reactive system.

India cannot afford to treat healthcare like disaster response. We must shift our thinking. Insurance should help people stay healthy, not simply cover them when they're already unwell.

Preventive care is a moral imperative. It reduces the national disease burden, strengthens workforce productivity, and protects families from financial ruin.

It's a way of telling every Indian: your health matters before you get sick.

As insurers, policymakers, and citizens, we must ask: why are we still waiting for people to fall ill before offering help?

The tools are here, the data is clear, and the urgency is real.

What we need now is the will to act.

The author heads the Health Administration Team at Bajaj Allianz General Insurance. This piece has been edited for clarity and editorial precision.







## J&K Bank MD Inaugurates Centralized Processing Centre At Zonal Office Delhi

Chairs corporate customer meet; emphasizes strengthening Bank-Client partnerships



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR-** Reinforcing its commitment to efficient credit delivery and enhanced customer service, J&K Bank Tuesday inaugurated a Centralized Processing Centre (CPC) for Mid-size & Large Corporates at its Zonal Office in Delhi.

MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee inaugurated the facility in presence of Divisional Head (Rest of India) Khurshaed Muzaffar, DGM (CPC) Dorjee Angchuk and other senior officers of the Bank.

The newly established CPC aims to streamline the processing of credit proposals above Rs 10 crore, ensuring faster turnaround time (TAT), localized decision-making, and improved service experience for corporate clients.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "Establishing Centralized Processing Centres for mid-size and large corporate credit is a strategic move towards operational excellence and customer-centricity. We are confident that these CPCs will not only improve our responsiveness but also strengthen the trust and confidence our corporate clients place in us."

He further added, "As we continue to expand our corporate portfolio across geographies, we want to ensure that our clients

experience promptness, transparency and consistency in service. The Delhi CPC is a significant step in that direction."

Later in the day, the MD & CEO also chaired a corporate customer meet at the Zonal Office, accompanied by senior officials, including the Divisional Head (ROI) Khurshaed Muzaffar, DGM (S&C) Kirti Sharma and Zonal Head (Delhi) Rosy Tickoo. The session saw participation from some of the Bank's leading corporate clients from the region.

During the interactive session, MD & CEO emphasized the importance of direct feedback from customers in improving processes and delivering superior service.

"Our relationship with corporate clients is symbiotic. Their success is our success. That's why we value their insights, suggestions and expectations as we move toward creating value together," he remarked.

Sharing his thoughts on the occasion, Divisional Head Khurshaed Muzaffar said, "The launch of the CPC at Delhi Zone is part of our broader vision to create a strong, responsive, and future-ready corporate banking framework. It will not only accelerate decision-making but also deepen our engagement with high-value clients."

## ED Attaches ₹42 Crore Assets Of Indian Held In US Crypto Fraud

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** Assets worth Rs 42.8 crore of an Indian man, arrested in the US for allegedly stealing USD 20 million through a fake website that mimicked crypto exchange Coinbase, have been attached under the anti-money laundering law, the Enforcement Directorate said on Tuesday.

The federal probe agency identified the accused as Chirag Tomar.

The ED initiated investigation in the case on the basis of media reports which said Tomar was arrested in the US for stealing more than USD 20 million through "use of fake or spoofed" sites mimicking the cryptocurrency exchange website Coinbase.

Tomar is currently lodged in jail in the US, the agency said in a statement.

Describing the modus operandi of the alleged fraud, the ED said a search engine optimisation technique was deployed and when the Coinbase website would be searched, the fake website would appear at the top.

The fake website appeared "exactly similar" to the trusted website except the contact de-



tails, the agency said.

When the users used to enter the login credentials, the spoofed website would show it as wrong and the users would contact the number given in the fake website connecting them to a designated call centre "managed" by Tomar, the ED said.

Once the fraudsters gained access to the victim's accounts, they would quickly "transfer" the victim's cryptocurrency holdings to crypto wallets under their control.

"The stolen cryptocurrency would then be sold on various crypto platforms and converted into Indian rupee," the ED said.

"Subsequently, the money was transferred in the bank accounts of Chirag Tomar and his family members and was used to buy immovable properties," it said.

## Anil Ambani Appears Before ED In 17000 Cr Loan 'Fraud' Case

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani on Tuesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate here for questioning in a money laundering case linked to alleged multiple bank loan fraud cases worth crores of rupees against his group companies.

The businessman reached the office of the central probe agency in central Delhi in an EV vehicle around 10:50 am.

The statement of the 66-year-old businessman is being recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), official sources said.

The summons come after the agency conducted searches at 35 premises of 50 companies and 25 people, including executives of his business group, in Mumbai on July 24.

The ED has notified a Look Out Circular (LOC), as per standard operating procedure in large bank 'fraud' cases, against Ambani even as some executives of his group have also been summoned to appear for questioning during the week as part of this probe.

In a related case, the ED had recently arrested Partha Sarathi Biswal, the MD of an Odisha-based company, for allegedly providing a fake bank guarantee of Rs 68 crore for an Anil Ambani Group company.

Biswal may be confronted with Ambani during the latter's questioning, the sources said.

The action against Ambani pertains to alleged financial irregularities and collective loan "diversion" pegged at more than Rs 17,000 crore by multiple group companies of Anil Ambani, including Reliance Infrastructure (R Infra).

The first allegation pertains to "illegal" loan diversion of around Rs 3,000 crore, given by the Yes Bank



to the group companies of Ambani between 2017 and 2019.

The ED suspects, the sources said, that just before the loan was granted, Yes Bank promoters "received" money in their companies. The agency is investigating this nexus of "bribe" and the loan.

The sources said the ED is also probing allegations of "gross violations" in Yes Bank loan approvals to these companies, including charges such as back-dated credit approval memorandums and investments proposed without any due diligence/credit analysis in violation of the bank's credit policy.

The loans are alleged to have been "diverted" to many group companies and "shell" (bogus) companies by the entities involved.

The agency is also looking at some instances of loans given to entities with weak financials, a lack of proper documentation of loans and due diligence, borrowers having common addresses and common directors in their companies, etc., according to the sources.

The money laundering case stems from at least two CBI FIRs and reports shared by National Housing Bank, SEBI, National Financial Reporting Authority and Bank of Baroda with the ED, they had said.

These reports, the sources said, indicate there was a

"well-planned and thought after scheme" to divert or siphon off public money by cheating banks, shareholders, investors and other public institutions.

The other allegation being probed by the ED, on the basis of a SEBI report, is that R Infra "diverted" funds disguised as inter-corporate deposits (ICDs) to Reliance Group companies through a company named CLE.

It is alleged that R Infra did not disclose CLE as its "related party" to avoid approvals from shareholders and audit panels.

Reliance Group spokesperson had denied any wrongdoing and said in a statement that the allegation regarding alleged diversion of Rs 10,000 crore to an undisclosed party was a 10-year-old matter and the company had stated in its financial statements that its exposure was only around Rs 6,500 crore.

Reliance Infrastructure had publicly disclosed this matter on February 9, 2025, nearly six months ago, the statement said.

"Through mandatory mediation proceedings conducted by a retired Supreme Court judge and the mediation award filed before the Honourable Bombay High Court, Reliance Infrastructure arrived at a settlement to recover its 100 per cent exposure of Rs 6,500 crore," it said.

## IT Dept Finds ₹30,444 Cr Undisclosed Income In FY25, Held 465 Surveys

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** The Income Tax department has conducted 465 surveys, leading to detection of undisclosed income of Rs 30,444 crore in the 2024-25 fiscal year, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha said whenever any credible information of 'direct tax' evasion comes to its notice, it takes suitable actions, including surveys, search and seizure

operations, assessments, to bring to tax, the undisclosed income.

During FY25, a total of 465 surveys were conducted, which led to de-

tection of undisclosed income of Rs 30,444 crore.

In FY24 and FY23, 737 and 1,245 surveys were conducted by the I-T department and undisclosed income of Rs 37,622 crore and 9,805 crore, respectively, were detected.

The total number of groups searched during FY25 stood at 1,437 and assets seized stood at Rs 2,504 crore.

In FY24, 1,166 groups were searched leading to total asset seizure of Rs 2,555 crore. In FY23, Rs 1,766 crore assets were seized following searches in 1,437 groups.



## Stock Markets Slide Ahead Of RBI Policy Decision, Selling Rush In RIL, HDFC Bank

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI-** Equity market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Tuesday amid selling in oil & gas and banking shares ahead of the Reserve Bank's monetary policy announcement.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 308.47 points or 0.38 per cent to close at 80,710.25. During the day, it declined 464.32 points or 0.57 per cent to hit an intraday low of 80,554.40.

The broader NSE Nifty fell 73.20 points or 0.30 per cent to close at 24,649.55. During the session, it slipped by 132.45 points or 0.53 per cent to 24,590.30.

Among Sensex shares, Adani Ports, Reliance Industries, Infosys, ICICI Bank, Eternal, BEL, HDFC Bank, Power Grid, ITC and

Sun Pharmaceutical were the major laggards.

However, Titan, Maruti, Trent, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, Tech Mahindra, State Bank of India, L&T, HCL Technologies and NTPC were among the gainers.

The BSE smallcap gauge went lower by 0.27 per cent and the midcap index by 0.14 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, Oil & Gas fell by 0.96 per cent, Energy by (0.74 per cent), FMCG by (0.61 per cent), Services and Focused IT by (0.59 per cent each), IT and Realty by (0.52 per cent each) and Healthcare by (0.48 per cent).

Auto, Power, Capital Goods, Commodities, Industrials, Consumer Durables, Metal and Telecommunication were the only gainers.

"Despite positive global cues, domestic markets

remained rangebound in negative territory. Oil & gas stocks led the decline amid concerns about future import restrictions on Russian oil. Weakness persisted on Pharma and IT stocks which are among the largest exporters to the US. Sentiment was also weighed by INR depreciation.

"In contrast, auto stocks continue to gain traction from July volumes," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments, said.

Investors are now awaiting the upcoming RBI policy decision, where market has marginal expectations of a rate cut, in the near-term. Currently, the preferences of investors are for domestic consumption-driven stocks and sectors holding limited volatility to external factors, Nair added.

## Gold Jumps ₹800 To ₹ 98,820/10 G; Silver Rallies ₹2,000

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** Gold prices jumped by Rs 800 to Rs 98,820 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday due to heavy buying by stockists, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had settled at Rs 98,020 per 10 grams in the previous market close.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity in the national capital appreciated by Rs 700 to Rs 98,500 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) on Tuesday. The precious metal had closed at Rs 97,800 per 10 grams on Monday.

"Gold prices rose on Tuesday, supported by demand for safe haven and an increasing consensus that the US Federal Reserve will restart its interest rate-

cutting cycle in the upcoming meeting next month.

"Dovish remarks from Federal Reserve officials, along with last week's disappointing job market report, led traders to become more optimistic about potential rate cuts at the Fed's upcoming meeting in September, boosting gold traders sentiment," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst, Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

As per the Sarafa Association, silver prices rallied Rs 2,000 to Rs 1,12,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Tuesday. The white metal had finished at Rs 1,10,000 per kg in the previous market session.

"Spot gold extended its rally to close nearly 0.30 per cent higher on Monday at USD 3,375 per ounce as US

factory orders fell in June.

"The US President Donald Trump threatening India with significantly steep tariffs over Russian oil purchases also boosted the metal as the Indian rupee fell to Rs 88/dollar in the NDF market," Praveen Singh, Associate Vice-President, Fundamental currencies and commodities at Mirae Asset Share Khan, said.

Meanwhile, spot gold fell by USD 20.95 or 0.62 per cent to USD 3,352.61 per ounce in New York.

"Gold is holding steady near USD 3,430 per ounce as markets await the release of the ISM Services PMI and the latest US trade balance data," Kaynat Chainwala, AVP Commodity Research at Kotak Securities, said.



## CS Reviews Impact Of Employment Generation Schemes In J&K

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR-** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the performance and impact of employment generation schemes across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives, Secretary, Labour & Employment Department; Director Employment and all Deputy Commissioners who joined virtually.

In-depth deliberations were held to enhance the effectiveness, transparency and reach of self-employment initiatives.

The Chief Secretary underscored the urgent need to consolidate all employment-related schemes onto a single online platform to ensure seamless service delivery and minimize manual intervention. He stressed that only empowered committees should be entrusted with the approval of applications, thereby eliminating scope for unilateral decision-making.

Highlighting the critical role of financial institutions, the Chief Secretary directed the department to strengthen bank linkages, particularly under schemes implemented by the Women Development Corporation (WDC).

He also emphasized the importance of focusing on interest subvention components by the departments to ease the financial burden on the beneficiaries.

The Chief Secretary observed that it is imperative that transparency remains the cornerstone of all self-employment schemes. He added that outcome-based assessment must be conducted regularly to evaluate real-time impact at the grassroots level.

The meeting included a detailed review of flagship schemes such as Self Help Group (Umeed), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), J&K Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) and Mission Youth initiatives like Mumkin, Tejaswini and Spurring Entrepreneurship.

The Chief Secretary noted the issue of overlapping mandates among schemes like JKREGP and Mission Youth. He called for greater coordination and data standardization for effective monitoring.

The meeting expressed concern over the high Non-Performing Asset (NPA) ratios in non-bank-supported schemes, particularly those being run by the J&K SC, ST & BC Development Corporation and JKWDC, with some NPAs reported as high as 45%.

The need for tighter credit discipline and recovery mechanisms was emphasized.

## Govt Says 48 People Placed On 'No-Fly List' This Year

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** As many as 48 air passengers were placed on the 'no-fly list' this year till July 30, according to the government.

Unruly passengers can face flying ban for extended periods depending on the severity of their misconduct.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol has informed the Rajya Sabha that 48 people have been placed on the 'no-fly list' till July 30 this year.

A total of 82 and 110 passengers were placed on the list in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

As per the data shared by the minister as part of a written reply on Monday, a total of 63 people were placed on the 'no-fly list' in 2022, 66 in 2021 and 10 in 2020.

Under the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) on 'Handling of unruly/ disruptive passengers' issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), unruly passengers are categorised into three levels based on the severity of their misconduct onboard an aircraft.

"The duration of ban for Level 1 misconduct is up to 3 months,



for Level 2 is up to 6 months, and for Level 3 is a minimum of 2 years or more without limit," the minister said.

In recent weeks, there have been incidents of unruly passenger behaviour.

On August 1, a passenger slapped a co-traveller onboard IndiGo's Mumbai-Kolkata flight, and the airline has banned the perpetrator from taking its flights.

Meanwhile, Spicejet, on August 3, said it has initiated the process to place a senior army officer in the no-fly list in relation to an incident at the Srinagar International Airport on July 26.

Police have registered a case against a senior army officer for allegedly assaulting and injuring four employees of a private airline at the airport on July 26, causing a spinal fracture to one of them.

## Rupee Hits All-Time Low; Ends 22 Paise Weaker At 87.88 Against US Dollar

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI-** The rupee revisited its all-time low level and ended with a loss of 22 paise at 87.88 against the US dollar on Tuesday, as risk-off sentiment deepened after US President Donald Trump renewed threats to raise tariffs on Indian goods over New Delhi's continued purchases of Russian oil.

Forex traders said the rupee is likely to slide further as India-US trade deal uncertainty continues to dent domestic market sentiments.

Moreover, weak equity markets dented investors' sentiments further. However, the domestic unit pared some of its losses on supposed intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

A soft US dollar and overnight decline in crude oil prices also cushioned the downside to some extent, they said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 87.95 against the greenback, its lowest-ever intra-day level that was previously recorded on February 10 this year. During the session, it touched the high of 87.75 against the American currency.

At the end of Tuesday's trading session, the domestic unit was at 87.88, down 22 paise over its previous close.



Greater Noida man's bank account credited with Rs 11 lakh crore, then what he did...

Press Trust Of India

Dankaur native Dileep got the shock of his life when his account was credited with a 14-figure sum. His reverie, though, did not last long.

On August 1, the 20-year-old got a message that a sum of Rs 11.13 lakh crore had been credited to his bank account.

An unemployed Dileep rushed to his bank, only to be told that the windfall was the result of a glitch in the NAVI UPI app — and he still had zero money in his account.

His lore, all the same, was shared widely on social media and stoked a chatter on several 'what ifs'.

Dileep had opened a bank account only two months ago in a private bank. He has no parents.

Jobless techie attempts robbery at bank manager's house in Pune; arrested

Press Trust Of India

An indebted and jobless IT professional hailing from Manipur allegedly entered a bank manager's house here posing as a courier delivery agent and tried to rob his son at gunpoint, police said on Tuesday.

The accused, however, ran out of luck as he was overpowered by the bank manager's brother and handed over to the police following the incident last week, they said.

The 40-year-old man seemed to have committed the crime out of desperation as he was jobless and unable to pay the EMIs for two flats owned by him, the police said.

A licensed gun, 19 live rounds, and a kukri (a sharp weapon) were recovered from his possession. The accused has been arrested under sections

related to robbery, causing hurt, as well as provisions of the Arms Act, the police said.

The incident took place on July 31 evening at a housing society in Pimple Gurav area of Pune district.

The accused, identified as Sangboi Kom Serto, was a native of Manipur and lived with his family in the NIBM area of Pune. Senior Police Inspector Jitendra Koli told PTI.

"The accused came to Pune 12 years ago and was working as a business analyst in a private firm. However, he lost his job last year. After that, he became debt-ridden and penniless as he struggled to pay the EMIs for his two flats," Koli said.

The probe suggested the accused frequently visited a nationalised bank in Sangvi area, where he noticed the manager and hatched a plan

to rob him of Rs 8 to 10 lakh. He allegedly followed the manager to his residence and conducted a recce of the house, the official said.

"Around 6pm last Thursday, the accused went to the manager's housing society and rang the bell. When the bank manager's son opened the door, the accused posed as a courier agent and claimed to be delivering bank-related documents," Koli said.

"He asked the boy to get his father's ID for verification. As the boy turned around, the accused forced his way inside. When the boy asked why he entered, he pointed a gun at his chest and demanded cash and valuables," Koli said.

While the accused was threatening the boy, the bank manager's brother, who was in the house, overpowered

him from behind, pinned him down, and alerted the police.

The brother of the bank manager suffered injuries in the incident, the official said.

"A police team reached the spot and arrested the accused. We have recovered a licensed gun, 19 live rounds, a kukri, and a suspicious object resembling an explosive, which turned out to be fake," Koli said.

The accused had done some business management courses and previously worked as a business assistant. He lived in Pune with his wife and two children.

"As per preliminary information, he owns two flats in the NIBM area. After losing his job a year ago as business analyst at an IT firm, he defaulted on loan repayments. Initially, he managed EMIs using his savings, but later ran out of money.

'Historically misleading': NCERT book showing Jaisalmer as part of Maratha Empire attracts royal family's ire

Press Trust Of India

A member of the erstwhile royal family of Jaisalmer has condemned a map featured in National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) Class VIII social science textbook which depicts the princely state as part of the Maratha Empire.

Chaintanya Raj Singh termed the representation "historically misleading, factually incorrect and seriously objectionable." In a post on X on Monday, Singh said such unverified and historically unsubstantiated information not only raises serious questions about the credibility of institutions like NCERT but also hurts the sentiments of people and undermines the region's proud history.

Tagging Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan

and NCERT in the post, he urged the government to take serious note of what he called a "blatantly erroneous, malicious and agenda-driven depiction" and to ensure immediate corrections are made.

"This is not merely a textbook error, it appears to be an attempt to distort the legacy of our ancestors, their sacrifices, sovereignty and valour," he added.

"Historically misleading': NCERT book showing Jaisalmer as part of Maratha Empire attracts royal family's ire

A member of the erstwhile royal family of Jaisalmer has urged the government to take serious note of what he described as a "blatantly erroneous, malicious and agenda-driven depiction," calling for immediate corrections to be made

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Sick And Struggling:

drives patients toward Srinagar or private clinics, both of which raise out-of-pocket costs.

A visit for a simple diagnostic test can wipe out a week's wages. Private MRIs now cost over ₹5,000. A normal delivery in a Srinagar private hospital ranges from ₹50,000 to ₹80,000.

"These are not elective expenses. These are childbirth, heart issues, cancer care," said Dr. Naseema Shah, a retired health officer. "People are choosing loans, selling land, even skipping treatment altogether."

To offset these costs, the government launched the Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT scheme in 2020. Over 90% of families in Jammu and Kashmir now have SEHAT cards. But universal enrollment doesn't mean universal access.

See Full story on kashmirobserver.net

Anshul Garg Is

in the GAD is posted as secretary Transport Department, while Vikas Kundal, deputy commissioner, Poonch, is transferred and posted as chairman, J&K Services Selection Board.

Gurpal Singh, director, Social Welfare, Jammu, is transferred and posted as Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, the orders said.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, is transferred and posted as Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, it said.

Anil Banka, awaiting orders of posting in the GAD, is posted as special secretary Finance Department, while Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, is the new deputy commissioner, Kupwara.

Rakesh Minhas, deputy commissioner, Kathua, is transferred and posted as deputy commissioner, Jammu, and Ayushi Sudan, deputy commissioner, Kupwara, is transferred and posted as deputy commissioner, Samba, it added.

Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, JKAS, Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, is transferred and shall await further orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been replaced by Indu Kanwal, JKAS, Chairman, J&K Services Selection Board.

Ashok Kumar Sharma, JKAS, special secretary, Labour and Employment Department, is transferred and posted as deputy commissioner, Poonch, while Rajesh Sharma, JKAS, deputy commissioner, Samba, will be the new deputy commissioner, Kathua, the order read.

On August 5, 2019,

The new Jammu Kashmir is one where children have pens in their hands and not stones," the LG added.

The LG handed over the appointment letters to 158 Next of Kins (NoKs) of Kashmiri Civilians killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists.

The families of terror victims narrated their traumatic experiences. They exposed the injustice perpetrated by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists and their sympathizers against their families.

Sinha paid his heartfelt tribute to civilian martyrs and saluted the courage and perseverance of families who have suffered from terrorism in Jammu Kashmir.

"Wounds that have persisted for decades are now being healed. Today's landmark event provided a sense of closure to the families who have silently suffered trauma for years."

He said that for more than three decades, the terror state Pakistan is shedding innocent blood through its proxy terrorist outfits. "Time did not erase the pain of loss. Invisible scars on their soul can be felt and the mute eyes are witness to many unfulfilled dreams," LG said, adding that the long wait for justice and for healing to begin is over for the terror victim families.

"They have come out to reveal the role of Pakistani terrorists and terror ecosystem that was operating in J&K."

LG Shares Tragic Accounts

The Lieutenant Governor shared the tragic account of Abdul Majid Mir's family, whose lives were shattered on June 29, 2004. On that day, Abdul Majid, from Sheikhpora, Baramulla, was kidnapped and brutally murdered by terrorists.

"Abdul Majid's family lost their sole breadwinner and received Rs 1 lakh as an ex-gratia payment under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme. Despite Abdul Majid Mir's martyrdom, his family struggled to live a life of dignity. Today, by providing a government job to his son, Mudasir Majid, the administration has fulfilled its long-overdue responsibility," Sinha said.

After decades of waiting, justice has also

reached Suhail Majeed of Anantnag. His father, Abdul Majeed Wani, was killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists on August 30, 1994. "It took 31 years, but Suhail has finally received his appointment letter, bringing closure to his family's prolonged pain," the LG added.

According to Sinha, the family of SPO Manzoor Ahmad Rather from Warpora, Baramulla, endured a similar fate.

"On February 24, 2000, SPO Manzoor Ahmad Rather, a resident of Warpora, Baramulla, was killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists. For 25 years, his family received no compensation. Today his son Khurshid Ahmad Rather has received an appointment letter. Traumatic period for the family is finally over."

"For Parvez Ahmad Dar, the path to justice was painful. On July 6, 1996, terrorists killed his father, Ghulam Qadir Dar. On July 30, 2004, his brother, Aijaz Ahmad Dar, was also killed by terrorists. 29 years after his father's death, Parvez's nightmare is over," the LG said.

He observed that the void in the lives of terror victims' families cannot be filled with financial assistance or jobs, but it will be ensured that these families can live with dignity.

"We will do everything possible for the rehabilitation of terror victims. It is my promise to the NoKs of terror victim families that perpetrators of heinous crime will receive exemplary punishment. We will also ensure the harshest possible punishment to terror sympathisers."

"I assure the family members of civilian martyrs that I will not rest until every family that has been a victim of the terrorists' atrocities gets justice. I want to tell the loved ones of martyrs that the dreams of your father or your mother will now be fulfilled," he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the transformative journey of new Jammu Kashmir post abrogation of Article 370.

Sinha said that, because of Article 370, terrorism had increased and the terror ecosystem was emboldened. He said, on 5 August 2019, the dismantling of terror ecosystem had begun.

"On 5 August 2019, a new Jammu Kashmir was born. A new Jammu Kashmir that had dreams of a golden future in its eyes. A new Jammu Kashmir, which treated all its citizens as equal and removed discrimination that was prevalent for seven decades."

See Full story on kashmirobserver.net

Terror Victim Families

life spiraled after his mother also passed away a decade later.

"My sister had to marry at 15. We were completely alone. I walked from pillar to post, but no one ever helped. Even our relatives turned their backs," he said, adding, "I used to think of ending my life. But today, holding this letter in my hand, I feel seen for the first time. I have nothing but prayers for LG Manoj Sinha."

Yasmeen Bano from Baramulla was too choked with emotion to speak much.

"When my father was killed, my mother raised me alone. Today, I just couldn't stop my tears while receiving the appointment letter. I'm overwhelmed," she said softly.

'Angel in Disguise'

Bisma, from Qazigund (Anantnag), another NoK, was not even born when her father was killed. Her entire childhood was shaped by her mother's sacrifices.

"My mother worked in homes with one hand and held me in the other. No one helped us. But today, this man—LG Sinha, came to us like an angel. I have no words, only gratitude and tears," she said.

'His Sacrifice Mattered'

Junaid Ali Malla, who lost his policeman father to a terrorist attack, said he was three when the tragedy struck. "No one helped us. I had to build everything on my own. But I always told my mother that my father's sacrifice won't go in vain. Today, I feel proud, and this letter proves his sacrifice mattered."

Anju Riyaz, another victim who was just six months old when her father was killed, recalled being thrown out by her paternal family. "We lived in my maternal home. My mother made me what I am. We were never helped, not even once. But today, this letter brought us a moment of peace we never had," she said.

'Journey from Kindergarten to Justice'

For 16-year-old Soliha Javed from Bijbehara, August 05, 2025, will be etched in her memory not just as a date, but as the day justice finally knocked at her door after 12 long years of silence, pain and perseverance.

"I was in UKG when my father was killed in a terror attack," Soliha said, her voice steady but eyes welling with emotion.

"Now, I am in Class 10 and this is the first

time I have felt that someone heard our cries," she said.

Soliha said her father was killed in a terrorist attack more than a decade ago. Since then, her mother, a single parent, bore the burden of raising her daughter while knocking on every door for justice.

"My mother would hold my hand with one and the documents in the other," she said. The girl spoke of fighting every battle—legal, emotional and financial on her own. "Today, I saw relief on her face for the first time," she added.

"This appointment letter is not just a paper; it is a reward for my mother's struggle and a recognition of my father's sacrifice," she said.

Soliha said she wants to focus on her studies now. "My father's dream was for me to become something in life. With this support, I can think of a future. I feel light, as if a heavy weight has been lifted from our shoulders," she added.

Moreover, Soliha expressed deep gratitude to the LG Manoj Sinha administration: "We are very happy and thankful to LG Sahab. He didn't just announce something, but he gave us justice but something we have waited for all these years."

For 22 years, Samena of Anantnag district carried a wound time could never heal, as the loss of her family members, who fell victim to a terrorist attack in the early 1990s.

She said decades passed in silence, with no justice, no support and no recognition. But on August 5, 2025, her tears carried a different meaning — tears of justice, gratitude, and hope.

"For the first time in 29 years, someone in power looked at us with compassion. Today, we felt heard. LG Manoj Sinha gave us justice, not sympathy," Samena said.

As she sat among dozens of families of terror victims during an official event in Srinagar, LG Sinha assured that justice will prevail. For Samena, those words felt like a long-awaited answer to years of unanswered prayers.

"Nobody ever came to ask how we survived all these years. But today, LG sahab stood before us and promised that justice would no longer be delayed. When he said appointments will be fulfilled, we cried. We truly cried," she said.

Over the years, Samena says her family struggled — financially, emotionally and mentally. "We were not just grieving; we were abandoned," she recalled. But this year's event, which marked six years since the abrogation of Article 370, brought something her family had never experienced before: dignity and closure. "People used to ask us why we still talk about something that happened so long ago. But pain doesn't expire. For the first time, our pain was acknowledged. LG Sinha made us feel like we matter," she said.

She added, "LG Manoj Sinha has given us more than a job, he has restored our dignity, our faith and our place in this land."

On Tuesday, a total of 158 appointment letters were distributed by LG Sinha himself to victims and their family members from north, south and central Kashmir. (KNO)

Shah Becomes

With 2,258 days in office, Shah has now surpassed Advani's tenure of 2,256 days as home minister. Before Shah and Advani, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first home minister, served for 1,218 days, sources said.

Sixty-year-old Shah's tenure has been marked by several historic decisions, including the abrogation of Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, the crackdown on terrorist and separatist organisations in Jammu and Kashmir and the strengthening of internal security.

It was Shah who piloted three criminal laws -- the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam -- which replaced the colonial era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872, respectively. The new laws came into effect on July 1, 2024.

See Full story on kashmirobserver.net

No Official Word

document in circulation is fabricated and misleading. They further stated that the State Election Commission is the only competent authority to notify the schedule for Panchayat elections and no such timeline has been officially announced as of now.

"The general public is advised not to fall prey to such misinformation. Circulating fake government orders is a punishable offence under the Information Technology Act and relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code," a senior official from the Rural Development Department said.

The department has urged the citizens to rely only on official government channels and verified communication for any updates regarding elections or other administrative matters. Strict action is being initiated against those responsible for creating and sharing the forged document.

Art 370 Anniversary

of the downgrading of the state in 2019. Pradesh Congress Committee working president Raman Bhalla, along with former minister Lal Singh and Taranjit Singh Tony, used a crane to garland the statue of the last Dogra ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, at Tawi bridge in the heart of the city.

"Today's black day protest is part of our intensified campaign under 'Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq' to seek restoration of pride and glory of this historic Dogra state, which was destroyed by the BJP on August 5, 2019," Bhalla told reporters while leading the protest.

The party's J&K chief spokesperson, Ravinder Sharma, said the BJP undermined the democratically elected government and is running the affairs through a "remote control" from Lt Governor Manoj Sinha's office.

See Full story on kashmirobserver.net

Omar Writes To

The chief minister's appeal comes nine months after his government's unanimous resolution calling for immediate statehood restoration, which, he says, was personally handed to the Prime Minister with an assurance of progress.

It also comes on the sixth anniversary of the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and its bifurcation into two Union Territories -- Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

"Restoration must not be viewed as a concession, but as an essential course correction -- one that prevents us from sliding down a dangerous and slippery slope where the statehood of our constituent states is no longer regarded as a foundational and sacred constitutional right but reduced instead to a discretionary favour bestowed at the will of the central government," the letter said.

SC Hearing Set

Tuesday before a bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran.

"The date (on SC website) shows as August 8. Let it not be deleted," Sankaranarayanan submitted.

The CJI accepted the request.

Tuesday marks the sixth anniversary of the 2019 abrogation of Article 370, which accorded a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

On December 11, 2023, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the revocation of Article 370, even as it ordered that assembly elections be held in Jammu and Kashmir by September 2024 and its statehood be restored "at the earliest".

Last year, a plea was filed in the top court seeking directions to the Centre for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir within two months.

The application was filed by Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, an academician, and Khurshaid Ahmad Malik, a socio-political activist.

"It is submitted that the delay in the restoration of statehood would cause serious reduction of democratically elected government in Jammu and Kashmir, causing a grave violation of the basic structure of the Constitution of India," the application said.

The assembly elections and the Lok Sabha polls were conducted peacefully in Jammu and Kashmir without any incident of violence, disturbance or any security concerns being reported, it said.

"Therefore, there is no impediment of security concerns, violence or any other disturbances which would hinder or prevent the grant/restoration of the status of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir as had been assured by the Union of India in the present proceedings," the plea said.

See Full story on kashmirobserver.net

Trump Warns

Trump said the "sticking point" with India is that its tariffs are too high.

"Now I will say this, India went from the highest tariffs ever, they will give us zero tariffs...But that's not good enough, because of what they're doing with oil."

A day earlier, Trump said he will "substantially" raise US tariffs on India, accusing the

country of buying massive amounts of Russian oil and selling it for big profits.

Hours later, India mounted an unusually sharp counterattack on the US and the European Union for their "unjustified and unreasonable" targeting of New Delhi for its procurement of Russian crude oil.

Firmly rejecting the criticism, India pointed out the double standards in targeting it on the issue and said both the US and the EU are continuing their trade relations with Russia.

"Unlike our case, such trade is not even a vital national compulsion," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

Russia Backs India's

economic cooperation, on their own and independently determine those modes of trade and economic cooperation that suit the interests of a country in question," Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists, commenting on the US threats regarding India.

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"Unlike our case, such trade is not even a vital national compulsion," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

The Europe-Russia trade includes not just energy, but also fertilisers, mining products, chemicals, iron and steel, and machinery and transport equipment, the MEA said.

"Where the US is concerned, it continues to import from Russia uranium hexafluoride for its nuclear industry, palladium for its EV industry, fertilisers as well as chemicals," it added.

"In this background, targeting India is unjustified and unreasonable. Like any major economy, India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security," the MEA said. (PTI)

Pvt Schools Warned

Determination and Regulation of Fee) Rules, 2022, no private school shall collect any amount other than the tuition and annual fee as approved by the Committee," reads the communique.

Hali in the order also said, "The heads of all private educational institutions operating in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are advised to adhere strictly to the approved fee structure and refrain from imposing any unjustified financial burden on parents."

"Further, parents and guardians who have already deposited any amount under the title of 'Security Deposit' or any other unapproved fee head are directed to come forward and lodge a formal complaint before this Committee. The identity of the complainants shall be kept strictly confidential," reads the order

8 Pharmacy Licences

computerised system of billing for maintenance of sales records.

The affected pharmacies included Aatir Enterprises Ganjiwara Anantnag, Al-Mehdi Medicate, Shehjar Pharmacy Budgam, Medicity Pharmacy, Chadoora, New Bhat Medicate Chadoora, Dar Medicate Qazipora, Chadoora, Budgam, Pharma Plus Medicare Near Zara Diagnostic Lab Kheora Rajouri, and Happy Saini Medical Hall, Haria Chak, Marheen, the spokesman said.

Besides, operations of 75 retail sale establishments were disallowed for non-maintenance of sale records, impersonation and improper storage conditions.

These included nine each in Jammu, Rajouri and Anantnag; six each in Kupwara and Budgam districts; five each in Udhampur and Kulgam; four in Pulwama, three each in Kathua, Samba, Ramban, Doda, Baramulla and Shopian districts; two in Poonch district, one each in Kathua, Ramban, Reasi, Kishtwar, Srinagar and Ganderbal.

The spokesman said drug samples of more than 500 formulations of various categories were lifted randomly for determination of strength and purity. These samples have been referred to the Drug Testing Laboratories to ascertain their quality parameters.

Stocks of drugs worth Rs 8,40,348, found to be contravening the provisions of the D&C Act, have also been confiscated.



# BCCI Unlikely To Allow Stars To Pick & Choose Games Going Forward

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Gautam Gambhir has always been against the mega-star culture prevailing in Indian cricket but Mohammed Siraj's Herculean effort throughout the English summer has definitely given the Indian head coach a real shot in the arm.

The creditable 2-2 series draw in England will certainly empower Gambhir and chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar to crack the whip and usher in a uniform team culture where certain individuals who would not be treated more than equals as it happened in recent years.

It is understood that the selection committee, Gambhir and the decision makers in the Indian cricket board are all on the same page with regards to putting an end to players picking and choosing games and series in the pre-text of workload management.

"There have been discussions and the message will be sent across to the centrally contracted players, especially those who are all format regulars that this culture of picking and choosing



games won't be entertained in near future," a senior BCCI official privy to current happenings told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"It doesn't mean that workload management will be thrown out of the window but a more objec-

tive approach is expected in near future. Obviously, fast bowlers' workload needs to be managed but it can't be accepted that in the name of workload management, people will miss crucial matches."

Siraj, who sent down 185.3

overs across five Tests, not to forget the hours of fielding and also overs bowled in the nets during the last six weeks is a shining example of what peak fitness looks like. More importantly, the performance of Siraj,

Prasidh Krishna and Akash Deep has proved that even the biggest of stars are dispensable and no one is bigger than the team.

Even England skipper Ben Stokes despite multiple issues bowled marathon spells till the end of the fourth Test raising debates whether workload has become an "overrated concept" used for convenience.

It can be said with some degree of certainty that Jasprit Bumrah not being able to take the workload of five Tests hasn't gone down too well with the powers that be in the BCCI. It has also raised questions about the competence of the Sports science team working at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

It is expected that after a month-long rest, Bumrah will be available for the Asia Cup T20 in the UAE from September 9 to 28.

"Look if Bumrah plays in the Asia Cup and if India go the distance till September 28, he won't obviously play the West Indies Test series starting October 2. However, if there are no injuries, he will certainly play the two Tests against World champions South Africa in November."

## DYSS Budgam Hosts District Level Trials & Basketball Showdown

Dabirah Hassan

**BUDGAM:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam, under the leadership of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Ghulam Hassan Lone, on Tuesday conducted Inter-Zonal District Level selection trials for Netball and Softball for girls of all age groups at Sports Stadium Budgam. Meanwhile, a thrilling Basketball competition for boys of all age groups was hosted at Foundation World School Budgam.

The basketball competition was officially inaugurated by Activity Incharge DYSSO Budgam Ghulam Hassan Khanday, marking



the commencement of an energetic day of competition and sportsmanship.

The events witnessed the active participation of a large number of students from both government and private institutions, showcasing exceptional enthusiasm and discipline. The trials aimed at selecting top talent to represent

Budgam at higher levels of competition while fostering unity and a vibrant sporting culture among youth.

The smooth conduct and grand turnout reflected the growing passion for sports in the district and the tireless efforts of the department's field staff and zonal officials.

## J&K Carrom Association To Hold Budgam Championship On Aug 11

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The District Budgam Carrom Association, under the aegis of the J&K Carrom Association and in collaboration with J&K Sports Council and its "My Youth My Pride" initiative, is all set to host the District Budgam Carrom Championship 2025-26.

The championship is scheduled to be held on August 11 and 12 at Delhi Public School, Sheikhpora, Budgam. The event aims to promote indoor sports, provide a platform for young talent, and encourage youth participation at the grass-roots level.

The tournament will feature competitions in the following categories:

Cadet (Under 12)  
Sub-Junior (Under 14)  
Junior (Under 18)  
Senior (Open)

Interested Players, Schools, Colleges and Institution from across the district are invited to register by sending their Name, Parentage, Date of Birth, Address with District, and Contact Number to jk-carrom@gmail.com.

For further details and inquiries, interested candidates may contact: 9906767529, 9070000093, 9596000200

"The J&K Carrom Association encourages all young players to come forward, showcase their talent, and be part of this exciting sporting event that celebrates the spirit of competition and community," the association said.

## IUST's Inter-Departmental Athletic Meet 2025 Held In Awantipora



Observer News Service

**AWANTIPORA:** The Inter-Departmental Athletic Meet 2025 kicked off on Tuesday at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), witnessing active participation from students across various departments. Both men and women athletes competed in multiple track and field events.

Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor extended his best wishes to all participants, emphasizing that sports and physical education are vital for holistic student development.

The meet was inaugurated by Murshid A. Khan, Officer Incharge, Directorate of Physical Education and Sports (DPES), who lauded the spirit of the participants and encouraged students to integrate physical activity into their daily lives.

Earlier, Dr. Hilal Ahmad Rather, Assistant Director, DPES, welcomed the athletes and highlighted the importance of such events in promoting teamwork, discipline and healthy competition on campus. The day concluded with a prize distribution ceremony honouring the winners for their exceptional performances.

## Anantnag: DPS Sangam Wins Inter-School Cricket Title



Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag concluded the District Level Inter-Zonal Volleyball Tournament for Girls in the U-14 and U-17 age categories on Tuesday at MS Bondialgam.

In a display of competitive spirit and sportsmanship, Zone Dooru lifted the U-14 title after defeating Zone Qazigund, while Zone Qazigund triumphed in the U-17 final, overcoming

Zone Bidder in a closely contested match.

The closing ceremony was graced by District Activity Incharge Mohammad Abbas Dar, along with senior PEMs Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat and Sajad Ahmad Mir, who felicitated the winning and runner-up teams with trophies and words of encouragement.

At Zone Bhijbehra, Delhi Public School (DPS) Sangam emerged victorious in the Inter-School Zonal Level Cricket Tournament (U-14)

held at Sports Ground Husanpora Bijbehara, defeating MS Arwani in the final match on Tuesday. In this tournament, Hanzullah Muzafar from DPS Anantnag shone brilliantly with Willow and gloves behind the stumps throughout the tournament.

On the same occasion, ZPEO Bijbehara also inaugurated a three-day coaching camp for U-17 boys' cricket at Jablipora Ground, aimed at nurturing young talent for future competitions.

At Zonal Level, Zone Qazigund organized a Unity Pledge and Unity Run across various schools. Zone Dooru organised an Athletic Meet, featuring track and field events in the running, jumping, and throwing disciplines for U-14 and U-17 girls.

## Asia Cup: Gill, Jaiswal, Sudharsan Will Be In Contention

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan are in the fray for selection in India's Asia Cup squad, which is expected to be picked in the third week of August.

Jaiswal and Test captain Gill have not featured in the last few T20 assignments owing to a packed calendar but their one-month rest period post the five-Test series against England is expected to make them available for the continental tournament.

As per sources in the BCCI, the national selectors are keeping options open even as the Test series against the West Indies at home



starts in less than a week's time if India qualify for the final of the continental T20 event which is slated on September 28.

The first Test against the West Indies at Ahmedabad starts on October 2.

It must be mentioned that

Jaiswal scored 559 runs at a strike-rate of 160 in the last edition of the IPL while Gill had 650 runs in 15 games at a healthy strike-rate of 155-plus.

Gill's opening partner at Gujarat Titans, Sudharsan was the 'Orange Cap' winner with 759 runs at a SR of 156.

"There is a five week break and with no cricket around, these three should walk into any T20 squad despite stupendous show by Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma. In 21 days in Asia Cup, if one plays till final, there are 6 T20 games and that's not much of a workload. But obviously with 17 member squads allowed for the Asia Cup, selectors will weigh op-

tions carefully," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Keeping the tracks of UAE in mind and also the T20 World Cup in six months time, Jaiswal, Gill and Sudharsan should logically form the core of the top order.

Sudharsan, who made his ODI debut in late 2023 has been in tremendous T20 form.

Another important talking point is the availability of pace spearheads Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj.

Both bowlers have been managed carefully after an extended workload across formats and are expected to undergo fitness assessment before the selection meeting.

## After Muted Celebrations, Indian Players Head Home

A famous series levelling win at The Oval called for a major celebration but the Indian squad members opted for quiet downtime before leaving for home on Tuesday morning.

A chunk of the India squad members, including Mohammed Siraj, boarded an Emirates flight less than 24 hours after a dramatic finish to the fifth and final Test of a long and grueling series.

The team members will landed in Dubai on Tuesday evening before taking a connecting to flight their respective home cities in India.

Siraj, the architect of the victory, will take the next available flight to Hyderabad after landing in Dubai. Arshdeep Singh and Shardul Thakur were among the ones to head back home.

Some of the players have chosen to stay back in the country for a well-deserved break.

Roughly four hours after the nail biting finish, some of the squad members including Arshdeep and Prasidh Krishna were seen spending time with their families in the heart of London.

Kuldeep, who like Arshdeep did not get a game in the series, was seen hanging around with former India player Piyush Chawla.

Jasprit Bumrah, who did not play the series decider due to workload management, was released from the squad during the game.

India's next major assignment will the Asia Cup in the UAE next month. (PTI)

## Bengaluru FC Suspends Salaries Of Players & Staff

Bengaluru FC has indefinitely suspended the salaries of its first-team players and staff amid the continued uncertainty over the Indian Super League (ISL), which remains on hold.

The club, home to legendary striker and former India captain Sunil Chhetri, said the lack of clarity on the League's future left it with no choice but to take this "difficult" decision.

The ISL was put on hold by its organisers, Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), due to the unresolved status of the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) with the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

The current 15-year MRA between FSDL and AIFF, signed in 2010, expires on December 18.

Amid the growing uncertainty, eight ISL clubs have written to the AIFF expressing concern about their future. The AIFF's top brass is scheduled to meet the CEOs of the clubs on Thursday to discuss the situation.

Last month, AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey had assured that the 2025-26 ISL season would be held, but stopped short of confirming a start date.

In its statement, Bengaluru FC also urged both the AIFF and FSDL to resolve the impasse at the earliest. (PTI)

## 7 Indian Boxers Assured Medals At U19 Asian Championships

Indian boxers continued their march towards a significant medal count at the U19 and U22 Asian Boxing Championships with seven women pugilists assuring themselves of a podium finish here on Tuesday.

Competing in the U-19 category, Yakshika (51kg), Nisha (54kg), Muskan (57kg), Vini (60kg), Nisha (65kg), Akansha Phalaswal (70kg) and Aarti Kumari (75kg) reached the semifinals of their respective weight classes.

India is already assured of over a dozen medals in the U22 category and the contingent will be looking to bag as many gold medals as possible in the business end of the competition.

Yakshika began India's march in the last four stage with a hard-fought 3:2 split decision victory in the 51kg bout over Mukhtasar Alieva of Uzbekistan before Nisha showed her attacking prowess to force the referee to stop the bout against Milana Shikhshabekova of Kyrgyzstan in the 54kg contest.

Muskan then came to the party and earned a unanimous decision against Robiya Ravshanova of Uzbekistan in the 57kg quarterfinals and Vini then forced the referee to stop the bout in the very first round with a flurry of punches to knock out Adelia Asylbek Kyzy of Kyrgyzstan. (PTI)

## Barcelona Opens Disciplinary Proceeding Against Ter Stegen

Barcelona has opened a disciplinary proceeding against Marc-André ter Stegen saying the goalkeeper refused to sign a medical report about his back injury, according to a person with knowledge of the proceeding.

The club needed Ter Stegen to sign the report so it could be sent to the Spanish league in order to clear some salary-cap space and more easily register other players without breaching financial fair play rules.

But the club and the goalkeeper are at odds about the recovery time for the surgery that took place last week to deal with recurring lower back ailments.

Ter Stegen said ahead of the surgery that the recovery time would be about three months. The club did not give an official timetable for the recovery process, saying only that the operation was "successful" and that "his recovery will determine when he can return."

Depending on the length of the recovery process, Barcelona could clear a percentage of Ter Stegen's salary from its cap, making more room to add other players to the squad.

The club signed Espanyol goalkeeper Joan García in June. Its other goalkeepers are veteran Wojciech Szczesny and Iñaki Peña. (AP)





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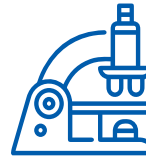
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