

Trump Tariffs Prompt Retaliation Call From Kashmir Apple Growers

As Donald Trump's tariffs hit Indian exports, Kashmir applefarmers callfor steep import taxes on U.S.fruit to safeguard livelihoods

Syed Mohammad Burhan

The India-U.S. trade war, triggered by heavy tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump on Indian goods, has found an unexpected front: Kashmir's apple orchards.

For the first time, farmers here are demanding that Delhi

strike back, calling for steep import taxes on American fruit.

Earlier this year, Trump's tariffs on Indian steel, aluminium, and other goods rattled multiple sectors, sparking calls from domestic industries for retaliation.

Now, Kashmir's apple growers are among the first



CHEAP APPLES FROM THE U.S. are sold at half our price. If the government does not step in, we will lose our orchards, livelihoods, and children's future."

organized voices pressing the government to respond, warning that cheap U.S. apples threaten their livelihoods.

On Wednesday morning, dozens of Kulgam farmers gathered under the Jammu & Kashmir Apple Farmers Federation, waving placards and calling for [More on P6](#)

2-Day Rain Forecast For Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Temperatures continued to rise across the Valley even as the Meteorological Department predicted a fresh spell of rain over the next two days, with heavy to very heavy rainfall expected in parts of Jammu division.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that generally cloudy skies with light to moderate rain and thunder-showers are likely at many places. In Kashmir, a few places may receive moderate rain, with brief intense showers and gusty winds in the next two days. "On August 16, generally hot and humid weather is expected, with the possibility of brief showers at a few places," Dr Ahmad added.

He said heavy to very heavy showers could occur at isolated to scattered locations in Jammu division – particularly in Reasi, Udhampur, Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Doda and Rajouri – mainly during the night and early morning hours till August 15.

From August 17 to 19, light to moderate rain and thunderstorms are expected at many locations, with heavy rain at some spots in Jammu division, mostly during late-night and early-morning hours.

Issuing an advisory, the MeT warned of heavy to very heavy rain in parts of Jammu division between August 13 and 15. The forecast includes thunder, lightning, gusty winds, and the risk of flash floods in vulnerable areas, along with landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones.

People have [More on P6](#)

SC To Hear Plea For J&K Statehood Today

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Supreme Court will on Thursday hear a plea seeking the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the counselist, the matter is likely to be taken up by a bench comprising Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran.

On December 11, 2023, the apex court unanimously upheld the revocation of Article 370 but directed that assembly elections in J&K be held by September 2024 and its statehood restored "at the earliest."

The latest application, filed by academician Zahoor Ahmad Bhat and socio-political activist Khurshaid Ahmad Malik, seeks directions to the Centre to restore J&K's statehood within two months.

"The delay in restoring

statehood would significantly curtail the role of a democratically elected government in Jammu and Kashmir, amounting to a grave violation of the idea of federalism, which is part of the Constitution's basic structure," the plea states.

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.

The non-restoration of the status of statehood [More on P6](#)



J&K Has Secured Its Place In Indian Sporting Landscape: LG

» 'Since 2014, No Sports Quota Appointments Made In J&K'

» Urges Sports Minister, CM to Appoint 235 Athletes Swiftly

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said Jammu and Kashmir has secured its rightful position in India's sporting arena, crediting the achievement to modern infrastructure, grassroots initiatives, and a player-centric approach adopted since 2020.

Sinha was speaking at the trophy unveiling ceremony of the Bijbehara Premier League (BPL) in Anantnag, where he lauded the tournament's role in nurturing talent and steering youth away from drugs.

"No appointments had



been made under the sports quota in J&K since 2014 due to matters being sub judice. A new sports policy was framed, and 235 candidates—talented sportspersons of our

region—were selected purely on the basis of merit," LG said.

Highlighting the plight of the selected athletes, he said they had been knocking on

doors in the hope of securing their appointment letters. "I urge the sports minister to meet these youngsters. They have tried meeting me, but I have told them to meet the minister and the chief minister. I hope their appointment letters are issued without any further delay," the LG stressed.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the players and officials and congratulated the organisers of the Bijbehara Premier League.

"Bijbehara Premier League is widely considered as the most prestigious cricket tournament in J&K UT which also serves as a platform to showcase [More on P6](#)

HC To Hear Plea Against Nomination Of 5 MLAs

The petition challenging nomination of five MLAs is listed for hearing before J&K High Court on August 14.

Notably, the Ministry of Home Affairs has informed Jammu & Kashmir High Court that nomination of five MLAs of Jammu & Kashmir Assembly falls outside [More on P6](#)

JAMMU AND KASHMIR IS BEING OPERATED AS A UNION TERRITORY FOR A PERIOD of almost five years now, which has caused many impediments and grave losses to the development of Jammu and Kashmir and has affected the democratic rights of its citizens."

Hunt For Terrorists In Kulgam In Final Stages: IGP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The hunt for terrorists hiding in the forest area of Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir has entered its final stages, a top police officer said on Wednesday, the 13th day of the operation.

Two Army soldiers have been killed and nine injured since the operation began on August 1 in the Akhal forest area.

Two terrorists have also been killed in the encounter. The identities and group affiliation of the slain terrorists have not been revealed so far.

"The Akhal operation has entered the final stages," Inspector



General of Police, Kashmir, V K Birdi, told reporters on the sidelines of the full dress rehearsal for the Independence Day celebrations at the Bakshi Stadium here.

He said the details of the operation will be shared in due course of time. [More on P6](#)

All J&K Haj 2026 Applicants Set To Make Cut Amid Low Demand

Agencies

Srinagar: All pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir who applied for Haj 2026 are expected to be selected this year, as the number of applications received is far below the UT's allotted quota.

Officials privy to the development said that against a total quota of 7,963 pilgrims, including a basic share of 5,963 (4.9% of the national allotment) and a special quota of 2,000, the Haj Committee of India (HCoI) has received only 5,154 applications from J&K.



"This is well within the sanctioned limit and guarantees selection for all who applied before the cut-off date," an official said. "The digital random selection

(Qurrah) process is expected to be completed on or around August 13, 2025."

For Haj 2026, the all-India quota is projected at 175,020, of which 70 per cent (1,21,701) falls under the HCoI share.

The official added that pilgrims have been advised to prepare for the first instalment payment of Rs 1,52,300 per head by August 20, 2025, followed by the second instalment of Rs 1,25,000 in October and the final payment in December.

The authorities have urged applicants to [More on P6](#)

Selling 'Fake Kashmiri Silk Carpets' J&K Govt Issues Notice To Amazon, Bengal-based Firm

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's Handicrafts and Handloom Department has issued notices to a West Bengal-based private company and e-commerce giant Amazon for allegedly misbranding cheap machine-made carpets as "authentic Kashmiri handmade silk carpets."

"NOTICES issued 2 @

jewelcarpet & @amazonIN for misbranding #KashmirCrafts," Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Mussarat Zia posted on X. He also shared a screenshot of the Amazon listing, slamming the sale of low-quality products at throwaway prices in the name of genuine Kashmiri craftsmanship.

"They must b crazy offering 50% rebates on cheap FAKES in name [More on P6](#)

Public Interest No Cover For Speculative Fears: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that public interest cannot be a cloak for personal grievances or speculative apprehensions, the High court of J&K and Ladakh has rejected a plea by a person who had challenged compounding of a "minor" deviation in construction of a structure at Hyderpora Airport Road here by J&K Special Tribunal.



The petitioner had challenged an order dated 29 May 2024 passed by the J&K Special Tribunal in an appeal regarding deviation in construction which according to the authorities was "minor in nature and duly compounded under the applicable byelaws."

"The petitioner, who does not appear to be an immediate neighbour or directly affected party, [More on P6](#)

New 3-judge SC Bench To Hear Stray Dog Case

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: After widespread protests across the country following a top court verdict on relocation of stray dogs in Delhi-NCR, a new three-judge bench of the Supreme Court will hear the suo motu case on Thursday. A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria will hear the matter.

The directions to permanently relocate [More on P6](#)

Smart Fence, AI Drones, Robotic Mules: LoC Patrols Get Smarter

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Keeping pace with the changing security scenario driven by rapid advancement in AI-powered technology, the Army has gone high-tech with the introduction of state-of-the-art equipment like smart fence system, robotic mules and all-terrain vehicles to fortify security along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said.

The newly-introduced

equipment, including quadcopters, advanced surveillance tools, bulletproof vehicles, modern weapons and night-vision sights, were all successfully tested during Operation Sindoor between May 7 and May 10, when Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in the wake of the April 22 Pahalgam attack and successfully countered the enemy retaliation.

Providing a rare opportunity



to visiting mediapersons to witness the Indian Army's unwavering courage and

dedication along the LoC in the remote regions of Sunderbani ahead of Independence Day,

the Army has activated a three-layered security system and intensified patrolling and vigil all along the border to ensure peaceful celebrations of the event.

The induction of advanced military vehicles like the Armado and all-terrain vehicles have given the Army's quick-reaction teams an advantage to act swiftly in the most challenging and rugged terrain with dense foliage to neutralise any threat, especially from infiltrating terrorists,

the officials said.

During a drill, the soldiers demonstrated how they cordoned off an area and engage terrorists, highlighting the vehicles' speed, protection and adaptability.

The Mahindra Armoured Light Specialist Vehicle (ALSV) or Armado is a lightweight and air-transportable armoured vehicle designed for the Army and special forces.

The indigenously-developed "Robotic Mule" is emerging as a game-changer on the

battlefield, the officials said, adding that the MULE (Multi-Utility Legged Equipment), designed by AeroArc under the "Make in India" initiative, is a quadrupedal robot capable of navigating snow, deserts, water and other challenging terrains to complete the assigned job.

During Operation Sindoor, these robotic mules played a crucial role in surveillance and logistics, an Army official said.

Equipped with advanced sensors, he said the MULE can transport [More on P6](#)



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Public Notice

I have lost my driving licence bearing dl no: JK-2220110005260
in Gol chowk Shopian on 12/08/2025. If anybody has found he/
she is requested to return the same otherwise I have to apply for
the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this
regard he/she may file them in the office of the ARTO Shopian
within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Abdul Basit Wani
S/o Muhammad Yousuf Wani
R/o Hergam Shopian

mdl

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Sariwarpora..

Sub... Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Death..
Public Notice..
The registrar death BDO Walloo has submitted a case file
pertaining to Death of Sanaullah Bhat s/o Gh Ahmad Bhat R/o
Shouchpalpora with verified date of death 02/11/2000 in this
connection if any body having objection for issuance of said
certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after
that no objection shall be entertained..

SD

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Naib Tehsildar Sariwarpora

Public Notice

I have changed the name of my son from old Shahid Ahmad to
new name Shoiab Ahmad Paswal. In future he will be known
as Shoiab Ahmad Pasal. If anybody has any objection in this
regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre
Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection
shall be entertained.

Gh Hassan Pawsal
F/o Shoiab Ahmad Paswal
R/o Kathohallan Nagbal Shopian

fko

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KATRASOO

Tehsil Headquarter, Kulgam Kashmir, 192231
Phone: 01931-295863; Email: tehsildarkula@gmail.com

Subject: Application in respect of Mr Ashaq Hussain Malik
S/o Mohd Amin Malik F/o Anam - Tul - Noor R/o Khree Tehsil-
Kulgam for issuance of Date Of Birth Certificate.
PUBLIC NOTICE IN NEWSPAPER
This is to inform the public that the documents of the applicant
for the issuance of a Birth certificate are under process with this
office. The applicant was born on **26 Nov 2018**. It is noted that
the entry of the birth has not been registered in the birth record
register of the chowkidar. The applicant desires to obtain the
birth certificate. If any individual has any objection to the is-
suance of the said certificate, kindly submit your objection to
this office within one week from the date of this notice. Any
objections received after this stipulated period will not be en-
tertained by this office.

Naib Tehsildar Katrasoo

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Public Notice

I have lost my Discharge , Provisional, Character Certificate .
Now I have applied for the issuance duplicate of the same if
anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them
in the office of the Govt Higher Secondary Institute Kunzer
Tangmarg within seven days. After that no objection shall be
entertained.
Shobia Rasool Magray
D/o Ghulam Rasool Magray
R/o Dawar Gurez

bmj

Public Notice

I, Javid Ahmd Dar S/o Late Ghulam Mohammad Dar R/o H.No.
57 Dar Cottage Parray Pora Baghat (Contact No. 7889394949)
have no objection if my name is deleted/discarded from the
Power Connection, issued jointly in my name and in the name
of my brother namely Reyaz Ahmad Dar S/o Late Ghulam
Mohammad Dar R/o H.No. 57, Dar Cottage Parray Pora Baghat
Srinagar under Consumer ID No. 0202050003569, Installation
No. 131905-R1-SM, Service Agreement ID 8019254742, Category
Prepaid and transfer the same to the name of my above named
brother Mr. Reyaz Ahmad Dar as a single consumer. I shall be
personally responsible in case of any loss or damage incurs to
the PDD in this regard. In case of any objection from any quarter
in respect of deletion of my name from the above mentioned
power conection shall contact to the concerned department.

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Industrialists Itrat Hussain, Tajamul Hussain, And Manzoor Abbass Bereaved

KSSIA, FCIK Condoles the Demise

The Kashmir Small Scale Industrial Association (KSSIA) has expressed
profound grief over the passing of the respected mother of prominent
industrialists Itrat Hussain and Tajamul Hussain of M/s Royal Steels and
Marvel Associates. The deceased, who passed away late Tuesday night,
was also the mother-in-law of noted industrialist and hotelier Manzoor
Abbass of Hotel Shah Abbass.
In a statement, KSSIA conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved
family. A delegation of the Association, led by President Syed Fazal Ilahi
and accompanied by Syed Shakeel Qalander, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din, Syed
Hamid Chashoo, Altaf Hussain Malik, Mirza Riyaz Hussain and other
members, visited the bereaved family to offer their sympathies in person.
The delegation prayed for the departed soul's forgiveness and her place in
the highest ranks of Jannat.
The Advisory Committee of the Federation of Chambers of Industries
Kashmir (FCIK), comprising presidents of various estate, district, and
sectorial associations under the leadership of Shahid Kamili has also
expressed deep sorrow at the demise. They extended their condolences to
the family and prayed for eternal peace for the departed.
A large number of members from the industrial sector visited the bereaved
family on Wednesday to extend their personal condolences. Many more
industrialists and well-wishers are expected to pay their respects through
the conclusion of the mourning period on Friday.

ازنیات یومی زینگیر

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب اشفاق احمد مارگے ولد عبدالرحمان مارگے ساکن ز اورہ بمراد اترائی
یگل ہیر رفیقیت بحق خود

اشتہار ہرخاص وعام

معاہدہ مندرچہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض یگل ہیر سر فیکیت پیش کی ہے
جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ
ساکن کا بھائی مشتاق احمد مارگے برطابق دستہ رفیقیت مورخہ 01/08/1999 کو
فوت ہوا ہے اور متوفی کے وارثان جائز بذیل ہے

عبدلرحمان مارگے ولد اسد اللہ مارگے	عمر رسیدہ	70 سال	والد متوفی
سمانیہ منشی بیگم زویدہ عبدالرحمان مارگے	--	65 سال	والدہ متوفی
فردوس احمد عبدالرحمان	زمننداری	37 سال	برادر متوفی
شاہت بیگم دختر عبدالرحمان	گھر یلکام	30 سال	بھیمہ متوفی
افروزہ بیگم --	--	40 سال	--
اشفاق احمد مارگے ولد --	زمننداری	32 سال	برادر متوفی

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی دیگر وارثان موجود نہیں ہے متوفی کی بھیمہ و شمارہ 5:4 کی شادی ہو چکی ہے۔
اور برادر اشفاق احمد جو کہ الگ طور پر رہائش پذیر ہے۔

اور اب ساکن اسل اپنے حق میں یگل ہیر سر فیکیت حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ سر فیکیت زیر
بحث اترائے کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذریا عرض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار سرائے دن کے اندر اندر
آپنے عذریا عرض عدالت حد کو دفتری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گز سے میعاد کوئی عذریا
عرض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

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ازنیات یومی زینگیر

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب غلام محمد لون ولد مرحوم غلام رسول لون ساکن تھری چلی ہار بمراد
اترائی Freedom Fighter Family سر فیکیت بحق خود

اشتہار ہرخاص وعام

معاہدہ مندرچہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض Freedom Fighter
Family سر فیکیت پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقے سے
رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا والد غلام رسول لون ساکن تھری چلی ہار
قبل از تقریباً 34 سال پہلے فوت ہو چکا ہے اور متوفی کے پسماندگان بذیل ہے
تاج بیگم زویدہ غلام رسول لون 70 سال عمر رسیدہ بیوہ متوفی
غلام محمد لون ولد غلام رسول لون 43 سال پراؤیت نیچر پرموتوفی
حفیضہ بیگم دختر غلام رسول لون 50 سال آگن واڑی دختر شادی شدہ
اسکے علاوہ متوفی کی ایک اور دختر مصرہ بیگم قبل از تقریباً بیس سال فوت ہو چکی ہے۔ اور ساکن
غلام محمد لون ولد غلام رسول لون اپنے حق میں Freedom Fighter Family حاصل
کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ سر فیکیت زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذریا
عرض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار سرائے دن کے اندر اندر آپنے عذریا عرض عدالت حد کو دفتری اوقات
کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گز سے میعاد کوئی عذریا عرض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

FKO

ازنیات یومی زینگیر

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب فردوس احمد بیوہ ولد محمد یوسف بیوہ ساکن تھری چلی ہار بمراد اترائی
ڈیپنڈنٹ سر فیکیت بحق خود

اشتہار ہرخاص وعام

معاہدہ مندرچہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض ڈیپنڈنٹ سر فیکیت
پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس
سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا بھائی فیروز احمد بیوہ ولد محمد یوسف بیوہ برطابق دستہ رفیقیت
مورخہ 17-01-2002 کو فوت ہوا ہے اور متوفی کے وارثان جائز بذیل ہے
حاجرہ بیگم زویدہ محمد یوسف بیوہ 89 سال عمر رسیدہ والدہ متوفی
غلام محمد بیوہ بیوہ 70 سال ریٹائرڈ ملازم برادر متوفی
ارشاد احمد ولد محمد یوسف بیوہ 61 سال --
فردوس احمد ولد محمد یوسف بیوہ 50 سال مزدوری --
اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی دیگر وارثان موجود نہیں ہے اور اب ساکن اسل اپنے حق میں ڈیپنڈنٹ
سر فیکیت حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ سر فیکیت زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو
کوئی عذریا عرض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار سرائے دن کے اندر اندر آپنے عذریا عرض عدالت حد کو
دفتری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گز سے میعاد کوئی عذریا عرض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

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La Pino's Pizza

La Pino's Pizza, Srinagar, proudly celebrates its first anniversary on 17th August, marking one year
since the outlet opened its doors in Kashmir. The outlet was made possible through the vision and
leadership of Mr. Sanam Kapoor, Founder of La Pino's Pizza, whose support brought the brand to
the valley and created a new place for people to come together over great food.
Managed by Mr. Hammaad Koul, the Srinagar outlet has had an incredible year serving customers
and becoming a favourite for pizza lovers in the region. Among the most popular items over the
past year have been the Taco's, the Giant Slice Pizza, and the Garlic Bread, which have become
bestsellers and customer favourites.
The entire team extends heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Sanam Kapoor for his constant trust and
support in making La Pino's Pizza a success in Kashmir. The Srinagar team looks forward to
continuing to serve the people of Kashmir with the same passion and dedication for many more
years to come.

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KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDCL) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PROJECTS DIVISION RIVER LEFT KASHMIR Peerbagh Srinagar, Opposite Police Head Quarters Adjacent to Shalimar Bakers. Phone No: 9469088288, 9419088882

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. PD/SL/ELEC/02 of 2025-26

Dated: 12-08-2025

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir online e-bids are hereby invited for
Capex works in Srinagar City of Jammu & Kashmir. The details are as under:

S #	Description	EMD Rs in lacs	Cost of Document in Rs.	Last date for submission of e-Bid
1	Laying of 33kv Single Core 630 Sqmm Cable (4 lengths) near Chanapora Bridge through Horizontal Directional Drilling Method (HDD) for existing 33 kv line emanating from Grid Sub Station Rawalpura and stabilization of the same to feed Upcoming 2x10 MVA Budshah Nagar Receiving Station.	1.20	1100.00	25/08/2025 at 1400 Hours.

1. The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view,
download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and
time mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 12/08/2025 at 1300 Hours.
B	e-Bid submission(start)date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD in pdf)	14/08/2025 at 1400 Hours.
C	e-Bid submission(end) date & Time	25/08/2025 at 1600 Hours.
D	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time	26/08/2025 at 1400 Hours.

2. The bidders need to submit the cost of Documents and EMD as stated in the above table pledged to **Accounts
Officer, with Chief Engineer Projects Kashmir**, payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the Demand
Draft as cost of document/Bid Processing fee and EMD must be enclosed along with the e-Bids but the original
instruments should reach the office of Chief Engineer projects Kashmir Airport Road Humhama opposite
Police Post up to 25/08/2025 up to 4:00pm.

All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMDs in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee
only, pledged to the **Accounts Officer, Projects Kashmir** payable at Srinagar. No Interest would be payable
on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.

-Sd-
Executive Engineer
Projects Division Left

No: PD/SL/721-24

Date: 12/8/2025.

DIPK-NB-1618/25
dated: 13-08-2025

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir ROYAL SPRINGS GOLF COURSE, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No. 15 of 2025-26 dated 13.08.2025

For and on behalf of the Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course, e-tenders are invited on two cover system
by Executive Engineer Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar by e-tendering mode on Percentage
basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State UTI , PWD, CPWD, Railways
and other State/Central Govt. for the following works:-

S No	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earned Money (in Rs)	Cost of T/Doc	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	Up-gradation of Tea Shelters ?Rain Shelters at RSGC Srinagar	5.00	10000/= in shape of CDR or FDR in favour of Executive Engineer RSGC	850/= Non Refund- able in shape of DD in favour Secretary RSGC or Bank Challan SB- 0229040100012341 J&K Bank Brain Branch Nishat Srinagar	60 days	DEE Class	5452 Tour- ism

Position of AA: Accorded

Obtained

Special conditions:-

I. No exemption is allowed and so all bidders must Upload Proof of EMD and Tender Processing Fee.

II. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason at any stage.

III. Intending bidders shall upload scanned copies of documents of valid registration card with renewal of 2025-26 / PAN/GST registration with latest receipt for the month of July 2025 OR 1st Quarter (i.e April 2025 to June 2025). However successful bidders shall produce the original copies of same before issuance of contract.

IV. The typographical error in the BOQ like Unit of item Quantity of item etc, if any found during e-NIT or after end date of NIT shall be rectified in the allotment as per the estimate.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13.08.2025 11:00 AM
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 13.08.2025 to 02-09.2025 (4.00 PM on wards)
3	Bid submission Start Date	13.08.2025 4:00 Pm on wards
4	Bid Submission End Date	02-09.2025 upto 03:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids(Online)	03-09.2025 at 10:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer RSGC Srinagar
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids(Online)	03-09.2025 at 11:30 Am in the office of the Executive Engineer RSGC Srinagar

General Conditions:

1. The financial bid (BOQ) of only eligible, responsive bidders shall be opened on line on the date mentioned above in the office of Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar. In case of any avoidable circumstances the tenders shall be opened on the next working day or any subsequent date convenient to the Authority.

2. The 1st lowest bidder (Successful) has to submit performance security @ 5% of the Contract Value on quoted bid by LI in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar drawn from nationalized/ Scheduled bank preferably J&K Bank which should reach to the office of Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar within 05 days from the date of opening of on line bids. In case of failure the bid shall be treated as non-responsive.

3. The bids for the works shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of opening of tenders.

4. The department shall not be responsible for any technical error or delay in submission of on line bids due to any reason.

5. The department can modify the terms and conditions, specification of work if need arises before the dead line date of receipt of tenders.

6. The bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ down loaded should be used for filling the item rate/ Percentage inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

7. Unbalanced Bid: In case of unbalanced bids, the intending bidders shall be required to deposit additional performance security in the form of CDR or FDR, as per the following scale. The performance security shall be released upon successful completion of the work.

S No	Below %age of un-balanced Bid viz-a-viz advertised cost	Additional performance Security to be deposited on quoted bid by LI
01	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
02	>15% upto and including 20% below	5.00 % of advertised cost
03	>20% upto and including 25% below	10.00 % of advertised cost
04	>25% upto and including 30% below	15.00 % of advertised cost
05	>30% below	20.00 % of advertised cost

7. The Contractor is bound to work/ supply the material of best quality as per specifications. Any material found Substandard/ defective shall not be entertained and contractor is bound to replace it immediately at his own cost.

8. The date of start of work shall be reckoned within 3 days from the date of issue of LOI/ allotment.

9. In case of delay in completion of the work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty up to 10% of the allotted cost shall be imposed.

10. No advance payment shall be paid to the Service/ contractor.

11. The contractor shall ensure execution of an agreement with the Department within 15 days from the date of issue of LOI/ allotment.

12. All disputes and differences between the parties arising out of any relating to the NIT, Letter of intent, Allotment, work done bills and agreement to be signed between the Officer of RSGC and the contractor including interpretation of its terms and conditions shall be preferable to Secretary, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar whose decision shall be final and binding upon all the parties

13. The bidders are advised to quote their rates in Percentage which includes Income tax, GST, Labour cess etc

14. The employer may terminate the contract if the contractor causes a breach of the contract.

15. The tender is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in the NIT/ Agreement

16. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD form-25 double, FCC-31.

17. Any item found to be necessary execute on site not covered by allotment the same shall be paid on in vogue rate along allotted percentage.

18. The DLP shall be reckoned from the date of successful completion of work shall be upto the period of not less than Six Months.

19. Rates should be quoted in INR inclusive of all taxes / Charges/ FOR.

20. No escalation of rates shall be allowed whatsoever during the period of rate contract.

21. In case of the unsuccessful tenderer the CDR/ FDR shall be released after completion of the rate contract with successful tenderer.

22. The EMD in shape of CDR/ FDR with validity of not less than 24 months from any nationalized/ scheduled bank preferably J&K Bank pledged to Executive Engineer RSGC and should be uploaded on the portal with tender.

Executive Engineer
Royal Springs Golf Course
Srinagar.

No: RSGC/EE/2025-26/148-50

DIPK-NB-1626/25 Dated: 13/08/2025

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Tricolour Unfurled At Lal Chowk As I-Day Nears

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a striking display of national pride ahead of the Independence Day, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday ceremoniously hoisted the Tricolour at the iconic Ghanta Ghar (Clock Tower) in Lal Chowk, Srinagar.

The fresh national flag, replacing the earlier one, was unfurled under tight security arrangements, marking an important prelude to the August 15 festivities. The historic square, long regarded as a symbolic focal point of the city, drew curious onlookers and visitors who paused to witness the moment.

“This is more than a ceremonial tradition; it is a powerful reminder of the unity, resilience, and spirit of our nation,” said a police official present at the event. “Lal Chowk has been a silent witness to decades of history, and today it stands resplendent in the colours of our freedom.”

In the run-up to Independence Day, Srinagar has been transformed with vibrant bunting, decorative lights, and the national flag adorning streets and marketplaces. Security forces have been strategically deployed across key locations to ensure that the celebrations proceed smoothly and without incident.

DIG CRPF Leads Colourful Har Ghar Tiranga Rallies

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of the Independence Day celebrations, the 61 Battalion of the CRPF, under the leadership of DIG (Administration), organised a series of Har Ghar Tiranga rallies across Srinagar, blending patriotic fervour with community participation.

According to details, the celebrations began on August 12 with a rally held within the battalion's camp premises, where officers and jawans marched with the Tricolour, echoing the spirit of the nationwide campaign. On the following day, the initiative extended beyond the camp, with a vi-

brant rally taking place at Blooming Buds Kindergarten GMS School in Shiwpora and the adjoining localities.

Students, teachers, and CRPF personnel marched together, proudly carrying the national flag while promoting the ideals of nationalism, brotherhood, and unity. The rallies aimed to inspire citizens to hoist the Tricolour at their homes, in line with the central government's Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

The event reflected a strong message of harmony between the security forces and the community, reinforcing the shared pride in the nation's independence.

CBK Conducts Searches At Multiple Locations

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir) Wednesday carried out searches at multiple locations in District Srinagar.

A spokesman in a statement issued Kashmir Observer said that the searches were conducted in connection with a case under FIR number 11/2025 under Section 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC of P/S EOW-S (Crime Branch Kashmir).

The brief facts of the case are that Crime Branch Kashmir received an online complaint, wherein it was alleged that the complainant has been duped/cheated by two fraudsters namely Majid

Nazir Najar S/o Nazir Ahmad Najar R/o Batamalo near Mehboob Public School and Mubarak Ahmad Rather S/o Nissar Ahmad Rather R/o Gulshan Nagar, Gulposh Colony, who promised high returns on investment in Adarsh Cooperative Society, SBI Life insurance and HDFC Insurance companies and provided the complainant with deposit certificates. However, during investigation, the certificates were found to be fake and forged. The accused individuals projected themselves as authorized representatives and agents working with various financial institutions and lured complainants to make investments in various deposit schemes,” the statement reads.

KPDCL Issues Power Shutdown Timings

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has announced multiple scheduled power shutdowns across various parts of Srinagar and Pulwama districts this month to facilitate critical maintenance, augmentation, and stabilisation works under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

According to the Chief Engineer (Distribution), KPDCL, the outages are part of planned activities to upgrade infrastructure, replace conductors, carry out branch cutting, erect poles, and strengthen the network to ensure more reliable electricity supply in the coming months.

As per the schedule, the 33KV Khanda Tap line will remain shut from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on 14 and 19 August for conductor stringing. This will affect the 33/11KV Receiving Station at Khanda, disrupting supply to Chattergam, Magraypora, Suthsoo, Gowherpora, and adjoining areas.

Similarly, on 18 and 21

August, the 33KV Pampore-BK Pora line will be shut from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for branch cutting, pole erection, and stabilisation works. This outage will impact the BK Pora, Khanda, and Summerbugh Receiving Stations, resulting in power cuts in BK Pora, Khanda, Checkpora, Chattergam, Kenihama, Summerbugh, Wagoora, Airbagh, Chackpora, and nearby localities.

On 23 August, the 33KV Pampore-Wagoora line will remain shut from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., affecting the Pohroo and Kadlbal Receiving Stations. Consumers in Pahroo, Kadlbal, Gas Plant, FGCIL, and surrounding areas will face outages. Meanwhile, on 17 August, augmentation and stabilisation works on the 33KV Pampore-SIDCO line will lead to shutdowns from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., impacting the Pampore-I and Pampore-II Receiving Stations. Power supply will be affected in Frestibal, Khadamoh, Kadlbal, ITBP, Zewan, JKEDI, Drangbal, Namlabal, Tulbagh, and adjoining areas.



Mashq-e-Arbaeen Annual Art Exhibition Begins

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar – Mashq-e-Arbaeen, Dark'e Azadari — a weeklong art exhibition dedicated to the commemoration of Arbaeen — commenced on Monday at Kashmir Art Harbour, captivating art lovers with its rich display of creativity and devotion.

The exhibition, featuring art, photography, calligraphy, and poetry, drew large crowds of art enthusiasts who thronged the venue on Friday to witness its offerings. Now in its 13th edition, the event is curated by Syed Ilyas Rizvi, a craft and heritage consultant.

The exhibition began on August 12, 2024 — corresponding to 17th Safar-ul-Muzaffar, 1446 Hijri — with the theme “Mashq-e-Arbaeen ... Dark'e-Azadari”. According to Rizvi, the event brings together works from artists, students, and other creative participants from various educational institutions.

“This year we have a remarkable collection of artworks and photographs, especially from schoolchildren in the Old City, including portraits depicting Muharram processions and young standard-bearers,” Rizvi said. Among the

highlights is a striking photograph by Danish Mir, a 10th-class student from Standard Public School, which has become a focal point for visitors.

Rizvi explained that the exhibition aims to explore multiple dimensions of Azadari, reflecting how people and spaces transform during the sacred months of Muharram and Safar. “It is our humble tribute to Imam Hussain (AS) and the martyrs of Karbala through art and other creative mediums,” he said.

He added that the weeklong event serves as an opportunity to examine the multidimensional traditions of mourning in Kashmir. “Over the next few days, through creative works, we will engage with historical places, meet experts in elegies, poetry, photography, painting, and calligraphy, connect emotionally, and share our own experiences to better understand the traditions of Azadari,” Rizvi noted.

The initiative, he said, is also intended to bring together children, parents, educators, academics, researchers, scholars, and community members to learn about Ashura, Arbaeen, the sacrifice of Imam Hussain (AS) — the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) — and the timeless message of Karbala. Tracing the journey of Mashq-

e-Arbaeen, Rizvi recalled that the exhibition began in the lawns of the University of Kashmir in 2013. “Over 13 editions, we have seen evolution in concept, creativity, and presentation. More than 100 participants have showcased over 500 works during these years,” he said.

Rizvi also said that over the last decade, the exhibition has travelled to major art galleries in Srinagar city, including the Craft Gallery, Art Emporium, and Mahattas Srinagar.

He said, “Srinagar is a World Craft City, recognised by the World Craft Council in 2024 and the UNESCO Creative Crafts Network. Exhibitions like these create opportunities to introduce unknown craftsmen and crafts to people. This way, we can work towards securing our place on the World Craft Map.”

A special section of the exhibition is dedicated to the signs and symbols of Kashmiri Azadari, including a display titled “Seel” — a woollen garment traditionally worn by elegy reciters during Marsiya Khawani in Kashmir. Irfan Hussain, an Artist who has been part of the exhibition for the last two years, urged fellow art lovers to visit. “It's an enriching experience. It will not only help them learn but also inspire them to participate in the future,” he said.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir ROYAL SPRINGS GOLF COURSE, SRINAGAR NOTICE INVITING TENDER E-NIT No. 14 Of 2025-26 Dated 13.08.2025							
For and on behalf of the Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course, e-tenders are invited on two cover system by Executive Engineer Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar by e-tendering mode on Percentage basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State UTI, PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. for the following works:-							
S No	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earned Money (in Rs)	Cost of T/Doc	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	Creation of out of bound near area in fairway No 1 by way fencing at RSGC for the financial year 2025-26 Srinagar.	7.50	15000/- in shape of CDR or FDR in favour of Executive Engineer RSGC	850 /= Non Refundable in shape of Bank Challan in favour Secretary RSGC or Bank Challan SB - 0229040100012341 J&K Bank Brain Branch Nishat Srinagar	50 Days	DEE,CEE	5452 Tourism
Position of AA: Accorded		Position of TS: Obtained					
Special conditions:- I. No exemption is allowed and so all bidders must Upload Proof of EMD and Tender Processing Fee. II. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason at any stage. III. Intending bidders shall upload scanned copies of documents of valid registration card with renewal of 2025-26 /PAN/GST registration with latest receipt for the month of July 2025 OR 1st Quarter (i.e April 2025 to June 2025). However successful bidders shall produce the original copies of same before issuance of contract. IV. The typographical error in the BOQ like Unit of item Quantity of item etc, if any found during e-NIT or after end date of NIT shall be rectified in the allotment as per the estimate. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-							
1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	13-08-2025 11:00 AM					
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 13-08-2025 to 02-09-2025 (4.00 PM on wards)					
3.	Bid submission Start Date	13-08-2025 4:00 PM on wards					
4.	Bid Submission End Date	02-09-2025 upto 03:00 PM					
5.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids(Online)	03-09-2025 at 10:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer RSGC Srinagar					
6.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids(Online)	03-09-2025 at 11:30 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer RSGC Srinagar					
General Conditions: 1. The financial bid (BOQ) of only eligible, responsive bidders shall be opened on line on the date mentioned above in the office of Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar. In case of any unavoidable circumstances the tenders shall be opened on the next working day or any subsequent date convenient to the Authority. 2. The list 1st lowest bidder (Successful) has to submit performance security @ 5% of the Contract Value or Below %age of un-balanced Bid on quoted bid by LI in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar drawn from nationalized/ Scheduled bank preferably J&K Bank which should reach to the office of Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar within 05 days from the date of opening of on line bids. In case of failure the bid shall be treated as non-responsive. 3. The bids for the works shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of opening of tenders. 4. The department shall not be responsible for any technical error or delay in submission of on line bids due to any reason. 5. The department can modify the terms and conditions, specification of work if need arises before the dead line date of receipt of tenders. 6. The bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ down loaded should be used for filling the item rate / Percentage inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains. 7. Unbalanced Bid: In case of unbalanced bids, the intending bidders shall be required to deposit additional performance security in the form of CDR or FDR, as per the following scale. The performance security shall be released upon successful completion of the work. S.No. Below %age of un-balanced Bid viz-a-viz advertised cost Additional performance Security to be deposited on quoted bid by LI 01. Upto and including 15% below NIL 02. >15% upto and including 20% below 5.00 % of advertised cost 03. >20% upto and including 25% below 10.00 % of advertised cost 04. >25% upto and including 30% below 15.00 % of advertised cost 05. >30% below 20.00% of advertised cost 7. The Contractor is bound to work/ supply the material of best quality as per specifications. Any material found Substandard/ defective shall not be entertained and contractor is bound to replace it immediately at his own cost. 8. The date of start of work shall be reckoned within 3 days from the date of issue of LOI /allotment. 9. In case of delay in completion of the work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty up to 10% of the allotted cost shall be imposed. 10. No advance payment shall be paid to the Service/ contractor. 11. The contractor shall ensure execution of an agreement with the Department within 15 days from the date of issue of LOI/allotment. 12. All disputes and differences between the parties arising out of any relating to the NIT, Letter of intent, Allotment, work done bills and agreement to be signed between the Officer of RSGC and the contractor including interpretation of its terms and conditions shall be preferable to Secretary, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar whose decision shall be final and binding upon all the parties 13. The bidders are advised to quote their rates in Percentage which includes Income tax, GST, Labour cess etc 14. The employer may terminate the contract if the contractor causes a breach of the contract. 15. The tender is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in the NIT/ Agreement 16. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD form-25 double FFC-31. 17. Any item found to be necessary execute on site not covered by allotment the same shall be paid on in vogue rate along allotted percentage. 18. The DLP shall be reckoned from the date of successful completion of work shall be upto the period of not less than Six Months. 19. Rates should be quoted in INR inclusive of all taxes / Charges/ FOR. 20. No escalation of rates shall be allowed whatsoever during the period of rate contract. 21. In case of the unsuccessful tenderer the CDR/ FDR shall be released after completion of the rate contract with successful tenderer. 22. The EMD in shape of CDR/ FDR with validity of not less than 24 months from any nationalized/ scheduled bank preferably J&K Bank pledged to Executive Engineer RSGC and should be uploaded on the portal with tender.							
No: RSGC/EE/2025-26/ 145-47		DIPK-NB-1627/25		Dated: 13/08/2025			
Executive Engineer Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar							

- 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

SHIEK 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

19 Safar
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 19
ZUHR	12:35
ASR	5: 24
Magrib	7:23
ISHA	8: 51

This Day In History

- 554 - Ravenna becomes seat of Byzantine military governor in Italy
- 1183 - Taira no Munemori and Taira clan take young Emperor Antoku and 3 sacred treasures and flee to western Japan to escape Minamoto clan (Traditional Japanese date: 25th Day of the 7th Month of the 2nd Year of Juei).
- 1281 - During Kublai Khan's Second Invasion of Japan his invading Chinese fleet of 3,500 vessels disappears in a typhoon near Japan
- 1385 - Portuguese defeat Castilians at Aljubarrota, retain independence
- 1498 - Christopher Columbus landed at the mouth of the Orinoco River in what is now Venezuela
- 1551 - Turkish fleet under Dragut occupies Tripoli
- 1743 - Prussian army occupies Saksen, beginning 2nd Silezian War
- 1756 - French capture Fort Oswego, NY
- 1758 - Battle of Zorndorf: Prussia beats Russia, 1000s killed
- 1762 - English fleet occupies Havana
- 1790 - Sweden & Russia sign Peace of Verela
- 1813 - British warship Pelican attacks & captures US war brigantine Argus
- 1816 - Great Britain annexes Tristan da Cunha
- 1862 - Abraham Lincoln receives the first group of African Americans to confer with a US president
- 1885 - Japan's first patent is issued to the inventor of a rust-proof paint.
- 1894 - Sir Oliver Joseph Lodge demonstrates wireless telegraphy (radio) using Morse code at a meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Oxford University
- 1911 - United States Senate leaders begin to rotate the office of President pro tempore (for the time being) of the Senate among leading candidates to fill the vacancy left by William P. Frye's death.
- 1920 - Little Entente formed by Czechoslovakia & Yugoslavia
- 1937 - China declares war on Japan
- 1944 - Soviet offensive at Weichsel
- 1945 - V-J Day, Japan surrenders unconditionally to end WW II (also August 15 depending on time zone)
- 1945 Ho Chi Minh's Viet Minh movement launch a coordinated uprising against French rule across Vietnam following the Japanese surrender
- 1945 - Japanese government notifies the Allies that it had accepted the Potsdam Declaration
- 1947 - Pakistan gains independence from Great Britain
- 1960 - UN peace-keeping troops deployed to the Republic of Congo
- 1964 - Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and Syria form common market
- 1971 - Bahrain proclaims independence after 110 years of British rule
- 1975 - Pakistani military coup against Bangladeshi President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
- 1982 - Iran "Ramadan-offensive" in Iraq
- 1986 - Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto arrested
- 1994 - Space telescope Hubble photographs Uranus with rings
- 1995 - Iran's official news agency, IRNA, reports that Iran has been unable to sell 200 million barrels per day of crude oil since the imposition of a unilateral oil embargo by the US
- 1997 - Soyuz TM-25 lands
- 2007 - Coordinated bombings in Yazidi communities in Iraq kill at least 500 people, the second-deadliest terror attack of all time
- 2008 - A popular Chinese 1-2 in the 200m butterfly at the Beijing Olympics with Liu Zige swimming world record 2:04.18 to beat teammate Jiao Liuyang
- 2008 - Japanese swimmer Kosuke Kitajima repeats his Athens Olympics 100/200m breaststroke double at the Beijing Games winning the 200m in Olympic record 2:07.64
- 2015 - Most extensive face transplant surgery ever performed on Patrick Hardison by Dr. Eduardo Rodriguez at New York University Langone Medical Center
- 2016 - An all-British final in the men's cycling sprint with Jason Kenny beating teammate Callum Skinner at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics

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KO VIEW

Student
Mental Health

The Supreme Court’s recent intervention on student mental health is not just another policy directive, it is a lifeline. In issuing 15 binding guidelines for schools, colleges, and coaching centres, the court has directly confronted a crisis that has claimed far too many young lives in recent years. The trigger was the heartbreaking death of a NEET aspirant in Vishakhapatnam, who fell from her hostel terrace under suspicious circumstances while undergoing coaching.

In classrooms and coaching centres across India, dreams are nurtured, but too often, so is silent suffering. Last month, the Supreme Court broke that silence. By laying down guidelines to safeguard students’ mental health, the court acknowledged a crisis that has stolen far too many young lives and gone unaddressed for too long. Behind the ranks and results we celebrate are young people weighed down by the burden of parental expectation, isolation, and the feeling that they have nowhere to turn.

In Jammu and Kashmir, this problem is endemic but generally goes unaddressed. Here, academic stress is compounded by years of political uncertainty, and shrinking job markets. For many young people, the future feels less like a promise and more like a burden.

So, the Supreme Court’s directives couldn’t have come at a more appropriate time. The apex court has directed all states and Union Territories to notify rules within two months mandating registration, student protection norms, and grievance redressal for private coaching centres. What is more, district-level committees, headed by District Magistrates, will oversee inspections and handle complaints. Just as crucially, the court has called for proper student-to-counsellor ratios and for mentors to be assigned to small groups, especially during exam periods. These recommendations can make the difference between a student coping and a student collapsing under the strain.

J&K should adopt the SC directions in letter and spirit. Although, we already have an acute shortage of mental health professionals, there is an urgent need to introduce counsellors in our schools and colleges. Regulation could finally hold accountable the many coaching centres that operate unchecked, putting profit above student welfare.

The National Task Force on Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention has also opened its doors for public input through a new website. Students, parents, educators, and citizens can share their experiences and ideas. The court has given us a map. Now it is up to the J&K administration to walk the path.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Kashmir’s Return to Trust

Reviving honesty and integrity can shape a future where prosperity and community go hand in hand.

Irshad Mushtaq

Kashmir’s beauty is legendary, but its people once carried a legacy of trust that shaped daily life. Milk vendors, artisans, teachers worked with honesty, guided by shared values. Neighbours were family, disputes were rare, and communities thrived on integrity. Life ran on respect.

Today, material ambitions and modern pressures have frayed this fabric. Greed and shortcuts replace ethical conduct. Elders’ wisdom is sidelined. Everyday interactions now carry more tension, and social bonds weaken.

Reviving this culture starts with conscious effort. Businesses must be honest. Schools should teach respect and responsibility. Families should honor guidance from elders. Linking ethics to growth strengthens communities and builds sustainable prosperity. True wealth lies in trust, relationships, and shared success, not mere accumulation.

Kashmir can embrace modern skills and technology without losing its values. If everyone acts with integrity, the valley can flourish as a society admired for its character as much as its landscapes.

For the next generation, let Kashmir’s legacy be one of trust, respect, and community. Prosperity is richest when measured not only in wealth, but in the strength of the bonds that hold us together.

The author is a Srinagar-based
reputed financial advisor.



Kashmir Needs
Risk-Takers

To unlock the region’s potential, society must value creativity and calculated risk alongside traditional career paths.

Muzamil Farooq



Classrooms must reward curiosity, exploration, and hands-on problem solving. Interdisciplinary learning should replace rote memorization. Students should be encouraged to tackle real-world challenges, prototype solutions, and learn from failure. Families and communities must celebrate unconventional paths, valuing creativity as much as conformity.

Ambition in Kashmir comes wrapped in caution. Parents urge their children toward medicine or civil services. Society applauds top marks in board exams, high NEET ranks, and the coveted IAS.

Success is measured in stability, respect, and financial security. Adventure rarely features in the syllabus, experimentation is discouraged, and failure is feared.

Risk-taking is the engine of progress. Every scientific breakthrough, technological leap, or cultural revolution began with someone willing to venture into the unknown.

Columbus sailed across an uncharted ocean. Edison failed thousands of times before the light bulb worked. Steve Jobs turned ideas that seemed impossible into reality.

These moments are lessons in cultivating curiosity, resilience, and courage.

Kashmir’s education system struggles to nurture that courage. Schools emphasize memorization over problem-solving. Board exams and entrance tests like NEET and UPSC dominate the classroom. Students are trained to reproduce correct answers and avoid mistakes.

Curiosity becomes perilous, original thinking is penalized,

and risk becomes synonymous with failure.

The societal pressures amplify this pattern. Families see medicine and civil services as guaranteed pathways to respect and security. Students are pushed toward these fields, while entrepreneurship, creative arts, and emerging technologies are dismissed as uncertain or frivolous. Parents reward conformity and caution, inadvertently discouraging experimentation.

The consequences are visible. Talented young minds emerge with narrow skill sets, conditioned to follow instructions rather than innovate. Kashmir still struggles to produce entrepreneurs, inventors, and creative leaders. The rigid focus on “safe careers” limits the region’s ability to harness its intellectual capital for technology, arts, or social innovation.

Change requires a shift in mindset. Classrooms must reward curiosity, exploration, and hands-on problem solving. Interdisciplinary learning should replace rote memorization. Students should be encouraged to tackle real-world challenges, prototype solutions, and learn from failure. Families and communities must celebrate unconventional paths, valuing creativity as much as conformity.

Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus captured this idea sharply: “Attending university merely to obtain a degree and use this brain just to do a job that is repetitive every day is a disgrace to the human brain.”

Millions of Kashmiri brains capable of original thought are funneled into repetitive routines, their potential untapped.

The risk of failure is feared more than the promise of innovation.

The stakes are high. As technology reshapes economies worldwide, regions that fail to cultivate risk-taking risk being left behind.

For Kashmir, the question is about the future of creativity, entrepreneurship, and social progress. Young minds here have the talent. They need guidance, courage, and the freedom to experiment.

Risk-taking is the cornerstone of growth. Kashmir must learn to value curiosity, embrace failure, and allow its youth to step into the unknown.

That is how societies evolve, discoveries emerge, and dreams turn into impact.

- Muzamil Farooq, Marie Sklodowska-Curie Research Fellow at the University of Stavanger, studies innovation and regional development.

Letter to Editor

Supreme Court Directive Offers Kashmir a Path to Safer Streets

For years, streets in Srinagar, Budgam, and Ganderbal have been dominated by packs of stray dogs. They bark, chase, and sometimes bite children and the elderly. Garbage piles attract more dogs, spreading filth and infections. Families live with constant anxiety, and municipal authorities struggled to manage the problem.

The Supreme Court’s recent order - relocating stray dogs from Delhi NCR to safe shelters while prioritizing human safety - offers a rare ray of hope.

This is more than a legal ruling. It is a promise that human lives matter and that authorities must act

responsibly. Dogs should live, but not at the cost of human safety. Municipal corporations and panchayats are now responsible for implementation, and obstruction will face strict action.

Across India, 17 to 20 lakh people are bitten by dogs each year, many of them children. Rabies, transmitted in nearly all cases, claims thousands of lives annually.

The danger in Kashmir is compounded by dogs rummaging through garbage, creating public health risks. This order gives residents hope that streets can be safer, cleaner, and more orderly.

Animal welfare remains important. The court’s approach respects

the right of dogs to live while ensuring human safety. Shelters, sterilization campaigns, vaccinations, and proper care must follow.

Communities also have a role. Feeding dogs on open streets encourages packs and aggressive behaviour. Compassion works best when paired with responsibility. Families who wish to care for dogs should adopt them or support organized shelters.

Global examples show it can work. Thailand’s sterilization and vaccination programs and Turkey’s microchipped street dog projects reduced attacks and improved safety. Kashmir can adapt these models to its local context, providing humane solu-

tions for humans and animals alike.

The Supreme Court’s order is a reminder that practical, compassionate solutions are possible when law, administration, and society work together. Streets should be safe for children playing, elders walking, and families going about daily life.

For Kashmiris, this is a rare moment of hope that a long-standing problem can be managed responsibly, protecting lives while treating animals humanely.

Sincerely

Fida Mushtaq
Srinagar

The Invisible Women of Kashmir Pastures

For the valley's remote and roaming women, violence is only the first wound. Their grief, health and dignity remain unnoticed.

Sadaf Masoodi

The news appeared like a spark, then dissolved like smoke across the forests where an unseen tribe has carried its troubles for generations.

In early May 2025, four Kashmiri men gang-raped and killed a 45-year-old Gujar woman, a mother of five. Her youngest child witnessed the attack.

Beyond a brief outcry, there were no street protests, candlelight vigils or online campaigns for justice.

On TV and social media, the air buzzed with the noise of war. In the wake of the Baisaran Bloodbath, national newsrooms were mixing reporting with battle talk.

In that din and discourse, this shocking case slipped away.

That poor soul was a seasonal migrant from Reasi and a stranger to the city where she was killed. For her gypsy tribe in Kashmir, violence is only the beginning of the story after years of hidden grief, illness and mental strain.

In the high pastures where they spend much of their lives, there is no vocabulary for trauma or depression, there are only symptoms, endured without treatment, and often without recognition.

The Gujjars and Bakkarwals are Muslim nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes, recognized as Scheduled Tribes under Indian law.

Every year, they migrate with their cattle in search of pastures, moving in a circular route that takes them to high-altitude meadows in summer and down to the plains in winter.

Life on the move is tough. Poverty runs deep, schooling is scarce and discrimination is constant. Health care is barely there. People often go hungry and too many babies don't make it.

Their cultural traditions are distinct but their social standing is fragile.

"We are not taken seriously," says tribal activist Guftar Choudhary. "We are treated as a vote bank,



not as people with rights. Even the word 'Gujjar' is used as an insult."

In the Ganderbal village of Chattregul, a narrow stream runs between green hills and a cluster of temporary shelters. To an outsider, it looks idyllic. To 14-year-old Hafiza, it is home, but also a place of limits.

Her family moves with their livestock year-round. She attends a local school, but envies the stability of her classmates in brick houses at the village edge.

"I want to be like other children," she says, pointing toward the permanent homes.

Years ago, she began to lose her eyesight. Her parents stopped taking her to doctors in Srinagar because the travel was costly and time-consuming. She once had glasses, prescribed by a city doctor,

but they broke.

Now she rushes to finish her homework before sunset. "I can't see at night," she says, matter-of-factly.

For Hafiza, vision loss is one more hardship to endure. When asked if it makes her feel sad or anxious, she laughs, not because it's funny, but because she has no frame of reference for the question.

In Zakura, on the outskirts of Srinagar, a yellow tarpaulin tent shelters the Khatana family. Nineteen-year-old Nisar Ahmed sits with his relatives, recalling the death of a cousin from North Kashmir.

She was brought to a Srinagar hospital and died after 20 days.

"We don't know what it was," he says. Hospitals are far and costly, so they turn to herbs and wild plants when they fall sick. For headaches, they boil patrees, wild leaves into tea.

The gaps in healthcare widen when it comes to mental health.

At the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) in Srinagar, a young Gujar boy from Kupwara is the only tribal patient at the moment, in a 15-bed psychiatric ward. His family travelled 95 kilometres to bring him here. Another female cousin with the same symptoms remains in their village, untreated.

"Outside Srinagar, mental health professionals are almost absent," says Dr. Obaid Rasool Bhat, a psychiatrist at IMHANS. "In tribal areas, there are no psychiatrists. People rely on general physicians who are not trained for psychiatric illnesses."

For women, the challenge is compounded.

"Their lives are constantly on the move," Dr. Bhat continues. "Follow-up visits are nearly impossible. What we need are mobile mental health teams that can reach them."

In Soura, Srinagar, 21-year-old Nasira lives in a mud shelter on a disputed land. Her family settled there years ago after losing their nomadic route, but they never secured ownership papers.

Nasira passed her 12th grade and once dreamed of a government job. But her family lost their Scheduled Tribe certificates decades ago, during a move. Without them, she cannot prove her identity for job applications.

She now works as a domestic helper, earning enough to keep her family afloat. "Different people come and tell us to vacate," she says. "I gave up my dreams. Now I just try to survive."

Her sister, married for years, has been unable to conceive. The fam-

ily cannot afford hospital visits or follow-ups.

Many of the temporary shelters that nomads once used in Srinagar have disappeared, replaced by housing colonies and commercial buildings.

With little or no land of their own, Gujjar-Bakkarwal families settle near forest edges and green patches to feed their animals, until they're told to move again.

Non-tribal women have at least some mechanisms, like police or NGOs, to report abuse," Dr. Malik explains. "Where do Gujar women report? There are no structural mechanisms for them."

For them, displacement is a way of life.

In 2019, after the abrogation of Article 370, the Forest Rights Act (FRA) was extended to Jammu and Kashmir. It was supposed to secure nomadic communities' rights to forest land, grazing areas, and water sources.

In reality, little has changed. Evictions still hang over them, tangled in red tape. "The FRA is an eye-wash," says activist Choudhary. "On paper, we have rights. In real life, the law means nothing."

For Gujjar-Bakkarwal women, that uncertainty piles onto the stress of getting through each day. As Nasira says, "What can we do?"

Beyond a figure of speech, it's a daily dread between risk and survival.

In Srinagar's drug de-addiction center (DDC) which also offer psychiatric counseling, professionals cannot recall ever treating a Gujar woman.

"They don't come," says psychi-

atric social worker at DDC Baramulla, Uzma Qureshi. "It may be lack of awareness, or the belief that it won't help. Either way, we don't see them."

Dr. Shazia Malik from Kashmir University's Centre for Women's Studies says the problem is twofold: no data, and no services.

"There is no mental health data specific to Gujar women," she says. "We can only guess at the psychological burdens they carry."

Violence against women is common across the region, but tribal women face an added barrier.

"Non-tribal women have at least some mechanisms, like police or NGOs, to report abuse," Dr. Malik explains. "Where do Gujar women report? There are no structural mechanisms for them."

When even basic medical care is hard to find, mental health is barely considered. Babies are still born on roads. Women walk for hours to gather food or firewood.

In the middle of these daily struggles, therapy feels like a distant dream.

Dr. Bhat believes outreach programs could help, such as mobile clinics and awareness drives in seasonal camps, but these efforts are rare.

"Mental health," says Choudhary, "means little when women are still dying from preventable causes, when they are still treated as outsiders in their own state."

The result is a cycle where trauma remains unspoken and untreated, violence fades from public memory, and survival takes up all available energy.

For Hafiza in Chattregul, for Nisar in Zakura, for Nasira in Soura, the hardships vary, but the pattern is the same: illness without treatment, identity without recognition, rights without enforcement.

The woman from Reasi, whose death briefly made headlines, is part of that same pattern.

Her life and death were shaped by a reality where dignity is fragile, justice is fleeting, and the land itself can vanish underfoot.

—Sadaf Masoodi is a scribe and researcher from Srinagar. This story was produced as part of the Laadli Media Fellowship Award 2025.

The opinions and views expressed are those of the author. Laadli and UNFPA do not necessarily endorse the views.

Tasting Kashmir's Forgotten Flavours with Om Prakash Sharma

He calls himself a student, yet Om Prakash Sharma has spent decades teaching Kashmir to see, taste, and care for its forests. I followed him, cooked with him, and discovered a hidden world of food, culture, and biodiversity.

Every dish I now cook carries a story, every bite a lesson. And every time I step into a forest, I follow Sharma ji's footsteps, learning from a man who calls himself a student but has taught us to live with our forests, respect our heritage, and taste the hidden flavours of Kashmir.

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

I have always loved cooking. Most people don't know this about me. I even keep a small kitchen in my office, where I chop, stir, and fry while friends hover, curious or hungry. But in the summer of 2015, my love for food met a forest I had barely noticed.

I accompanied Om Prakash Sharma, then Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, to the Basant Wodder forests near Doodh Pathri in Budgam. The morning air was sharp, scented with pine and earth, and sunlight slanted through the trees in golden streaks. We were marking World Environment Day with students and teachers, but I wasn't prepared for how profoundly the day would reshape my understanding of Kashmir.

Sharma ji moved among the plants as if each recognized him. He plucked a handful of Han'nd, letting its leaves fall into my palm, and spoke of Krech, Obej, Pamb Haakh, Lissa, and mushrooms like Paenz Unjee. He described their taste, their nutritional value, the

way villagers and shepherds used them.

I suggested a food festival to cook and serve these treasures. He nodded, calm but decisive, as if saying: we'll do it.

By August 2015, Sharma ji was Director of Environment, Ecology & Remote Sensing. We scouted Yusmarg, but logistics led us to Srinagar's Institute of Hotel Management.

On 4 October that year, the first Forest Food Festival came alive. Chef Yaseen and his team transformed herbs and vegetables into Hand Paratha, Soi Soup, Makai Halwa, and Maval Cookies.

Ramzan Khan from Gurez had brought rare herbs, their earthy aroma filling the room as chefs chopped and sautéed. Sharma ji, Nusrat Jahanara, Chef Yaseen, and I spent days discussing combinations, taste, and presentation.

The festival was inaugurated by the then Forest Minister, Bali Baghat, but the real magic was in the scent of roasting mushrooms, the tang of freshly picked greens, the joy on the faces of children tasting their first Hand Paratha.

Over the next four years, festi-



vals spread to Yusmarg, Gurez, and beyond. I wrote about forest herbs, mushrooms, and Kashmiri vegetarian cuisine, and even promoted it at festivals in Gujarat.

Most tourists are vegetarian, yet we serve Punjabi dishes, ignoring the wealth beneath our feet. Sharma ji introduced me to it all. He is a national treasure, carrying decades of knowledge across forests, villages, and kitchens.

He calls himself Vidyarthi, the student, but his work spans over fifty books in Dogri, Hindi, and English, blending environmental

science with cultural heritage. His "Tree Talk" initiative has reached thousands for fifteen years, from remote villages in Ladakh to classrooms in New York. Anyone who sits under a tree with him learns to see, hear, and smell biodiversity. He revived local names for plants, animals, and mushrooms, compiling bilingual and trilingual illustrated dictionaries, and teaching children taxonomy alongside tradition.

He funds publications, events, and awareness campaigns himself, mentoring young researchers, connecting local wisdom with modern science. He discovered plant species previously unrecorded in J&K: Solanum sisymbriifolium, Chionanthus ramiflorus, Daphniphyllum himalense.

His experiments with herbal teas and snacks, like Chiu Pakoda, Taju Chai, Tinbru snacks, Butrub Paratha, carry centuries of knowledge in every bite.

Sharma ji hails from Ramnagar in Udhampur. After 32 years in the Forest Department, he retired in 2020 as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. Even now, he travels across Kashmir, mentoring stu-

dents, green warriors, and curious citizens. His following stretches from Gurez to Budgam, Kupwara to Kishtwar. He is a teacher in the truest sense: patient, passionate, tireless.

I learned from him that conservation is about people, culture, and connection. It is in the crunch of a fresh leaf, the smell of wet soil, the colour of a mushroom under sunlight.

Through festivals, Tree Talks, and books, Sharma ji has taught thousands to notice what they had forgotten, to taste what they had overlooked, and to care for what seemed ordinary.

Every dish I now cook carries a story, every bite a lesson. And every time I step into a forest, I follow Sharma ji's footsteps, learning from a man who calls himself a student but has taught us to live with our forests, respect our heritage, and taste the hidden flavours of Kashmir.

—Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow and Chairman Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement. He can be reached at bhatrajamuzaffar@gmail.com

Trump Warns Of 'Severe Consequences' If Putin Continues Ukraine War After Summit

Associated Press

Washington: US President Donald Trump said Wednesday there will be "very severe consequences" if Russian President Vladimir Putin doesn't agree to stop the Ukraine war after Friday's summit.

Trump was "very clear" in a virtual meeting Wednesday with European leaders that the US wants to achieve a ceasefire at the upcoming US-Russia summit in Alaska, French President Emmanuel Macron said.

In the same meeting, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he told the group that Putin "is bluffing" ahead of the planned meeting with Trump.

Putin, Zelensky said, "is trying to apply pressure ... on all sectors of the Ukrainian front" in an attempt to show that Russia is "capable of occupying all of Ukraine."

Putin is also bluffing about sanctions, "as if they do not matter to him and are ineffective. In reality, sanctions are very helpful and are hitting Russia's war economy hard," Zelensky said.

Speaking after the video conference between Trump, Zelensky and other European leaders, Macron said Trump was prioritising a ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia. He added that Trump had been clear that "territorial issues relating to Ukraine ... will only be negotiated by the Ukrainian president."

Following his meeting Friday with the Russian leader, Trump will also "seek a future trilateral meeting" - one involving Trump, Putin and Zelensky, Macron said.

"I think that's a very important point in this regard. And we hope that it can be held in Europe, in a neutral country that is acceptable to all parties," Macron said.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz had convened the virtual meetings in an attempt to make sure European and Ukraine's leaders are heard ahead of the summit, where Trump and Putin are expected to discuss a path toward ending Moscow's war in Ukraine.

Speaking alongside Zelensky, who traveled to Berlin Wednesday to take part in the meetings, Merz described the meeting with Trump as "constructive" and said that "important decisions" could be made in Anchorage, but stressed that "fundamental European and Ukrainian security interests must be protected" at the summit.

Zelensky and the Europeans have been sidelined from that summit. German government spokesperson Steffen Meyer said the intention of Wednesday's meetings was to "make clear the position of the Europeans."

A call among leaders of countries involved in the "coalition of the willing" - those who are prepared to help police any future peace agreement between Moscow and Kyiv - was expected to take place later Wednesday.

Before arriving in Berlin, Zelensky said his government has had over 30 conversations with partners ahead of the summit in Alaska, but reiterated his doubt that Putin would negotiate in good faith.

Writing on his official Telegram channel, Zelensky said there was "currently no sign that the Russians are preparing to end the war," and urged Ukraine's partners in the United States and Europe to coordinate efforts and "force Russia to peace."

"Pressure must be applied on Russia for an honest peace. We must take the experience of Ukraine and our partners to

prevent deception by Russia," Zelensky said.

Trump has said he wants to see whether Putin is serious about ending the war, now in its fourth year, describing Friday's summit as "a feel-out meeting" where he can assess the Russian leader's intentions.

Yet Trump has disappointed allies in Europe by saying Ukraine will have to give up some Russian-held territory. He has also said Russia must accept land swaps, although it was unclear what Putin might be expected to surrender.

European allies have pushed for Ukraine's involvement in any peace talks, fearful that discussions that exclude Kyiv could otherwise favor Moscow.

Trump on Monday ducked repeated chances to say that he would push for Zelensky to take part in his discussions with Putin, and was dismissive of Zelensky and his need to be part of an effort to seek peace. Trump said that following Friday's summit, a meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian leaders could be arranged, or that it could also be a meeting with "Putin and Zelensky and me."

The Europeans and Ukraine are wary that Putin, who has waged the biggest land war in Europe since 1945 and used Russia's energy might to try to intimidate the European Union, might secure favorable concessions and set the outlines of a peace deal without them.

The overarching fear of many European countries is that Putin will set his sights on one of them next if he wins in Ukraine.

Zelensky said Tuesday that Putin wants Ukraine to withdraw from the remaining 30% of the Donetsk region that it still controls as part of a ceasefire deal, a proposal the leader

categorically rejected.

Zelensky reiterated that Ukraine would not give up any territory it controls, saying that would be unconstitutional and would serve only as a springboard for a future Russian invasion.

He said diplomatic discussions led by the US focusing on ending the war have not addressed key Ukrainian demands, including security guarantees to prevent future Russian aggression and including Europe in negotiations.

Three weeks after Trump returned to office, his administration took the leverage of Ukraine's NATO membership off the table - something that Putin has demanded - and signaled that the EU and Ukraine must handle security in Europe now while America focuses its attention elsewhere.

Senior EU officials believe that Trump may be satisfied with simply securing a ceasefire in Ukraine, and is probably more interested in broader US geostrategic interests and great power politics, aiming to ramp up business with Russia and rehabilitate Putin.

Russian forces on the ground in Ukraine have been closing in on a key territorial grab around the city of Pokrovsk, in the eastern Donbas region comprises Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland that Putin has long coveted.

Military analysts using open-source information to monitor the battles have said Ukraine's ability to fend off those advances could be critical: Losing Pokrovsk would hand Russia an important victory ahead of the summit and could complicate Ukrainian supply lines to the Donetsk region, where the Kremlin has focused the bulk of military efforts.

Nissan Offers 10-Year Extended Warranty for 5-Star Rated Magnite

Srinagar: Nissan Motor India today launched a first of its kind 10-Year Extended Warranty Plan for the New Nissan Magnite. This is a segment first customer-focused initiative that underscores the brand's long-term commitment to quality, reliability, and peace of mind. This plan has been announced immediately after the success of the New Nissan Magnite scoring a 5-star rating on overall passenger safety with a perfect 5-star rating on AOP (Adult Occupant Safety).

The plan offers 3 years of standard warranty, extendable through flexible plans of up to a 10-Year Extended Warranty Plan, ensuring a full decade of driving confidence and protection applicable for up to 10 years/2 lakh kms at a super affordable price of just 22 paise/Km or 12 INR/Day.

This 10-Year Extended WarrantyPlan is designed to give customers greater confidence and peace of mind. This is part of Nissan's customer service promise which includes service with value, trust and aimed at a sustainable future for Nissan customers. It reinforces Nissan's global promise of Japanese DNA, quality standards, robust reliability and premium craftsmanship and technology.

With Nissan's 10-Year Extended Warranty Plan, customers can enjoy complete peace of mind for up to 10 years. Comprehensive coverage offers cashless repairs across the country at any Nissan-authorized service workshops, with no limit on the number or value of claims. It ensures significant savings on unforeseen repair costs while guaranteeing high-quality service using genuine Nissan spare parts.



Additionally, the Extended Warranty Plan can be easily financed through NissanFinance along with the purchase of a new vehicle, offering customers seamless and convenient ownership experience.

Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, said: "The New Nissan Magnite has emerged as a symbol of quality, reliability, safety, and long-term value for Indian customers, and we're proud to see it stand tall with a prestigious 5-star safety rating from Global NCAP making it one of the safest B-SUVs in India. With the launch of our 10-YearExtended Warranty Plan, we're going beyond the normalto offer a bold promise—a worry-free ownership for a decade. This initiative gives customers the freedom to enjoy their New Nissan Magnite without compromise, backed by Nissan's proven quality, engineering and service excellence. We want our customers to focus on creating memorable journeys with the new NissanMagnite, while we take care of the rest."

Further strengthening its appeal, the New Nissan Magnite has recently been awarded a 5-star Overall Passenger Safety rating from Global NCAP, making it one of the safest SUVs in India and South Africa. Built on the enhanced CMF-A+ platform, the New Nissan Magnite, launched in October 2024, boasts of over 40+ standard safety features, including 6 airbags, improved body structure incorporating 67% high tensile strength steel (>440Mpa), ABS + EBD, ESC, TCS, HSA, Brake Assist, TPMS, among others.

Nissan Motor India recently launched its much-awaited New Nissan Magnite KURO Special Edition, a striking and premium, black-themed variant of its popular compact SUV. Starting at INR 8.30 Lakhs (ex-showroom, Delhi), the KURO Special Edition embodies the Boldest Black philosophy, blending bold styling, a suave interior black theme, and Japanese-inspired design cues.

The New Nissan Magnite SUV's bold and stylish design and road presence, over 20first and best-in-segment features, and 55+ safety features make it a standout choice in the compact SUV segment. With its bold road presence, premium features and expanding global reach, the New Nissan Magnite is now present in over 65 countries, including both Right-Hand Drive and Left-Hand Drive markets.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Trump Tariffs Prompt

a 100% import tax on U.S. apples.

"We have been struggling for years," said Ghulam Rasool, a third-generation orchardist from Kulgam. "Cheap apples from the U.S. are sold at half our price. If the government does not step in, we will lose our orchards, livelihoods, and children's future."

Kashmir produces nearly 80 percent of India's apples, employing tens of thousands of seasonal labourers and supporting a network of transporters, traders, and market vendors. Even small price declines ripple across the region, affecting families that depend on the fruit trade.

The protest also highlighted rising local costs. Farmers said electricity bills had surged despite promises of free power for orchard irrigation.

"We were promised free electricity, but charges keep going up almost every week. It's impossible to keep our orchards running like this," said Shahid Ali, whose family tends 12 acres of apple trees.

Debt adds another layer of pressure. Many farmers rely on Kisan Credit Card loans to fund fertilizer, pesticides, and labour. Falling fruit prices and rising costs make repayments increasingly difficult. The Federation warned that hundreds of farmers could default without government relief, threatening the entire local economy.

Economic data reinforces their concerns. Wholesale apple prices in Kashmir have fallen nearly 15 percent compared with last year, while labour and irrigation costs have risen by more than 10 percent.

The combination of cheap imports, higher expenses, and mounting debt has created a precarious financial situation across the valley.

The protest ended with a resolution to escalate demonstrations if the government fails to act.

Farmers said they were ready for larger mobilizations across Kashmir during the peak apple marketing season, underscoring the stakes for both producers and the regional economy.

"Our orchards sustain thousands of lives," said Rasool. "If the government does not act, we will fight for our future."

2-Day Rain

been advised to stay away from water bodies, river embankments, and loose structures during this period.

SC To Hear

of Jammu and Kashmir, the plea said, would result in a lesser form of elected democratic government to the state, particularly given legislative assembly results were declared on October 8, 2024.

Despite the apex court's directions for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir "at the earliest and as soon as possible", no steps have been taken by the Centre to provide any timeline for the implementation of such directions, it claimed.

"Jammu and Kashmir is being operated as a Union Territory for a period of almost five years now, which has caused many impediments and grave losses to the development of Jammu and Kashmir and has affected the democratic rights of its citizens," the plea added.

In its December 2023 verdict, the apex court held that Article 370, which was incorporated in the Indian Constitution in 1949 to grant special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was a temporary provision. The President of India was empowered to revoke the measure in the absence of the Constituent Assembly of the erstwhile state whose term expired in 1957, the court said.

HC To Hear Plea

the purview of the elected government and is to be made by the Lieutenant Governor without aid and advice of the council of ministers.

"Sections 15, 15A and 15B all recognize the power and authority of the Lieutenant Governor to make a nomination to the Legislative Assembly. Accordingly, there can be no manner of doubt that it is the Lieutenant Governor who has to exercise this statutory duty in his discretion, as a statutory functionary and not as an extension of the government, thus, without aid and advice," reads the affidavit filed by MHA through Vishal Sharma, Deputy Solicitor General of India.

While Section 15 of the Reorganisation Act empowers the Lieutenant Governor to nominate two women to the Assembly if he feels that they are not adequately represented Sections 15A and 15B confer upon him the authority to nominate two Kashmiri migrants and one Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) refugee, respectively.

J&K Has Secured

talent and earn their place at national and international level," the LG said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the Bijbehara Premier League is far more than an ambitious competition for the youth of Anantnag and its neighbouring districts. This tournament has also made a major contribution to improving the quality of sports throughout Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, J&K UT has made its rightful place in the Indian sporting landscape.

"In the past five years, we have invested in creating modern sports infrastructure, cultivate suitable environment for players and focussed on strong strategy and effective execution at grass roots level to foster sports culture," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the remarkable progress in J&K's sports sector is due to hard work and unwavering determination of our sportspersons, dedicated coaches and tireless efforts of officials of Sports Council.

"J&K UT since 2020 had adopted a player-centered approach to develop players and maximise their ability. It has also been ensured that children and youth are provided with ample opportunities to participate in sports activities. This widespread reach reflects our commitment to inclusive sports development across the entire Union Territory," he said.

"Five years ago, just 2.5 lakh youth were taking part in sports activities in J&K. Today, that number has touched 40 lakh. This is not just a statistic - it reflects the energy, talent, and determination of our youth."

Sinha commended the Bijbehara Premier League for its emergence as a powerful antidrug movement, successfully channelizing

the energy of youth by connecting them with sports.

He also congratulated the people of Anantnag and South Kashmir for the successful conduct of Amarnath Yatra.

Satish Sharma, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, IT, Youth Services & Sports and ARI & Trainings; Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, MLA Srigufwara - Bijbehara; Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare; Javid Iqbal Matoo, DIG South Kashmir; Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag; Amritpal Singh, SSP Anantnag; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; Shri Parvez Rasool, International Cricketer; senior officials of Civil and Police Administration, prominent sports personalities and youth in large number were present.

All J&K Haj 2026

keep their travel documents ready and attend upcoming training sessions. (KNO)

Full Dress Rehearsals

contingents of J&K Police, CRPF, BSF, JKAP, Home Guard, NCC cadets, and school students, and highlighted district-level developmental and socio-economic achievements.

Cultural programmes featuring patriotic songs, traditional dances, and performances by students and local artists were held in all districts, celebrating India's freedom struggle and rich cultural heritage. In addition to main venues, rehearsals were also held at block, panchayat, school, and college levels to ensure smooth conduct of Independence Day events across the region.

Officials from civil administration, police, paramilitary forces, and other departments were present at all venues to oversee arrangements and security measures. The rehearsals reflected the districts' readiness, coordination among various departments, and the public's enthusiasm ahead of the 79th Independence Day celebrations.

Hunt For Terrorists

This is the longest anti-terror operation in the Kashmir Valley in recent years.

Birdi said the full dress rehearsal and security drill ahead of Independence Day were concluded successfully.

"The main programme takes place in Srinagar city, where VVIP takes salute. For that, Srinagar police has made multi-tier arrangements along with CAPFs. High-rise spotters are also in place and proper security arrangements have been made," the officer said.

J&K Govt Issues

of Authentic Kashmiri Handmade Silk Carpet for 2,160 & 2,630. UNACCEPTABLE. Brings disrepute 2 artisans & high value items," Zia wrote.

Officials noted that the size of the carpet mentioned in the listing, if genuinely handcrafted in silk, would cost upwards of 25,000.

As per the notice, the seller has been directed to immediately remove the misleading advertisements, issue a public apology, and furnish details of all sales of the misbranded carpets. Both the company and Amazon have been given three days to submit a compliance report.

Public Interest

has failed to disclose any specific or substantial legal injury caused to him on account of the deviation or its regularization," a bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal said.

While every citizen has a right to ensure lawful construction and compliance with building norms, the court said, such right must be exercised bona fide and supported by cogent material demonstrating illegality or arbitrariness.

"Mere dissatisfaction with the actions of a statutory authority, in the absence of any demonstrable illegality or infringement of rights, cannot form the basis for invoking the extraordinary writ jurisdiction of this Court."

The court observed that the petition, on a plain reading, appears to be an attempt to assail a minor deviation which has since been compounded in accordance with the law.

"Courts are not expected to sit in appeal over administrative or technical decisions of statutory authorities taken in bona fide exercise of their powers, unless such actions are ex facie arbitrary, perverse, or contrary to law. No such case has been made out in the present matter," the court said.

On the issue of locus standi, the court said, the petitioner has not been able to demonstrate any specific legal injury or direct prejudice caused to him. "Public interest cannot be a cloak for personal grievances or speculative apprehensions," the court said and dismissed the plea.

New 3-judge SC

all strays from streets to shelters "at the earliest" were passed by a bench comprising Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan on August 11.

When some petitioners in another stray dogs-related case mentioned their plea while referring to the August 11 verdict before the Chief Justice of India B R Gavai, he said he "will look into it".

On August 11, a bench of Justices Pardiwala and Mahadevan observed instances of dog bites had given rise to an "extremely grim" situation and ordered the permanent relocation of all strays in Delhi-NCR "at the earliest".

On Wednesday, the lawyer referred to a May 2024 order passed by a bench led by Justice J K Maheshwari relegating petitions relating to the stray dog issue to respective high courts.

The plea by Conference for Human Rights (India) claims the Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2001 mandating regular sterilisation and immunisation programmes for stray dogs to curtail their growing population are not being complied with.

In its August 11 ruling, the apex court also said dog shelters will have to be augmented over time and directed Delhi authorities to start with creating shelters of around 5,000 canines within six to eight weeks.

Besides, the bench warned of strict action against an individual or organisation in case of any kind of obstruction in the relocation drive that might also prompt the court to initiate contempt proceedings.

Smart Fence, AI Drones

supplies, detect explosives and conduct reconnaissance. Its modular design allows for customisation across various battlefield roles

and it can even operate in swarms, creating a "mini robot army" that enhances operational efficiency while reducing risks to soldiers.

The official said the Army is increasingly integrating drones into military operations for surveillance, reconnaissance and potential strike missions.

Among them, the Mini Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and Surveillance Drones have emerged as a key asset for monitoring sensitive areas, he said.

In addition to the Mini UAV, the Army also employs other advanced surveillance drones capable of not just monitoring but also engaging targets.

Equipped with precision-dropping mechanisms, these drones can hit enemy targets with grenades and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) without exposing the soldiers, the official said.

The Indian Army's Battle Obstacle Course (BOC) is a grueling test of endurance, strength and combat readiness. It simulates real battlefield conditions, including terrain challenges, jungle operations and bunker-busting exercises.

As part of the drill, an infantry unit demonstrated how enemy bunkers are captured moving through rugged terrain, breaching defences and neutralising threats.

The BOC not only hones soldiers' physical capabilities but also sharpens coordination, speed and tactical skills, which are very essential in combat, the official said.

He said the Army has intensified patrolling and set up a three-layered security system along the LoC to thwart any attempt by terrorists to disrupt Independence-Day celebrations on August 15.

Besides the regular patrolling to keep a close watch on enemy activities, the Army is using drones to monitor every movement of the enemy, while dog squads and detectors are being deployed for additional security.

The official said this is the first Independence Day post Operation Sindoor during which the Army destroyed a number of terrorist camps across the LoC.

A defence spokesperson said the soldiers guarding the border face formidable challenges and steadfastly defend the country with determination and selflessness.

"It became clear that beyond their uniforms, each soldier harbours a deep sense of duty and pride in safeguarding the homeland," he said.

Amidst the breathtaking yet unforgiving landscapes, he said the soldiers display an indomitable spirit as they tackle adversities with an unwavering commitment and assuring smile.

"Despite extreme weather conditions, isolation and the constant demand for vigilance, these soldiers embody remarkable resilience. In addition to their duties, the soldiers maintain rigorous training standards, underscoring the necessity of being prepared for any challenge," he said.

He said this commitment to continuously evolve, change and integrate exemplifies the Indian Army's dedication to maintain peak operational readiness.

The spokesperson said the Army's outreach to civilians is equally noteworthy, as it works to build bridges with local communities, ensuring that peace and development reach even the most remote areas.



J&K Bank Holds Camp Under ‘Saturation Campaign For Financial Inclusion’

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of the ongoing RBI's 'Campaign for Saturation of Financial Inclusion Schemes at Gram Panchayat Level', J&K Bank today organised a Mega Camp at Gram Panchayat Kullian through its various branches in the area. The event was aimed at deepening financial inclusion, creating awareness about safe banking practices, and facilitating on-the-spot enrolment under various government-sponsored schemes.

Regional Director (RBI - Jammu) Chandrashekhar Azad was the Chief Guest, while General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta presided over the function that was attended by DGM FIDD (RBI-Jammu) Vibha Gupta, Zonal Head (Jammu) Anita Nehru, DGM (RBI Jammu) Ram Sarup, senior officials from the Bank and the RBI besides a large number of people from the area.

Addressing the participants, Regional Director Chandrashekhar Azad appreciated the Bank's sustained efforts. He emphasized the importance of completing Re-KYC in a timely manner to ensure uninterrupted access to banking services — one of the key objectives of the ongoing campaign. He also cautioned the public against falling prey to digital frauds and urged them to adopt safe banking habits.

While highlighting the grievance redressal mechanisms available for prompt resolution of banking issues, he said that financial inclusion is about en-

suring continued and safe access to banking services, for which timely completion of Re-KYC, alertness against fraud and proper use of grievance redressal channels are very important.

Later, the Regional Director visited stalls set up by various banks and financial institutions, interacting with beneficiaries and urging the public to take maximum advantage of the services and facilities available under the campaign.

Earlier, welcoming the participants, Divisional Head Ashok Gupta reiterated the Bank's commitment to driving financial inclusion across its operational geographies. He said, "At J&K Bank, financial inclusion is not just about opening accounts — it is a mission of empowering people with access to the entire range of banking services that can improve their livelihoods and secure their future. Through such camps, we aim to bridge the gap between banking services and the people, ensuring that every individual, household, and enterprise has access to formal finance."

"We are fully committed to complementing RBI's vision by reaching every household with our inclusive and customer-friendly offerings", he added.

On the occasion, Chief Manager Suresh Gupta presented a brief overview of various Financial Inclusion schemes, while AGM (RBI Jammu) Rajnesh Mahotra shared RBI's perspective on financial inclusion and its role in improving economic conditions of people at the grass root level.

LG felicitates Langar Organisations For Their Contribution During Amarnath Yatra-2025

Expresses Deep Appreciation To Langar Organisations For Selfless Service Devotees Of Baba Amarnath



Observer News Service

KATRA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday felicitated the Langar organisations for their significant contribution during Amarnath Yatra-2025.

At a felicitation ceremony held at Spiritual Growth Centre Katra, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated and expressed his deep appreciation to the Langar organisations for their selfless service to the devotees of Baba Amarnath.

"Today's felicitation of Langar Organisations at Katra also carried a message that nothing can beat the spirit of India. Successful conduct of the holy pilgrimage of Amarnath this year with unwavering determination of all the stakeholders has shown that we are second to none in the world. It is also a vindication of our steadfast commitment to selfless service and a symbol of re-surgent India," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the entire team of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, administrative officials, Police & Security personnel, service providers, NGOs, Volunteers, health professionals, and all stakeholders for working tirelessly 24x7 during the Yatra.

"Daily real-time feedback from Yatris on both the axis was ensured through the Rapid Assessment System and 95% pilgrims had rated the services as 'Very Good'. We can also see many emotional images and visuals where our police and security personnel can be seen carrying the pilgrims in need of assistance on their shoulders like their own family members," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the voluntary organizations associated with langar (Community Kitchen) have always made an unprecedented contribution in this spiritual gathering and they have worked with devotion and dedication in making the holy pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji a grand success every year.

He also emphasised that all the stakeholders must play their part in maintaining a safe and secure environment. The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that the Amarnath Shrine Board is making dedicated efforts to enhance the facilities for the devotees. He said the day is not far when devotees can travel through the ropeway from Baltal and pay their obeisance to the holy cave. 122 Langars provided free of cost service to the pilgrims in the Yatra area.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, CEO, Amarnath Shrine Board; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, CEO Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Ms Nidhi Malik, Deputy Commissioner Reasi; Rahul Singh, Additional CEO, Amarnath Shrine Board; Rajan Kapoor, President, Amarnathji Yatra Bhandara Organisation; senior officials of Amarnath Shrine Board, Civil and Police administration and members of Langar Organizations were present at the felicitation ceremony.

TODAY'S FELICITATION OF LANGAR ORGANISATIONS at Katra also carried a message that nothing can beat the spirit of India."

CS Reviews Progress Under ‘TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan’

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the progress of the TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan and assess the measures being taken to achieve the goal of a tuberculosis-free Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME); Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM); Director, SKIMS; Principles of Government Medical Colleges (GMCs); Director, Co-ordination (Medical Colleges); Director, Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir; HoD, Chest Medicine, GMC Srinagar; and senior faculty members from medical colleges across the UT.

Reviewing the current scenario, the Chief Secretary called for intensified screening drives, particularly targeting vulnerable sections of the population, to curb the spread of TB.

He directed for vigorous contact tracing and mandated that each doctor should adopt at least two TB patients to provide personalised guidance and ensure adherence to treatment protocols. He stressed the importance of home visits by ASHA workers to extend 'at-home' support to patients and enhance recovery rates.

The Chief Secretary also interacted with all Deputy



Commissioners to review the availability and utilisation of diagnostic equipment, screening mechanisms, and treatment facilities in their respective districts. He urged them to optimise resources to deliver timely and quality treatment.

He further reviewed the action taken on directives issued earlier by the Lieutenant Governor, emphasising their strict implementation in letter and spirit. Providing departmental updates, Secretary H&ME, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, informed that CBNAT machines would be deployed to high-need areas for advanced screening. He divulged that the central government has allocated 16 handheld X-ray machines for the UT under the Abhiyan, while additional machines are being procured under Capex to strengthen diagnostic infrastructure.

He assured that all District TB Centres (DTCs) are adequately equipped to meet screening targets, and necessary steps are being taken to ensure patient

adoption by doctors and regular ASHA worker visits.

Mission Director, NHM, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, informed that around 5.25 lakh individuals were screened for TB in 2024, while 2.59 lakh have been screened so far in 2025. He shared that the presumptive testing ratio stands at 3,692 per lakh population in Jammu division and 3,890 per lakh in Kashmir division.

The meeting was apprised that Rs2.29 Cr has been disbursed to TB patients under the NikshayPoshanYojana, and 7,891 patients are currently undergoing treatment. Of these, 6,618 have been linked to NikshayMitras for additional support, with the total number of such Mitras in J&K reaching 6,728.

Reiterating the UT administration's commitment to eradicating TB, the Chief Secretary urged coordinated action, community engagement, and optimal utilisation of resources to achieve the objectives of the TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan.

SDM Orders Relocation Of Somu Stand In Pattan

Mir Bashir

PATTAN: In a significant step to improve transport facilities for the people of Pattan in north Kashmir, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Pattan has ordered the relocation of the Somu stand from its current location near the old hospital to the newly established passenger stand on the National Highway, adjacent to the Tehsil office.

The order, issued under No. SDMP/reader/20x5-26/683 dated 12-08-2025, states: "It is true that nobody can defy the orders of the court and furthering may reduce the sanctity of the order passed by the

competent court. Therefore, considering the circumstances projected in the application, the application is allowed."

The SDM has directed the Tehsildar Pattan, Station House Officer (SHO) Pattan, and Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Pattan, to implement the order "in letter and spirit" on the spot and submit a compliance report by or before August 20, 2025.

Residents, particularly from Nihalpora, Batpora, Checksari, and adjoining villages, have welcomed the decision. They said the existing Somu stand caused inconvenience as drivers would drop passengers near

the old hospital, forcing them to hire another vehicle to reach key offices such as the hospital, Tehsil office, SDM office, Court Complex, SDPO office, and ITI Pattan. This, they said, often doubled their travel costs.

Locals also alleged that the current stand was a major contributor to frequent traffic jams in Pattan. They urged the authorities, especially the RTO Kashmir, to take strict action against officials who permitted the stand to operate on the roadside instead of using the Municipal Committee's designated passenger stand — a six-kanal facility equipped with amenities for both passengers and cabs.

Govt Will Fulfill All Promises Made To People: Minister Rana

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jal Shakti and Forest Minister Javed Rana on Wednesday said the Union government has not fulfilled the promises made to Jammu & Kashmir. He, however, asserted that with Omar Abdullah now taking charge of the government in J&K, all commitments made to the people will be fulfilled.

Speaking to reporters here said he interacted with representatives and common citizens to understand their pressing needs, especially regarding lift irrigation schemes for orchards.

"I listened to the demands of the people. A comprehensive master plan will be prepared to provide adequate irrigation facilities to the horticulture sector, which is the backbone of our economy," he said, adding that the work will be taken up in a phased manner to ensure long-term benefits.

Highlighting the progress under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the minister said more than 90% of the schemes under the programme have been

completed across J&K. "We are committed to providing potable water at people's doorsteps. The majority of the remaining schemes will be commissioned by March 2025. JJM will also get an extension, and the left-out areas will be connected under various schemes of the UT sector," he said.

Reiterating his party's political stand, Rana asserted, "Statehood is our right, and we will get it."

The minister also revealed that when he took charge of his department, there was a liability of Rs 4,000 crore, which has now been brought down to Rs 1,100 crore. He assured that financial discipline and efficiency would continue to be maintained to ensure the timely execution of projects.

On forest protection, Rana said his ministry has been taking stern action against employees found involved in forest smuggling. "We will not tolerate any compromise with our green assets. Those violating the law will face strict consequences," he warned—(KNO)

Govt Forms Committee For Implementation Of LHDC Program

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has ordered the constitution of committees at the Union Territory, district and block levels for the implementation of the Livestock Health and Disease Control (LHDC) Program, with a focus on the control and management of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

As per an order, issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), the committees have been formed to ensure structured planning, execution and monitoring of the FMD control program across all levels.

The UT Level Committee will be headed by the Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Director Panchayat Raj, Directors of Urban Local Bodies (Jammu/Kashmir), Director Finance (Agriculture Production Department), and senior scientists from ICAR-NIFMD will serve as members.

The senior-most Director of Animal or Sheep Husbandry will serve as the Member Secretary on a rotational basis for one year.

This committee is mandated to meet at least once every two months. It will oversee vaccination strategy, awareness campaigns, cold chain logistics, surveillance and outbreak response.

It will also ensure data uploading on the Bharat Pashudhan Portal and coordinate with neighbouring states for syn-

chronized campaign execution.

The District Level Committees will be chaired by the Deputy Commissioners. Members include Assistant Commissioners (Panchayat), Chief Executive Officers of Municipal Councils/Committees, and Chief Animal Husbandry Officers or District Sheep Husbandry Officers (on rotational basis as Member Secretary).

These committees will be responsible for district-level vaccination planning, logistics, cold chain auditing, training, awareness activities, data reporting, and managing outbreak responses. They will submit detailed reports to the UT-level committee.

Block Development Officers will head the Block Level Committees, with Block Veterinary Officers as Member Secretaries. Members include Foresters, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, and one progressive dairy farmer from the block.

Their responsibilities include field-level vaccination planning, micro-planning up to the village level, cold chain assessment, monitoring campaign progress, data uploading, outbreak response, and waste disposal. Reports will be submitted to the respective District Level Committees.

The order states timely preparedness, coordination across departments, and strict compliance with reporting and surveillance protocols. All committees are empowered to co-opt members as required to fulfill their mandates effectively—(KNO)

Independence Day 2025:

Full Dress Rehearsal held In Sports Stadium Baramulla



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The Independence Day 2025 Full Dress Rehearsal concluded today with patriotic fervour at Showkat Ali Stadium, Khawaja Bagh, Baramulla. Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi hoisted the National Flag and took the salute at an impressive march past presented by contingents of Jammu & Kashmir Police, CRPF, BSF, NCC cadets, students.

In his address, the ADC said that the Full Dress Rehearsal is not only a run-up to the grand celebrations on 15th August but also an occasion to remember the sacrifices of the martyrs and the struggle that secured our nation's freedom. He emphasised that Independence Day is a celebration of unity, courage, and responsibility, and urged all citizens to participate actively, hoist the tricolour at their homes, and pass on the legacy of freedom to the younger generation.

The ADC also appreciated the efforts of all departments, security forces, educational institutions, and cultural teams for their contribution in making the event successful. He appealed to the public to celebrate the national festival with discipline, cleanliness, and harmony.

Senior Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Gurinderpal Singh, Additional Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Feroz Yahya, District Youth Services and Sports Officer Baramulla, besides Engineers from R&B, JK-PDCL, and Jal Shakti Department and other departments, besides a large gathering of citizens, officials, students, and dignitaries attended the function.

The event also featured vibrant cultural performances by school students, including patriotic songs, traditional dances, and speeches, which were warmly received by the audience. Meanwhile, the Police Band Baramulla added to the patriotic ambience with spirited musical performances.

'Rotten Meat Seizures Likely Linked To Demand-Supply Gap'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, V.K. Bidhuri, on Wednesday said that the recent seizures of rotten meat in the Valley are unlikely to be the result of a single day's lapse and are more plausibly linked to a prevailing demand-supply gap.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the full-dress rehearsal for Independence Day celebrations at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar, Bidhuri said the Chief Minister has already convened a meeting on the issue and directed concerned departments to take strict action.

He urged the public to remain vigilant, stressing that such incidents are not limited to meat alone. "This is not only about

meat—similar issues can arise with milk and other food products. We all need to pay attention because it is a serious matter," he cautioned.

His remarks come as authorities probe the seizure of over 11,000 kilograms of rotten meat from different parts of the Valley. Officials are also investigating reports that the seized meat may have been treated with formaldehyde, a toxic chemical commonly used to preserve dead bodies, although laboratory test results are still awaited.

Meanwhile, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has intensified inspections and is collecting samples from various locations across Kashmir to ensure the safety of food products and protect public health.

Bhalwal Hosts Grand Tiranga Rally



Observer News Service

BHALWAL: In a vibrant display of national pride and unity, Tehsil Bhalwal on Wednesday, August 13th, 2025, organized a massive Trianga (tricolor) rally. The event, which saw enthusiastic participation from a wide cross-section of society, was a resounding success and a powerful tribute to the spirit of the nation.

The rally was graced by the presence of several esteemed dignitaries, including Dr. Deepak Kumar, SDM Jammu North, Ms. Monika Sharma, Tehsildar Bhalwal, and Mr. Sandeep Singh Katoch, SHO Gharota. Also present were Ms. Harpreet Kaur, Principal of GHSS Bhalwal, alongside former PRI members and prominent members of the civil society.

A key highlight of the event was the participation of a large number of students from various schools

in the area. Carrying the national flag, the students marched with great fervor, showcasing their patriotism and commitment to the country. Their energy and enthusiasm were infectious, serving as a powerful reminder of the bright future of the nation.

The rally served as a platform for the community to come together and celebrate the shared values of freedom, unity, and integrity. The presence of officials from the administration, police, and education departments, along with civil society members, underscored the collective commitment to fostering a strong and harmonious society.

The event concluded with a strong message of unity and patriotism, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees. The successful organization of the Trianga rally in Tehsil Bhalwal is a testament to the community's collective spirit and its unwavering love for the nation.

LG Interacts With Players At Bijbehara Premier League In Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday attended the trophy unveiling ceremony of Bijbehara Premier League in Anantnag.

The LG interacted with the players and officials and congratulated the organisers of the Bijbehara Premier League.

"Bijbehara Premier League is widely considered as the most prestigious cricket tournament in J&K UT which also serves as a platform to showcase talent and earn their place at national and international level," Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, J&K has made its rightful place in the Indian sporting landscape.

"In the past five years, we have invested in creating modern sports



infrastructure, cultivate suitable environment for players and focussed on strong strategy and effective execution at grass roots level to foster sports culture," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the remarkable progress in J&K's

sports sector is due to hard work and unwavering determination of our sportspersons, dedicated coaches and tireless efforts of officials of Sports Council.

"J&K UT since 2020 had adopted a player-centered approach to develop players and maximise

their ability. It has also been ensured that children and youth are provided with ample opportunities to participate in sports activities. This widespread reach reflects our commitment to inclusive sports development across the entire Union Terri-

tory," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the Bijbehara Premier League for its emergence as a powerful anti-drug movement, successfully channelizing the energy of youth by connecting them with sports.

Satish Sharma, Minister for Youth Services & Sports; Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, MLA Srigufwara - Bijbehara; Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare; Javid Iqbal Mattoo, DIG South Kashmir; Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag; Amritpal Singh, SSP Anantnag; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; Parvez Rasool, International Cricketer; senior officials of Civil and Police Administration, prominent sports personalities and youth in large number were present.

Rohit Rises To No. 2 In ICC ODI Rankings

Amid the chatter around his future in international cricket, Indian maestro Rohit Sharma has risen to the number two spot in the latest ICC ODI rankings for batters released on Wednesday.

The 38-year-old Rohit, who has not played any competitive cricket since the 2025 IPL season, dethroned Babar Azam while moving a place up even as the Pakistani slipped to No. 3 after a string of low scores in the recently-concluded ODI series against the West Indies in the Caribbean.

With 756 rating points Rohit sits just behind India's Test captain Shubman Gill (784), who has retained the No. 1 position in the rankings.

Former captain Virat Kohli held the fourth position with 736 points. (PTI)

ISL Imbroglio: AIFF Calls For Meeting Of Counsels

The All India Football Federation on Wednesday asked the legal counsels of the game's apex body and the ISL clubs to "hold discussions" on the teams' concerns about the uncertainty over the upcoming season of the top-tier league.

Last week, 11 Indian Super League clubs had urged the AIFF to urgently bring the "current situation" of Indian football, arising out of the uncertainty over ISL's future, to the attention of the Supreme Court before which a case relating to the constitution of the national federation is pending.

The ISL clubs, in a letter, said that they will have no option but to seek judicial recourse independently if the AIFF does not act on their request.

The national federation has now responded. "On August 13, the AIFF responded and requested that the legal counsels of the clubs and the federation meet to hold discussions on the matter and decide on further action," the AIFF tweeted. (PTI)

Goalkeeper Donnarumma Announces He Is Leaving PSG

Just hours after being left out of Paris Saint-Germain's squad for Wednesday's UEFA Super Cup final against Tottenham, star goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma posted a message saying he is leaving the club.

When PSG named its squad for the match earlier on Tuesday, goalkeeper Lucas Chevalier, who recently joined from Lille for just over 40 million euros (\$46 million), was included along with backup goalies Matvei Safonov and Renato Marin.

Chevalier's arrival was expected to signal Donnarumma's departure, with the 26-year-old Italy international unlikely to accept being No. 2 if coach Luis Enrique decided so. Donnarumma then posted a message in Italian, English and French on his Instagram account saying he had effectively been forced out.

"Unfortunately, someone has decided that I can no longer be part of the group and contribute to the team's success," he wrote. "I am disappointed and disheartened." (AP)

Yaser From Rajouri Wins Gold At National Boxing C'ship

Observer News Service

RAJOURI: Thirteen-year-old Mohammad Yaser from Rajouri clinched gold at the 4th Sub-Junior U-15 National Boxing Championship held in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

A trainee at the J&K Sports Council's Khelo India Boxing Centre, Rajouri, Yaser has been training under Khelo India Mentor Ishtiaq Malik. Throughout the championship, the young boxer demonstrated technical precision, strategic execution, and unwavering focus, overcoming formidable opponents on his path to victory.

His coach, Ishtiaq Malik, commended his dedication, saying, "Yaser delivered an

outstanding performance in this championship. His consistent effort, commitment to training, and determination to improve have been key to his success."

Satish Sharma, Minister for Youth Services and Sports, J&K; Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, J&K, Sarmad Hafeez; and Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul praised the young boxer's accomplishment and extended their congratulations.

Yaser's victory adds another milestone to J&K's growing list of national sports achievements, further inspiring young athletes across the region to pursue their sporting ambitions with determination.



Saffron Kabaddi C'ship 2025 Kicks Off In Lethpora



Observer News Service

PULWAMA: The 110 Battalion CRPF inaugurated the Kabaddi Competition 2025 under its Civic Action Programme at Lethpora. The opening ceremony was attended by Commandant B.R. Meena, Deputy Commandant Kuldeep Singh, Senior Medical Officer Himani Singh, Senior CAC Shan Kumar and Assistant Commandants Sanjesh Kumar, Ravi Kumar and Deepak Kumar.

In his welcome address, Deputy Commandant Kuldeep Singh highlighted the importance of sports in enhancing physical fitness,

mental strength and confidence to face life's challenges.

The championship features eight boys' teams Kissan Kesar Kabaddi Club Lethpora, Syed Alli Kabaddi Club Pakherpora, Team Dynamic Panthers Pulwama, Nowpara Kabaddi Club, Team Midline J&K, Harmukh Warriors Bandipora, Team Banihal Warriors and AR Warriors Bandipora along with two girls' teams, competing in a knockout format. "The event aims to foster community engagement, encourage a healthy lifestyle, & strengthen bonds between security forces and the local community," a statement said.

Khalid Jamil Signs Two-Year Contract As India Football Coach

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Wednesday said Khalid Jamil has taken charge of the senior men's team on a full-time basis for a period of two years with an option to extend his contract by one year depending on results.

The AIFF said Jamil has signed the contract after parting ways with ISL team Jamshedpur FC.

Jamil will begin his first training camp on August 15 at the Dravid-Padukone Centre for Sports Excellence in Bengaluru.

His first assignment with the Blue Tigers will be the CAFA Nations Cup, where India will face hosts Tajikistan (August 29), Iran (September 1) and Afghanistan (September 4) in Group B.

In the October FIFA Window, India will play two crucial AFC Asian Cup 2027 qualifying matches against



Singapore (October 9 and 14).

Jamil said, "I am both deeply proud and immensely privileged to have been entrusted with the responsibility of leading our national team."

"Over the years, I've had the opportunity to train Indian players, and I've grown to understand their strengths and weaknesses intimately. These insights will be fundamental to everything we do as we prepare for the CAFA Nations Cup and the upcoming crucial Asian Cup Qualifiers against Singapore."

He has replaced Manolo Marquez, whose contract was terminated by the AIFF last month.

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