

CM To Launch Door-to-Door Statehood Signature Drive

First Elected CM In
» 8 Years To Unfurl
Tricolour In J&K

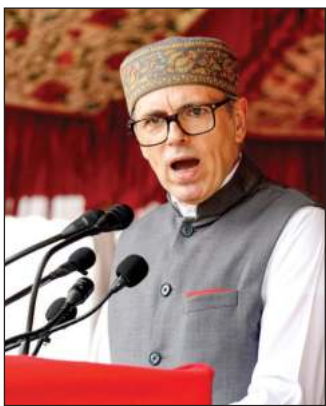
'Pahalgam Killers
» Won't Dictate J&K's
Statehood Fate'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday announced he will launch a massive signature campaign to press the demand for restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and present those signatures to the Supreme Court.

Referring to the observations made by the Supreme Court about the Pahalgam attack during the hearing of a plea for J&K's statehood, Omar said it is unfortunate that people of the region are being punished for a crime in which they played no role.

Omar on Friday presided over the main Independence Day function at Bakshi stadium at Srinagar. His ricolour unfurling ended an eight-year gap since an elected leader last performed



the ceremonial role in J&K. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti was the last chief minister to preside over the Independence Day function here in 2017.

In his Independence Day speech, the CM said the Supreme Court has given the government eight weeks to respond.

"From today, we will use these eight weeks to go door to door in all 90 assembly segments for a signature campaign on the restoration of statehood. If people are not ready to sign the document, I will accept defeat," he said.

"We will have to take these voices from our offices to the doors where these | More on P6

No Distinction Between Terrorists & Their Backers: PM

On IWT, PM Modi Says Only India, Farmers Own Our Waters | GST Rates To Substantially Reduce By Diwali

Observer News Service

News Delhi: In a clear and stern warning to Pakistan from the ramparts of Red Fort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said terrorists and those providing them safe haven will be treated alike and that Indian armed forces will deliver a "crushing" response to the enemy in case of any future misadventure.

Delivering his address on the country's 79th Independence Day, Modi, referring to Operation Sindoor, said the Indian military punished the enemies beyond their imagination and that India will no longer tolerate Islamabad's "nuclear blackmail" and will respond appropriately. The remarks came days after Pakistan Army



Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir's threat of using nuclear weapons.

The prime minister also justified New Delhi's decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) following the Pahalgam terror attack as he



No Compromise on Security

Self-Reliance Push

Critical Resources

Defence Boost

Economic Reforms

Energy Independence

Space Leadership

Farmers First

Demographic Security

described the over six-decade-old pact as "unjust and one-sided", asserting that "blood and water" will not flow together.

Explaining the impact of Operation Sindoor, Modi said Pakistan is | More on P6

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

♦ First Made-in-India Chip by Year-End

♦ Tenfold Nuclear Expansion by 2047

♦ Diwali GST Reforms

♦ Reform Task Force

♦ ₹1 Lakh Crore Rozgar Yojana

♦ High-Powered Demography Mission

♦ National Deepwater Exploration Mission

♦ Made-in-India Jet Engines

Rolls Out PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced the launch of PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana which is expected to create 3.5 crore jobs in next two years.

On July 1, 2025, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Modi had approved the scheme aimed at incentivising job creation in the country. "Today is August 15 and we are launching Rs 1 lakh crore scheme for the youth of this country. It is good news for you that PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana is being rolled out from Today," Modi said in his Independence Day speech. He said that under this scheme the youth getting first job in the private sector will get Rs 15,000 and | More on P6

Longest Ever Speech By Any PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday delivered a 103-minute Independence Day speech from the ramparts of the Red

Fort, the longest by any prime minister in India's history. Modi broke his own 98-minute record from the 78th Independence Day last year.

His longest Independence Day speech before 2024 was 96 minutes in 2016 while his shortest speech was in 2017 when he spoke for | More on P6

'Tying A Horse's Legs, Then Asking It To Run'

Omar Abdullah on Friday said he was paying a political price for pinning his hopes on the country's democracy and the Central government for restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's rights, including statehood. In a fiery Independence Day speech at Bakshi stadium here, Omar said he took a big political risk when he took a stand that Jammu and Kashmir will get whatever it needs from India's democracy and that nothing can be achieved through a confrontation with the Centre. | More on P6

LG Hoists National Flag At Raj Bhavan



Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the occasion of 79th Independence Day, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha hoisted and saluted the National Flag at Raj Bhavan in Srinagar. He conveyed his heartfelt greetings and good wishes to all.

The Lieutenant Governor paid tributes to the freedom fighters and brave hearts of Police, Army and CAPFs. He also paid homage to the citizens who lost their lives due to the tragic cloudburst in Chashoti, Kishtwar.

"On this Independence

Day, let us take a pledge that no individual or village is left out of this historic journey of peace and progress. As we watch tricolour flying high, let us look ahead with pride, confidence and hope towards a better and brighter future for UT of Jammu Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Hoisted our National Flag at Raj Bhavan in Srinagar on the occasion of 79th Independence Day. I convey my heartfelt greetings and good wishes to all. This is a day we salute | More on P6

Independence Day Celebrations Held Across Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The 79th Independence Day was celebrated across the Kashmir division today with patriotic fervour and a renewed spirit of unity, even as the region mourned the victims of Thursday's devastating cloudburst in Kishtwar district.

From Srinagar to Kupwara, the day was marked by flag-hoisting ceremonies, parades, and speeches reflecting the region's cultural heritage and the resilience of its people. As a mark of respect for those who lost their lives in Kishtwar, all cultural



performances and felicitation events were cancelled.

This year's celebrations carried added significance under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga'

campaign, part of the nationwide 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative, aimed at instilling the spirit of patriotism in | More on P6

Kashmiri MBBS Student Dies In Iran; Family Seeks Repatriation

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Saba Rasool, a fourth-year medical student from Safakadal, Srinagar, who was pursuing her MBBS at Urmia University of Medical Sciences in Iran, has passed away following health complications, plunging her family and community into deep grief.

Family sources confirmed that Saba had complained of pain two days ago and was admitted to a hospital there. "She complained about intestinal infection and backache and later she started vomiting," said a family member identifying himself as her uncle. "She was given good care at the hospital but after a few hours she

stopped talking and later she succumbed at the hospital."

The family member further recounted that at around 1:30 am during the night she suffered liver failure, followed by kidney failure at 2:00 am. "Later she died," he said, adding that she had been in Kashmir until 29th July before returning to Iran to resume her studies.

"The Urmia University on their behalf also tried to help her... to save the student, but she could not be saved," the family said.

According to the family, Saba had no underlying medical conditions. "The best doctors came and tried to save her but could not. It is God's will, can't do anything," | More on P6

Kishtwar Flash Flood Tragedy: Over 60 Dead, Scores Missing

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Braving intermittent rains, rescuers intensified their search for survivors on Friday in Chisoti, the last motorable village on the route to the Machail Mata temple, after a massive cloudburst struck the area on Thursday afternoon. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah confirmed the death toll at 60, with an unspecified number of people still trapped.

The disaster struck around 12:25 pm, flattening a makeshift market, a langar (community kitchen), a



security outpost, 16 houses, government buildings, three

temples, four water mills, a 30-metre | More on P6

Lives Swept Away In Seconds: Kishtwar Counts Its Dead

The air in Chasoti, a small village in the Padder subdivision of Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, is heavy with grief after flash floods triggered by a massive cloudburst on Thursday afternoon killed over 60 people—most of them pilgrims—and left many more missing. Among the dead are | More on P6

Survivors Recall 'Miraculous' Escape

Nine-year-old Devanshi was among the hundreds of pilgrims who had gathered here for the last leg of the yatra to Machail Mata temple when tragedy struck on Thursday. Buried under mud and debris when a Maggi-point shop was hit by flash floods, she emerged hours later, rescued by her uncle and other villagers. "I couldn't | More on P6

IAF On Standby, NDRF Deploys Sniffer Dogs

The Indian Air Force is ready to undertake relief and rescue operations in the aftermath of the deadly cloudburst in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, with two Mi-17 helicopters and one Advanced Light Helicopter on standby at Jammu and Udhampur, sources said on Friday. Operations will commence | More on P6

PM Modi Promises All Assistance

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday in the wake of a cloudburst in Kishtwar district and promised all help. A massive flash flood triggered by a cloudburst struck a remote mountain village in | More on P6



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'Six Deliveries Per Thousand Are Stillbirths In India Highest Rate In Northern States'

Press Trust Of India

Over six in every one thousand deliveries in India in 2020 could have been a stillbirth, with higher rates among urban mothers compared to rural, according to an analysis of data from national surveys and the civil registration system. Researchers, including those from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur, and the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, also identified that stillbirth hotspots are located primarily in northern and central India. Chandigarh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Rajasthan in north India recorded the highest rates of stillbirth, the findings published in The Lancet Regional Health South-

east Asia journal show. The team analysed data gathered from the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and the 2020 report of the civil registration system, which is managed by the Ministry of Home Affairs and records vital events, including births, deaths and stillbirths across India. "The nationwide stillbirth rate (SBR) in 2020 was 6.548 per 1,000 total births (female: 6.54; male: 6.63). Stillbirth rates were higher among urban mothers compared to rural mothers," the authors wrote. A higher rate of stillbirth was also found in districts where pregnant women were anaemic (deficient in iron) and underweight -- factors known to increase risk of adverse birth outcomes, including stillbirth. Hygienic menstrual practices and caesarean (C-section) deliveries



-- in which a baby is delivered through a surgical procedure -- were associated with a lower rate of stillbirth, especially in Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

The results were in line with data from NFHS-5, according to which the prevalence of C-section deliveries was about 45 per cent in south India in 2019-2020, the au-

thors said. Evidence from states including Assam, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh showed that receiving at least four pre-delivery check-ups and adhering to iron and folic acid supplementation during pregnancy can significantly reduce the risk of stillbirth, the team said. Overall, higher rates of stillbirths were found in regions where pregnant women were anaemic, more deliveries were occurring in public health facilities and a larger fraction of women were having a lower wealth status, they said. However, there were no disparities in sex-specific rates of stillbirth across the country's districts, even though a higher rate of stillbirths seen among male foetuses may point to a higher biological vulnerability, the researchers said.

از نیابت بمونی

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب منظر گزارنده گزرا احمد قاجام سائند واوره بمراو بمراو

عطا گئی OBC For Central Reservation بحق خود

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمہ قاجام پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بار سے میں پٹواری حالت سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی قاجام ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سائل واورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی تک سکوٹ نہیں کی ہے سائل کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

گزار احمد قاجام ولد علی محمد قاجام	پیشین یافتہ 75 سال
راجہ بیگم زوجہ گلزار	گھر بیگم 68 سال
منظر گلزار پر گلزار احمد قاجام	زیر تعلیم 36 سال
انظر گلزار پر گلزار احمد قاجام	-- 30 سال

سائل مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اور کنبہ کی مہوار آمدنی 59035 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد اشتہار اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر آپنے مندرجہ اعتراض عدالت حذاکو فوری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزر سے مباح کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

FKO

'Taking Paracetamol During Pregnancy May Lead To Neurodevelopmental Disorders In Newborns'

Press Trust Of India

Taking paracetamol during pregnancy might increase the offspring's chances of developing neurodevelopmental disorders, including autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, according to a study. Available over-the-counter, paracetamol -- also known as 'acetaminophen' -- is considered safe for managing headache, fever, and pain during pregnancy. Researchers, including those at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, US, analysed 46 previously published studies involving over a lakh participants across multiple countries. Findings published in the



journal BioMed Central show that "higher-quality studies are more likely to show a link between prenatal acetaminophen exposure and increased risks of autism and ADHD," said author Diddier Prada, assistant professor of population health science and policy, environmental medicine and climate science, at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

"Given the widespread use of this medication, even a small increase in risk could have major public health implications," Prada said. Biological mechanisms that could explain the link between use of paracetamol and risk of disorders in children The paper also explores biological mechanisms that could explain the association between acetaminophen use and these disorders. Acetaminophen Paracetamol is known to cross the placental barrier and may trigger oxidative stress, disrupt hormones, and cause epigenetic (gene behaviour resulting in observable traits) changes that interfere with brain development of the foetus, the

researchers explained. With cases of autism and ADHD estimated to be on an increase the world over, the findings have significant implications for public health policy, clinical guidelines, and patient education, they said. The team added that even as the study does not show that paracetamol causes neurodevelopmental disorders in offsprings, evidence from the study strengthens the connection and raises concerns about current clinical practices. The authors suggested a cautious, time-limited use of paracetamol by pregnant women under medical supervision and called for more studies to confirm their findings.

From Office of the Advocate Javid Ahmad Navoo and Associates

In the case of
Ghulam Hassan Bhat Son of Mohammad Subhan Bhat
2. Hafeeza Begum Wife of Ghulam Hassan Bhat
Adopted daughter of Abdul Gani Mir
3. Mohammad Lateef Bhat
4. Shabir Ahmad Bhat
5. Mohammad Arif Bhat
6. Mohammad Umar Bhat
All sons of Ghulam Hassan Bhat
All Residents of Nehalpora Pattan Tehsil Pattan District
Baramulla.

(Caveator)

V/s
Public at large

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

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

Sd/advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Mohd Assadullah Mir while my correct name is Asadullah Mir as per my Pan Card. Now I have applied for the correction of the same 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.

Asadullah Mir
S/o Mohd Abdullah Mir
R/o Gagren Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Mohammad Hanzal Bhat while his correct name is Muhammad Numaan Bhat. Now I have applied for the correction of the same 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.

Rayees Ahmad Bhat
F/o Muhammad Numaan Bhat
R/o Killora Malikgund Shopian Tehsil Shopian

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High Court Of J&K, Ladakh Marks 79th I-Day With Grand Celebration

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on Friday celebrated the 79th Independence Day with a grand celebration and spirited gathering at the High Court Complex, Srinagar.

The event witnessed an exceptional turnout from the legal fraternity, creating an atmosphere filled with patriotic fervor and unity.

The celebration was graced by Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Arun Palli, who hoisted the National Flag in the presence of Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani and Justice Shahzad Azeem, the sitting Judges of the Srinagar Wing along with former Judges and members of the Civil and Police administration.

The proceedings commenced with the ceremonial flag hoisting, attended by the officers of the Registry and Judicial

Officers from the District Judiciary, Senior Advocates, Government Advocates, members of the Bar and lawyers from the District Court Srinagar. The officers and officials of the High Court of J&K, the J&K Legal Services Authority and the District Court Srinagar also joined in large numbers, symbolizing the solidarity and commitment to the ideals of the Constitution.

The occasion also served as a reminder of the pivotal role played by the judiciary and members of the legal profession in India's struggle for independence. Many stalwarts of the freedom movement including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, B. R. Ambedkar and several other leaders, were lawyers who used the power of law, advocacy and constitutional vision to challenge colonial rule and lay the foundations of a sovereign, democratic nation. This legacy continues to inspire the legal community to protect the rights of citizens and uphold the rule of law.



CM Omar Abdullah pays tributes at Balidan Stambh, laying a wreath and observing silence in honor of the martyrs.

CG Homeguards J&K Awards Certificates, Cash Prizes To Civil Defence Volunteers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of Independence Day-2025, Alok Kumar, Commandant General Homeguards, Civil Defence & SDRF J&K granted commendation certificates along with cash reward in favour of Civil Defence Wardens/ volunteers for outstanding performance during day to day Civil Defence activities and exigencies arising from time to time in their respective districts/ towns.

The commendation certificates were distributed among these Wardens/ Volunteers by the Commandant General during a function organized for celebration of Independence Day at Srinagar which was attended among others by Director HG Kashmir, Director CD/SDRF Kashmir, Commandant SDRF 1st Bn Srinagar, Staff Officer to Commandant General HG, CD & SDRF J&K, DySP, NGOs and others.

The commendation certificates along with cash reward were granted to Paramjeet Kumar, Chief Warden Civil Defence Jammu; Swaran Singh, Chief Warden Civil Defence Doda; Jahangir Mir, Chief Warden Civil Defence Poonch; Dr. Anayat Mir, Chief

Warden Civil Defence Baramulla; Imtiyaz Hussain, Chief Warden Civil Defence Pulwama; Sanjay Gupta, Deputy Chief Warden Civil Defence Samba; Kapil Dev Sharma, Divisional Warden Civil Defence Kathua; Kuldeep Kour, Divisional Warden Civil Defence Town Akhnoor; Rahi Reyaz Ahmad, Divisional Warden Civil Defence Srinagar; Imtiyaz Ahmad, Divisional Warden Civil Defence Budgam; Bashir Ahmad Dar, Volunteer Civil Defence Srinagar; Sajad Ahmad Lone, Volunteer Civil Defence Baramulla; Shahnawaz

wood Niyaz, Sector Warden Civil Defence Kupwara; Shabir Ahmad Sheikh, Volunteer Civil Defence Town Awantipora; Syed Mumtaz Shah, Volunteer Civil Defence Town Uri and Wajahat Farooq Bhat, Head of "Save Youth Save Future" Organization District Baramulla were also granted commendation certificates and cash reward.

Manzoor Javed and Divisional Warden Civil Defence Anantnag. Besides, Jatinder Singh, Post Warden Civil Defence Rajouri; Kewal Krishan, Deputy Post Warden Civil Defence Udhampur; Gopal Sharma, Deputy Post Warden Civil Defence Town Nowshera; Gulshan Singh, Sector Warden Civil Defence Town Sunderbani; Da-



Warden Civil Defence Baramulla; Imtiyaz Hussain, Chief Warden Civil Defence Pulwama; Sanjay Gupta, Deputy Chief Warden Civil Defence Samba; Kapil Dev Sharma, Divisional Warden Civil Defence Kathua; Kuldeep Kour, Divisional Warden Civil Defence Town Akhnoor; Rahi Reyaz Ahmad, Divisional Warden Civil Defence Srinagar; Imtiyaz Ahmad, Divisional Warden Civil Defence Budgam; Bashir Ahmad Dar, Volunteer Civil Defence Srinagar; Sajad Ahmad Lone, Volunteer Civil Defence Baramulla; Shahnawaz

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Directorate Of FCS&CA Celebrates 79th I- Day



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Directorate of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) commemorated the 79th Independence Day celebrations here.

On the occasion, Director, FCS&CA, Dr. Owais Ahmed hoisted the National flag at the Directorate office here.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director said that this remarkable day makes us remember the countless sacrifices of our great martyrs and freedom fighters who paved the way for the


freedom of our great nation.

The Director also highlighted various achievements of the department on the occasion including, introduction of SMART-PDS and various other developmental initiatives. He reiterated that the department is committed to ensure food security for all the beneficiaries.

Joint Director, Shaheena Khan, Deputy Director, Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat and other senior officers and employees also participated in the Flag-hoisting ceremony.

FATEH KHAWANI

"Indeed to Allah we belong and to him we shall return"



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Mrs Zubaida Afridi Khan, W/o- Late Mohammed Aslam Khan R/o Shalimar, Srinagar on 15th August 2025.

In Shaa Allah the congregational Fateh Khawani shall take place at graveyard near their residence in Banigam, Shalimar, Srinagar on Monday the 18th of August 2025 at 10:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

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CONDOLENCE

The Principal, staff, and students of this college express their deep grief and sorrow on the passing of **Prof. Zubaida Afridi Khan**, wife of the Late Mohammad Aslam Khan of Shalimar, Srinagar, **former Principal of this college**, who passed away on **Friday, 15th August 2025**.

A condolence meeting was held at the college on 15th August 2025, during which Fateha was offered for the departed soul. The gathering also prayed to the Almighty to grant strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.







Sd/=

Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz

Principal

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HIGHWAY STATUS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)Mughal Road - (Open)Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

 HIJRI CALENDAR 21 Safar 1447	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	4: 21
	ZUHR	12:35
	ASR	5: 22
	Magrib	7:21
	ISHA	8: 48

This Day In History

- 1384- Hongwu Emperor of Ming China, Emperor Dong, hears case of couple who tore money bills while fighting over them (equal to act of destroying stamped government documents -law necessitated 100 floggings). Hongwu Emperor decides to pardon them.
- 1513- Battle of the Spurs at Guinegate (now Eguinegatte): Henry VIII of England and Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I beat France
- 1570- Treaty of Speyer establishing Principality of Transylvania signed by King of Hungary John Sigismund Zápolyai and Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian II
- 1748- Dutch East Indiaman The Geldermalsen sails to the East Indies
- 1777 American militiamen defeat British forces at the Battle of Bennington near Vermont, during the American Revolutionary War
- 1780- British decisively defeat Americans in Battle of Camden, South Carolina
- 1787- Turkey declares war on Russia (Russo-Turkish War 1787-92)
- 1794- Hungarian revolutionary Ignác Martinovics arrested in Vienna
- 1797- Comet C/1797 P1 (Bouvard-Herschel) approaches 0.0879 AU of Earth
- 1865- Restoration Day in the Dominican Republic: The Dominican Republic regains its independence after four years of fighting against the Spanish annexation
- 1869- War of the Triple Alliance: A Paraguayan battalion composed of children is massacred by the Brazilian Army during the Battle of Acosta Nu
- 1906 - 8.6 earthquake destroys Valparaiso Chile, fire kills 20,000
- 1907- Mulay Hafid is proclaimed the Sultan of Morocco by supporters leading to civil war; Mulay is supported by Germany while France supports the existing Sultan
- 1908- The Committee of Union and Progress, 'The Young Turks', announces a program for reforms and respect for the rights of all within the Ottoman Empire, regardless of race or religion
- 1914- World War I: Battle of Cer begins.
- 1924 Dutch-Turkish peace treaty signed
- 1940- Pioneering 'Blood for Britain' program sending blood plasma for WWII wounded from the US, headed by Charles R. Drew, officially begins in Britain
- 1940 - 45 German aircrafts shot down over England
- 1944 First flight of the Junkers Ju 287.
- 1945 Puyi, the last Chinese Emperor and ruler of Manchukuo is captured by Soviet troops
- 1946 - Direct Action Day: Widespread riots erupt in Calcutta between Muslims and Hindus over whether Pakistan should be a separate state, killing over 4,000 and leaving 100,000 homeless
- 1948 - Arabs blow up Latrun pumping station in Jerusalem
- 1948 - Israeli pound becomes legal tender
- 1953 - Shah of Persia Mohammed Reza Pahlavi & princess Soraya flee to Baghdad & Rome
- 1959 - USSR introduces installment buying
- 1960 - Britain grants independence to crown colony of Cyprus
- 1972 - Morocco King Hassan II's B727 shot during failed coup attempt by General Mohamed Oufkir. Reportedly, King Hassan grabbed the radio and told the rebel pilots "Stop firing! The tyrant is dead!", fooling pilots to break off attack
- 1984 - NASA launches Ampte
- 1987 - Astrological Harmonic Convergence-Dawn of New Age

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my father's name from (old Father's name) Mohammad Mansoor Tantray to (New Father's Name) Mohd Mansoor Tantray. In future my father's name would be known as Mohd Mansoor Tantray. If anybody has any objection may contact passport office Srinagar within seven days.

Muzamil Manzoor Tantray
S/o Mohd Mansoor Tantray
R/o Killora Shopian
Passport no; GN645908

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KO VIEW

Global Lessons
for Kashmir

The morning after the devastating cloudburst, Kishtwar highlands lay in chaos, as if nature itself had gone on a rampage.

Roads were buried under mud and boulders. Homes were ripped apart. Over sixty lives were gone in hours that passed too fast to comprehend. Families sifted through rubble. Neighbours carried the injured. The hills that should have protected them had turned deadly.

Nature played its part, but human choices made it worse. Crowded trails, haphazard roads, and buildings on fragile slopes turned a sudden rainstorm into a deadly catastrophe.

Around the world, mountain regions dealing with similar hazards have proven there are ways to prevent this.

Japan treats landslides and debris flows as a constant challenge. Authorities build sediment-trapping “Sabo” dams, reinforce slopes with concrete, rock bolts, and vegetation, and monitor rainfall in real time. Residents practice evacuation drills and follow hazard maps to move quickly when danger strikes.

Switzerland combines hazard maps with strict zoning to keep construction out of high-risk areas. Alpine slopes are strengthened naturally with terraces, deep-rooted plants, and controlled grazing. Norway monitors mountains constantly. Even tiny shifts in rock or soil trigger alerts and evacuations, sometimes stopping disasters before they happen.

China’s experience shows the value of community action. Villagers trained as first responders watch streams and slopes during heavy rain, while drainage systems and check dams slow runoff. Italy’s civil protection system issues alerts based on soil and weather conditions, while municipalities coordinate evacuations, road closures, and public education to keep people safe.

Kashmir can take these lessons and act. Slopes across the Chenab Valley and other vulnerable areas can be strengthened with a mix of engineering and nature-based solutions.

Check dams, terraces, and drainage channels can slow debris and water. Hazard maps, widely shared and enforced, can guide where roads, settlements, and hotels are built. Early-warning systems, linked to rainfall sensors and local volunteers, can give communities critical hours to get to safety.

The Kishtwar tragedy is a wake-up call we cannot ignore anymore. Cloudbursts may come suddenly, but lives don’t have to be lost. Proper planning, scientific systems, and care for the slopes can turn danger into safety.

The other mountain regions of the world learned from past disasters, and so can Kashmir.

Kishtwar Tragedy Was
Years in the Making

The cloudburst in the Chenab Valley forces a question we can’t keep dodging: how many warnings will it take for us to act?

Dr. Afroz Ahmad Shah

When the cloudburst hit Kishtwar, in the mountains of Jammu and Kashmir, it took just minutes for the rain to shred lives apart.

Homes vanished, roads caved in, families were swept away. Officials counted at least 65 dead and more than 100 missing, but in these calamities, the real toll usually comes later, when the water recedes and the silence sets in.

We call events like this “natural disasters,” as if nature alone is to blame.

The harder truth is that we make the destruction worse, through reckless construction, weak governance, and communities left unprepared for the dangers around them.

Kishtwar is part of one of the most geologically restless regions on the planet. For 50 million years, the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates have been colliding, pushing the Himalayas upward faster than almost any other mountain range in the world.

The collision has shattered the crust into a web of faults, including the Main Central Thrust, the Main Boundary Thrust, and the Main Frontal Thrust, carving razor-sharp ridges and deep valleys where instability is built into the very bedrock.

Earthquakes are a fact of life here. The 2005 Muzaffarabad quake alone killed over 80,000 people across the region. But in the Himalayas, it’s the ground sliding, not shaking, that poses the bigger danger.

Cloudbursts, sudden downpours that can dump over 100 millimeters of rain in an hour on a small area, can turn these fragile slopes into raging rivers of mud and rock.

Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, and the Pir Panjal mountains are made of fractured stone and glacial debris that crumble easily when saturated.

A cloudburst is like nature flipping a switch, one moment it’s raining, the next a hillside is collapsing. They’re almost impossible to predict.

In India, most happen during the monsoon in the mountains, but their tiny footprint and sudden arrival make them hard to forecast anywhere in the world.

Still, we have the science and tools to prepare, if we choose to use them.

The disaster in Kishtwar was no exception. History has given us plenty of warnings.

The Leh cloudburst in 2010



“The Kishtwar cloudburst is a tragic test. If we treat it as a warning and prepare for the next one, we may yet turn the cycle of loss into one of resilience. If we don’t, we’ll be writing this same story again, only with more names in the casualty list.”

killed over 200 people. The 2013 Kedarnath tragedy in Uttarakhand, the deadliest in the region, claimed more than 5,700 lives, with later

counts putting the toll above 6,000.

In recent years, Himachal Pradesh has lost dozens of people every monsoon to landslides and flash floods.

The pattern is clear: these events are more frequent, widespread, and destructive. And part of the danger is man-made.

In the rush to build roads, homes, and tourist infrastructure, we have pushed development onto unstable slopes without proper geological checks.

Road-widening projects slice into hillsides, destabilizing them. Retaining walls are skipped, drainage systems are poor, forests that anchor the soil are cut down.

Each act of negligence might seem small, but together they set the stage for disaster.

When extreme rainfall hits, and climate change is making it hit harder, the damage multiplies.

And there’s another layer of risk.

The same tectonic forces that make the Himalayas soar also make them prone to massive earthquakes. A major quake could trigger thousands of landslides in minutes, especially on slopes already loosened by rain and human interference.

Planning for one hazard without the other is like locking your front door and leaving the windows open.

The way forward is not mysterious. Every vulnerable district should be mapped for landslide hazard zones, and building should

be banned in the highest-risk areas.

Early warning systems, like combining local weather forecasts, rainfall sensors, and simple slope monitors, should be community-run, not just government-operated.

Building codes for mountain towns must be enforced, with proper slope reinforcement, drainage, and siting.

Public campaigns should teach people to recognize early warning signs, like cracks in walls, leaning trees, sudden changes in spring water, and how to evacuate fast. Restoring native forests can help stabilize slopes and slow runoff.

The Himalayas will always be dangerous. We cannot move mountains, but we can change how we live in them.

The Kishtwar cloudburst is a tragic test. If we treat it as a warning and prepare for the next one, we may yet turn the cycle of loss into one of resilience.

If we don’t, we’ll be writing this same story again, only with more names in the casualty list.

Dr. Afroz Ahmad Shah is a National Geographic Explorer and Senior Assistant Professor of Structural Geology at Universiti Brunei Darussalam, where he leads the Geosciences programme.

Burnout In The Wards

Long shifts, scarce resources, and growing hostility from patients’ families are leaving deep psychological wounds on Kashmiri caregivers.

Peerzada Faizan Gul

“If hospitals in Kashmir are to remain places of healing, the people who work in them need safety, support, and recognition that their mental health is as vital to the system as their skills. Without that, the healers themselves will become the next casualties.”

lence, the impact cuts deeper.

Medical workers speak of panic attacks before returning to duty, nightmares about previous assaults, and a constant state of hypervigilance.

Some describe moral injury, feeling personally blamed for systemic failures, when a patient dies.

“The violence breaks something inside you,” the nurse said. “You don’t just fear losing a patient anymore. You fear the family.”

These are the conditions for burnout and compassion fatigue: relentless exposure to suffering, high workloads, and the looming threat of harm.

Yet mental health support for healthcare workers in Kashmir government hospitals is almost nonexistent.

There are no in-house counselors, hardly any formal debriefs after traumatic incidents, and little official recognition that staff might need emotional care.

Doctors and nurses have repeatedly called for structural changes: dedicated mental health professionals for staff, better

hospital security, clear grievance systems, and legal follow-through in assault cases.

Instead, responses are often reactive, prompted by public outrage after viral videos. Many incidents never reach the news.

Violence is only one part of the crisis. Severe staff shortages mean many doctors and nurses are working double shifts. Legal protections are weak, with cases frequently settled informally.

Public understanding of hospital protocols is limited, leading to unrealistic expectations, particularly in emergency care.

In critical cases, when outcomes are poor, grief often turns into confrontation.

During the pandemic, healthcare workers were celebrated as heroes in Kashmir. Social media filled with tributes. Streets clapped for them during lockdown evenings.

Today, those same workers return to crowded wards with little security, few resources, and an expectation to keep going without complaint.

A healthcare system that cannot protect its caregivers cannot protect its patients.

If hospitals in Kashmir are to remain places of healing, the people who work in them need safety, support, and recognition that their mental health is as vital to the system as their skills.

Without that, the healers themselves will become the next casualties.

– The author is a radiation therapist at Government Medical College, Anantnag, where he works with cancer care teams to deliver precise, patient-centered radiotherapy.

The slap landed so hard it sent the doctor stumbling to the floor. It was late in the evening inside the emergency ward of Srinagar’s SMHS Hospital when an attendant, furious over a patient’s critical condition, crossed the line from grief to violence.

The doctor, a young man with a disability in one leg, had been on his feet for nearly 16 hours. He had been treating trauma cases nonstop.

The assault was caught on video. Within hours, it ricocheted across social media, igniting protests by medical staff and statements from officials.

For those in Kashmir’s healthcare system, it was proof of what they had been saying for years.

In the past year alone, at least half a dozen reported assaults on healthcare workers have made headlines in Jammu and Kashmir.

At SMHS, another doctor was punched days before the viral video. In July, a female doctor at GMC Jammu was kicked and punched after a patient with a brain hemorrhage died, the attack captured on CCTV. In Handwara, a doctor was beaten during his shift earlier this year.

Each incident is a spike in a longer, silent crisis: the mental and emotional toll borne by the people tasked with saving lives in an under-resourced, overburdened public health system.

Inside Kashmir’s government hospitals, the weight falls unevenly but heavily. A post-graduate resident in South Kashmir described her routine: “I sometimes work 24-hour shifts without proper sleep. There’s no time to eat,

let alone process what I see: deaths, critical cases, even fights in the ward.”

Nationwide, surveys indicate that more than 60 percent of doctors report symptoms of depression or anxiety. That strain is magnified in the valley.

Public hospitals here often see patient loads double or triple their official capacity. Infrastructure lags far behind need. Power cuts, shortages of essential drugs, and long waits are common.

All of this unfolds in a region where political instability, economic constraints, and community mistrust shape the hospital environment in ways unseen in other parts of the country.

Nurses, often the glue holding wards together, carry their own emotional weight. They manage patient care, diffuse family tempers, and often take the brunt of public anger.

“No one asks how we feel when we are screamed at,” said a senior nurse in Srinagar. “It happens so often it’s treated as part of the job.”

When tempers boil into physical vio-

When the Kitchen Was the Heart of Kashmir

Rotten meat scandal exposes how far we've strayed from the kitchens that once gave our food soul.

Muskan Malik

I remember the sound before the smell.

The crackle of wood in the daan, the soft thud of logs settling, and the hiss when fresh meat hit a hot pot.

My grandmother would be there, apron on, head covered, having performed ablution before stepping into the kitchen. She moved with the steady grace of the fire itself.

The meat, bought fresh from a trusted butcher, was cleaned before our eyes, washed, and cooked within the hour.

In Kashmiri family, meat was honour. It welcomed guests, celebrated marriages, and marked festivals.

Every Eid, engagement, or birth carried the scent of something simmering over the hearth. Women from neighbouring homes would gather, sleeves rolled up, kneading minced meat for goshtaba, grinding spices on the stone saddle quern, and stirring rice in large copper pots.

Young brides learned more than recipes. They learned the cultural art of cooking wrapped in laughter and gossip.

Those kitchens were about community. Preparing food together wove relationships tighter than any ceremony. Patience, care, and unspoken love in each dish gave it



a flavour no machine or gas stove could match.

Last week, scrolling through social media, I saw the opposite of those memories: piles of rotting

meat, seized by authorities in Kashmir. Tonnes of it, unfit for human consumption, dumped before it reached kitchens and restaurants.

The images turned my stomach, but they also made me wonder how we got here.

Once, we knew our butcher's name. We knew which animal the meat came from and when it was slaughtered.

Now, the journey from slaughterhouse to plate is hidden: marinated, frozen, shipped over long distances, stored who-knows-where. We eat without asking.

A market survey last year found that more than a third of meat

samples failed basic quality checks. That means anywhere you buy meat, there's a real chance your kebab or curry carries invisible risks.

We like to blame modern life: no time, too much work, and the lure of home delivery.

A single guest now means ordering wazwan from a caterer instead of rolling up our sleeves. Hospital patients are served restaurant broths. Children snack on packaged food more than anything made at home.

Hospitality is measured by the number of goshtaba in a dish or the kilos of kebabs at a wedding, not by the care that went into making them.

Convenience has made us lazy. A proper yakhni or hand-shaped goshtaba takes effort, and many of us feel "too busy" to bother. We tell ourselves ordering in saves time and money, even when it costs more and risks our health.

In doing so, we've let go of one of Kashmir's richest traditions: the kitchen as a place of care, skill, and meaning.

I'm not calling for a return to some golden past. Modern kitchens, hygiene, and efficient tools are good things. But traditions fade when we stop trying.

The rotten meat scandal is a warning. We can keep letting oth-

ers control what we eat, or we can reclaim some of that control.

Make wazwan dishes at home once in a while. Teach children to knead dough, grind spices, tend a fire. Prepare snacks instead of opening a packet.

This is how we keep both health and heritage alive.

When the story of the kitchen fades, the story of the people fades with it. Food made with care carries



In the end, the difference between a restaurant's recipe and a grandmother's pot of yakhni is more than ingredients. One is made for business. The other is made for you.

something you can't measure in calories or protein: the happiness of feeding someone well.

In the end, the difference between a restaurant's recipe and a grandmother's pot of yakhni is more than ingredients. One is made for business. The other is made for you.

— The author is pursuing MA History at Aligarh Muslim University and can be reached at muskanshajimalik@gmail.com

When the story of the kitchen fades, the story of the people fades with it. Food made with care carries something you can't measure in calories or protein: the happiness of feeding someone well.

Subtle Shifts in the Valley

Old rivalries, economic shifts, and social traditions are reshaping Kashmir. And the warning signs are already visible.



Waheed Ahmad Rather

History rarely repeats itself, but it has a way of whispering the same warnings.

Across Asia and Africa, old regimes left societies divided along lines of caste, religion, or region. Some leaders saw the danger and tried to rise above it, calling for unity, local self-reliance, and a sense of shared purpose that could bind communities together.

Kashmir today carries echoes of that past.

The region's social and political fabric, already fragile, is slowly fraying.

The historian E.H. Carr called history "an unending dialogue between the present and the past."

That dialogue is tacitly unfolding across the valley, only becoming visible when its effects can no longer be ignored.

This year's Muharram processions, intended to honour Imam Hussain, became a flashpoint for Shia-Sunni tension. Street speeches and online sermons carried sharp words, highlighting rivalries that have simmered for centuries.

What once was contained within neighbourhoods now travels far and wide, amplified by social networks and student groups.

Young Kashmiris studying elsewhere in India often find themselves drawn into these networks. They offer space, support, and scholarship, but also reinforce an "us versus them" worldview.

Students return home with a

History shows the consequences of societies that consume themselves from within. The warning signs are already visible in Kashmir: deepening community divides, fragile economies, and the slow erosion of shared political purpose.

stronger sense of sectarian identity than they had before. Their loyalties are shaped more by community leaders than by civic ideals or political thinking.

Internal contradictions have always shaped Kashmir politics. Ideological and personal divides at the time of accession left room for external sway,

Today, social barriers persist. Endogamy among Syeds, Gujjars, and Bakarwals keeps communities largely separate. Traditions that once seemed invisible now make political consensus harder to achieve and trust more fragile.

The economy adds another dimension.

Agriculture, once Kashmir's backbone, is giving way to horticulture. In 1970-71, less than half a lakh hectares were under horticulture. By 2022, that figure had jumped to more than two lakh hectares.

Apples, Kashmir's pride, tell the story clearly. Traditional Delicious varieties are being replaced by high-density Italian ones. They mature faster, survive snow better, and fetch higher prices. Subsidies make the shift tempting.

Yet the benefits come with risks. Foreign varieties spoil quickly, cannot be stored for months like local apples, and leave farmers exposed to market swings. Competing producers, both domestic and international, can flood the market, leaving Kashmiri growers with little leverage.

Economic dependency slowly replaces self-reliance, weakening the political promise tied to local control.

Kashmir's politics cannot be separated from its religion, economy, or social traditions. Each shapes the other. Sect against sect, short-term gain over long-term resilience, every tension pulls at the center.

The erosion is silent, almost invisible, but cumulative.

History shows the consequences of societies that consume themselves from within. The warning signs are already visible in Kashmir: deepening community divides, fragile economies, and the slow erosion of shared political purpose.

The path forward is neither dramatic nor simple. It lies in rebuilding trust across communities, strengthening inclusive politics, and supporting economic choices that empower rather than divide.

If Kashmir takes that path, deliberately and patiently, it can still shape its own future, rather than letting long-standing divides decide it for them.

— The author is a postgraduate student in the Department of History and Culture at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

Who Should I Blame for My Face?

Some people read stories on my face that I never wrote. If the ink is there, it is theirs, not mine.



Newsheen Mushtaq

There is a strange expectation that, besides choosing our words carefully, we must also

You must learn the choreography of nods and smiles, timed to the rhythm of other people's comfort. It is not enough to speak kindly. You must look like kindness itself, even when you are simply thinking.

To fight with my own face would be to fight with God, and I will not wage a war with my maker for the sake of others' projections.

choose our face. A raised brow here, a downward curve there, and suddenly, a story is written about us, one we never authored.

The world loves to say, "It's not what you said, it's how you said it."

But what if you didn't say anything at all? What if your so-called "tone" was only the resting shape of your mouth, the way your eyes naturally focus, the face you were born with?

I was not handed a catalogue at birth to pick a smile I could wear forever. No stylist came to arrange my cheekbones into permanent warmth. Yet I am constantly told that my neutral is too cold, my serious too sharp, my silence too loud.

We live in a theatre where everyone is cast in the role of The Pleasant One. The script is unwritten, but the cues are clear. Your face must be the wallpaper of the room, blending into the mood of those around you.

But I do not act on a stage. I refuse to wear a mask that nods in the right places, smiles without reason, and reassures others they are liked, even when I am lost in thought. A mask, no matter how convincing, is still a lie.

And for me, black is black. It will never be painted white just to make someone else comfortable.

"We talk about freedom of speech, but where is the freedom of face?"

When I meet someone, I meet their whole truth: their words, tone, pauses, and yes, their unguarded expression. Why can't others extend the same courtesy? Why do we forgive sharp words if they come with a smile, yet condemn honesty if it arrives in a neutral face? Somewhere along the way, society decided that appearance outranks intent.

And here is the danger. When

people focus on expressions over actions, they create false narratives. The gentle person is painted as harsh. The strong-minded person is labelled arrogant. The deep thinker becomes the aloof outsider. Judging a book by its cover was always a bad idea, but judging a soul by its resting expression might be worse.

The pressure to "look friendly" has made honesty a performance. We are told to bend our faces into permanent approval, smile on command, and hide our fatigue, reflection, even pain, for the sake of appearances. But a face that never tells the truth is not a gift to others. It is a loss of self.

And the irony is that our expressions are not always mirrors of our thoughts. A silent face is not a cruel one. A calm face is not an uncaring one. A serious face may simply belong to a serious mind, and that is not a fault to correct.

If my face unsettles you, perhaps the discomfort lives in your perception, not in my skin. I can control my words, actions, and choices, but not the architecture of my features.

To fight with my own face would be to fight with God, and I will not wage a war with my maker for the sake of others' projections.

So, who should I blame? Not my parents, not God, not myself. If you choose to read an expression I never wrote, the ink is in your mind, not on my face.

— The author can be reached at newsheen9051@gmail.com

CM To Launch

decisions are taken," he said, adding that the signature campaign documents will be submitted to the apex court.

Omar said the reference to the Pahalgam terror attack during the hearing in the Supreme Court was unfortunate.

"There were unfortunate comments in the Supreme Court that the Pahalgam attack should be considered when statehood is decided. Will the killers of Pahalgam and their masters in the neighbouring country decide whether we will be a state? Every time we will be close to statehood, they will do something to sabotage it. Is this fair? Why are we being punished for the crime we have no role in," he asked.

"From Kathua to Kupwara, people came out on their own to protest against the Pahalgam attack. Unfortunately, today we are being punished for the Pahalgam attack," he said.

Omar highlighted several achievements over the past 10 months, including the passing of a resolution in the J&K Assembly to restore special status and statehood, Cabinet approval for statehood restoration, budgetary measures benefiting education, health, social welfare, transport, tourism and agriculture, the quick restoration of electricity during winter outages, expansion of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), the launch of "Mission Yuva" to create livelihoods for 4-4.5 lakh youth, and an increase in MLAs' Constituency Development Fund to empower elected representatives.

'Tying A Horse's

"Probably, I have paid a political price for it," he said.

Sharing his personal experience of leading both a State and now a Union Territory, he was candid in his critique:

"I do not want anyone to be the Chief Minister of a Union Territory. This system of governance looks good on paper but fails in reality. It is a governance structure designed for failure."

Chief Minister said that no one should aspire to become CM of a Union Territory. "People will ask why you take part in the electoral process of a UT but I didn't know it would be so difficult. The situation has come to such a pass that Cabinet decisions are stopped and not issued. What will the elected government do if its hands are tied", CM said.

The CM likened the functioning of the current administration to "tying a horse's front legs and then asking it to run," citing instances where Cabinet decisions were stalled, altered, or left unapproved.

Referring to recent speculation that the Centre was likely to announce statehood reinstatement around this Independence Day, the chief minister said that though he did not have much expectations, he was led to believe that it might happen after all.

"I had no expectations but I was being constantly told that the documents are ready and now just the announcement is to be made. But the announcement never came. The ray of hope is fading, but we will not give up," Omar said.

The chief minister said that in spite of the problem of dual power centres in a Union Territory, his government has done a lot of work over the last 10 months.

"It would be wrong to say that we did nothing in the (last) 10 months. We passed a resolution for restoration of special status in the legislative assembly, we passed a resolution for restoration of statehood," he said.

The chief minister highlighted the steps taken in the budget that brought about an improvement in the daily lives of people in sectors like education, health, social welfare, transport, tourism and agriculture.

"This government's efforts have been focused on properly utilising whatever powers were vested with us, so that people can benefit," he added.

No Distinction

still "sleepless" and that the devastation in that country has been so huge that every day brings new revelations and fresh information. India responded to the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22 with several punitive diplomatic and economic measures, including the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty.

Operation Sindoar and Pahalgam Attack

On May 7, India launched Operation Sindoar to target terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan, triggering four days of hostilities that ended with an understanding between the two sides on May 10.

"Our nation has endured terrorism for many decades. The heart of the country has been pierced time and again. Now, we have established a new normal: those who nurture and harbour terrorism, and those who empower terrorists, will no longer be seen as separate," he said during his 103-minute address.

"They are all equal enemies of humanity, with no distinction between them." Highlighting India's "new normal" in dealing with cross-border terrorism, Modi said the armed forces accomplished something that had not happened in decades as they reduced terrorist headquarters to dust and turned terror infrastructure into ruins in response to the Pahalgam attack.

"I feel great pride that today I have the opportunity to salute the brave warriors of Operation Sindoar from the ramparts of the Red Fort. Our courageous soldiers punished the enemies beyond anything they could have imagined."

"On April 22, terrorists crossed the border and committed a massacre in Pahalgam, killing people after asking their religion, shooting husbands in front of their wives, and executing fathers in front of their children. The entire nation was filled with outrage, and the whole world was shocked by such a massacre."

Twenty-six people, mostly tourists, were killed in the attack. Modi said Operation Sindoar was the expression of that outrage, adding the government gave the military complete freedom to decide on the strategy, targets, and timing of India's response to the Pahalgam attack.

'Freedom to Armed Forces'

"And our military accomplished something that had not happened in decades. Penetrating hundreds of kilometres into enemy territory, they reduced terrorist headquarters to dust and turned terrorist headquarters into ruins."

The prime minister said India has now decided that it will no longer tolerate nuclear threats. "The nuclear blackmail that has gone on for so long will no longer be endured. If our enemies continue this attempt in the future, our army will decide on its

own terms, at the time of its choosing, in the manner it deems fit, and target the objectives it selects and we will act accordingly. We will give a fitting and crushing response," he added.

'Water for Bharat's Farmers'

The prime minister noted that waters of rivers originating from India are "irrigating the fields of our enemies, while the farmers and the soil of our own nation remain thirsty."

"This (IWT) was an agreement that has caused unimaginable loss to our farmers for the past seven decades. Now, the water that rightfully belongs to Bharat will be reserved solely for Bharat, solely for the farmers of Bharat," he said.

"The people of the country now fully understand how unjust and one-sided the Indus Waters Treaty has been." "The form of the Indus agreement that Bharat has endured for decades will not be tolerated any longer. This agreement is unacceptable to us in the interest of our farmers, and in the interest of the nation," Modi said.

Mission 'Sudarshan Chakra' and Self-Reliance in Defence

In a significant announcement relating to security, the prime minister said India will launch a mission named 'Sudarshan Chakra' to "expand, strengthen, and modernise" this national security shield.

Making a strong pitch for self-reliance, Modi also underlined the need for developing a jet engine within the country for India's fighter aircraft programme, saying it is necessary to march ahead in the defence manufacturing sector.

The prime minister also described strategic autonomy and indigenous capabilities as key to decisively tackling threats, making self-reliance the bedrock of national strength, dignity, and the journey to a developed India by 2047.

"Indigenous capabilities, including Made-in-India weapons, enable India to act decisively and independently, proving that national security cannot rely on foreign dependence," he said.

Tribute to Operation Sindoar from the Red Fort Earlier, two Mi-17 helicopters of the Indian Air Force flew over the Red Fort and showered flower petals. One chopper carried the tricolour while the other displayed a banner of Operation Sindoar.

Launches Scheme Worth Rs 1 Lakh Crore For Youth

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "My country's youth, today is 15th August, and on this very day, we are launching a scheme worth Rs 1 lakh crore for the youth of our country. From today, the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana is being implemented... Under this scheme, young men and women getting their first job in the private sector will receive Rs 15,000 from the government. Companies that create more employment opportunities will also be given incentive amounts. The Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana will create nearly 3.5 crore new employment opportunities for the youth."

Rolls Out PM

the companies (employing them) will get incentive amounts.

PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana will provide employment opportunities to 3.5 crore youths.

With an outlay of Rs 99,446 crore, the PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRVY) aims to incentivise the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs over two years. Of these, 1.92 crore beneficiaries will be first timers, entering the workforce.

The benefits of the scheme would be applicable to jobs created between August 1, 2025, and July 31, 2027.

The name of the scheme is in alignment with the scheme's overall objectives towards the Viksit Bharat initiative and reflects the government's commitment to generating inclusive and sustainable employment opportunities in the country.

The scheme, which incentivises employers to create new employment, will provide benefits for the generation of new jobs across various sectors with special focus on the manufacturing sector.

The scheme consists of two parts, with Part A focused on first timers and Part B focused on employers.

Targeting first-time employees registered with retirement fund body EPFO, Part-A will ensure one-month EPF wages up to Rs 15,000 in two installments. Employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh per month will be eligible.

The 1st installment will be payable after 6 months of service and the 2nd installment after 12 months of service and completion of a financial literacy programme by the employee.

To encourage the habit of saving, a portion of the incentive will be kept in a savings instrument or deposit account for a fixed period and can be withdrawn by the employee at a later date.

The employers will get incentives in respect of employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh a month.

The government will incentivise employers, up to Rs 3000 per month, for two years, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least six months. For the employers of the manufacturing sector, incentives will be extended to the 3rd and 4th years as well.(PTI)

Longest Ever

56 minutes.

On India's 79th Independence Day, Modi also broke Indira Gandhi's record by delivering 12 consecutive speeches from Red Fort to stand next only to Jawaharlal Nehru who delivered 17 Independence Day addresses in a row.

Modi delivered his first Independence Day speech in 2014, which lasted 65 minutes.

His speech in 2015 lasted for 88 minutes. In 2018, Modi's address from the ramparts of the Red Fort was 83 minutes. Subsequently, in 2019, he spoke for nearly 92 minutes.

In 2020 Modi's I-day address lasted 90 minutes. His Independence Day speech in 2021 lasted 88 minutes and in 2022 he spoke for 74 minutes.

In 2023, Modi's speech was 90 minutes.

Before Modi, Jawaharlal Nehru in 1947 and IK Gujral in 1997 had the longest speeches at 72 and 71 minutes, respectively.

Nehru and Indira Gandhi also gave the shortest speeches on record at 14 minutes in 1954 and 1966, respectively.

Former prime ministers Manmohan Singh and Atal Bihari Vajpayee also gave some of the shortest Independence Day speeches from the Red Fort.

Singh's speeches in 2012 and 2013 lasted only 32 and 35 minutes, respectively. Vajpayee's speeches in 2002 and 2003 were even shorter at 25 and 30 minutes.

M. Raju Gets Addl

departments earlier today.

It is noteworthy that Anshul Garg was previously

posted as the Chief Executive Officer of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDB) before his transfer to the Kashmir division.

Until Garg officially assumes his new responsibilities, M. Raju will oversee all administrative and developmental affairs of the Kashmir division alongside his existing duties.

LG Hoists National

our tricolor and feel pride in watching it fly high in the sky.

I join every citizen in paying homage to our freedom fighters, whose undying love for Motherland secured us our freedom. I pay tribute to civilian martyrs, who were brutally killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists in Pahalgam on April 22.

I also thank our armed forces, our brave soldiers, security, intelligence agencies Jammu Kashmir Police and every personnel involved in 'Operation Sindoar' & 'Operation Mahadev' for their bravery and commitment to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack.

My heart also goes out to the families affected by cloudburst in Chashoti, Kishtwar. I am devastated by this natural calamity and express my condolences to the bereaved families. Relief Operations are underway on war footing.

Independence Day Celebrations

every household.

In Srinagar, the main function was held at Bakshi Stadium where the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah hoisted the tricolour.

In Ganderbal, District Development Council (DDC) Chairperson Nuzhat Ishfaq hoisted the tricolour at Qamaria Stadium and took salute at the march-past, which featured contingents of police, paramilitary, Home Guards, Forest Protection Force, and schoolchildren. She highlighted women empowerment, enhanced healthcare, and socio-economic development as key priorities for the district.

Pulwama's main event was held at the District Police Lines, where DDC Chairperson Syed Abdul Bari Andrabi led the ceremony, praising the district's recent recognition for excellence in governance, including top rankings in NITI Aayog's Aspirational Blocks programme and the National ODP Award 2024.

In Kulgam, DDC Chairperson M Afzal Parrey addressed the gathering at District Police Lines, lauding the district administration's performance in implementing welfare schemes. Similar pride was echoed in Kupwara, where DDC Chairman Irfan Sultan Panditpori hoisted the flag and celebrated the sanctioning of the Sadhna Tunnel, expected to transform connectivity for border areas.

Bandipora's celebrations at S.K. Sports Stadium saw DDC Chairperson Abdul Gani Bhat commend progress in tourism, healthcare, and rural infrastructure, particularly in remote Gurez and Tulail.

At Shopian, DDC Chairperson Bilqees Jan reaffirmed the administration's focus on transparent governance and infrastructure growth, while in Budgam, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat described the district as being on a "historic path of sustainable and inclusive development."

Flag-hoisting ceremonies were also held at sub-divisional, tehsil, block, and panchayat levels, as well as in schools, government offices, and police establishments across the Valley.

While the tricolour fluttered proudly in the August breeze, the day's celebrations were tempered by grief, as leaders and citizens alike paused to honour the memory of those lost in Kishtwar's tragedy.

Kashmiri MBBS

the family member said.

After battling for her life, she died last night at around 2:30 am.

Meanwhile, the bereaved family has appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, for the urgent repatriation of her body to Kashmir for last rites. "We need immediate assistance in bringing the young student's mortal remains back for the last rites at her ancestral area," the relatives said. They urged the External Affairs Minister to intervene urgently to liaise with Iranian authorities and ensure that all humanitarian and administrative procedures are completed at the earliest so that Saba Rasool's family can receive her mortal remains without unnecessary delay and accord her the dignified farewell she deserves.

In his letter dated August 15, 2025 (Ref: MP/SGR/653/2025) to Rudra Gaurav Shresth, Ambassador of India to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Aga Ruhullah wrote:

"I write to you regarding the untimely demise of Ms. Saba Rasool Sofi, an Indian citizen and a final-year medical student at Urmia University of Medical Sciences in Iran. I urgently seek your assistance in facilitating the swift repatriation of her mortal remains."

"The bereaved family is devastated and understandably distressed. I kindly request that the Embassy liaise as a matter of urgency with the relevant Iranian authorities and the University administration to initiate and expedite all necessary formalities, including medico-legal clearances and transport arrangements, for the return of her body to India," the MP's letter reads.

Kishtwar Flash Flood

span bridge, and over a dozen vehicles. The cloudburst coincided with the annual Machail Mata pilgrimage, which had begun on July 25 and was scheduled to end on September 5.

On Thursday, rescuers pulled out 46 bodies, including two Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel, and 167 injured were rescued. So far, 30 of the deceased have been identified and handed over to their families.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Omar Abdullah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday, assuring all possible assistance. In a post on X, Modi wrote, "Authorities are working on the ground to assist those affected."

Rescue operations, suspended late Thursday night due to heavy rain, resumed at first light on Friday. Teams comprising police, Army, NDRF, SDRF personnel, and local volunteers sifted through debris, although chances of finding survivors diminished with every passing hour. Rains briefly resumed around 11:15 am, slowing the effort, but cleared by 7 am, allowing teams to intensify their search.

Authorities have deployed more than a dozen earth-movers to clear giant boulders, uprooted trees, and downed electricity poles. Additional NDRF teams equipped with special gear joined the operation on Friday. The Army's White Knight Corps, along with 300 Rashtriya Rifles troops and

medical detachments, is coordinating with local police and SDRF personnel to rescue the stranded and provide relief.

Officials said two villages ahead of the disaster belt—Machail and Hamori—still have hundreds of people stranded, with mobile networks down and phone batteries exhausted. A control room-cum-help desk has been set up in Padder, 15 km from Chisoti, to coordinate relief and assist pilgrims. The contact numbers provided are 9858223125, 6006701934, 9795704078, 8492886895, 8493801381, and 7006463710.

The Jammu and Kashmir health and medical education department has reinforced critical medical infrastructure. Specialist doctors from PGI-Chandigarh are scheduled to assist at the Government Medical College in Jammu, while district hospitals in Kishtwar have been supplemented with additional surgeons and anaesthetists. A total of 65 ambulances from various agencies have been deployed to facilitate rescue and patient transfer.

Addressing an Independence Day function in Srinagar, CM Omar Abdullah said, "In the coming days, we will have to figure out why this happened. Was there any lapse on the part of the administration, because we already had a weather forecast of heavy rains and flash floods? Could we have taken more steps to save precious lives? We have to make ourselves accountable."

Videos and eyewitness accounts show torrents of muddy water, rocks, and debris tearing through the steep Himalayan slopes, destroying homes and vehicles in their path. The rescue operation continues as authorities race against time to locate the missing and provide relief to the affected population.

Lives Swept Away

at least 13 local residents, including two temple priests. Giant boulders, logs, and tonnes of silt hurtled down the steep slopes, flattening homes, temples, markets, and bridges, and transforming the picturesque mountain village into a wasteland.

For many survivors, the tragedy is deeply personal. Nirmala Devi lost both her father, Bodh Raj, and her uncle, Dinanath—priests at the local temple. "He had asked me to come forward for a tilak on my forehead, but I refused and left before the tragedy struck," she said, breaking down. "I should have had the tilak with his hands at least one last time."

The annual Machail Mata yatra, which began on July 25 and was due to continue until September 5, had drawn thousands of devotees to Chasoti—the last motorable point on the 8.5 km trek to the 9,500 ft shrine. On Thursday, hundreds of pilgrims had gathered at a langar next to a makeshift market when the floods struck, sweeping away people, structures, and vehicles within seconds.

So far, 167 injured people have been rescued, while 69 remain missing. The floods destroyed more than 10 residential houses, six government buildings, three temples, four water mills, a 30-metre span bridge, and over a dozen vehicles.

Rescue operations—led by police, Army, NDRF, SDRF, and local volunteers—resumed at first light on Friday despite rain. Visuals from the scene show torrents of muddy water ripping through the village, folding houses like cardboard, and leaving roads blocked with rock and debris.

Bilu Kumar, who lost his home, said at least 13 villagers had perished. "Ten bodies have been recovered, but three are still untraced."

Head Constable Ramesh Chander, posted as a guard at the larger site, recalled the terrifying moment the cloudburst hit. "The earth beneath my feet started shaking... I saw people who could not run on time getting buried or swept away."

Local BJP MLA and Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma said several hundred people were present in the affected area at the time. He confirmed that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had assured more rescue teams once the weather improves. The Army is constructing a Bailey bridge to facilitate the movement of stranded pilgrims, while security forces have also set up makeshift log bridges across the stream.

"We are thankful to our rescuers, especially the police and the Army, for their assistance," said Monika Devi, a pilgrim from Jammu's Satwari area, who witnessed a security jawan being swept away while helping people to safety.

Two CISF personnel are among the dead.

For many residents and pilgrims, the scale of the disaster is unprecedented. "I have been associated with the yatra for 11 years, but never seen such a tragedy," said Banu Pratap Singh of Katra, who has been serving pilgrims. "The administration and rescuers are doing a very good job, and hopefully the yatra will start soon. People are advised not to panic."

Survivors Recall

breathe. My uncle, bouji, and others removed wooden planks after hours, and we all came out. Mata saved us," she says, the terror still vividly reflected in her voice.

Like her, 32-year-old Sneha is still in disbelief that she is alive. Moments after loading luggage onto their vehicle, she and her four family members were swept away in a roaring torrent, buried under mud and crushed beneath a vehicle.

"I was trapped in mud under a vehicle, surrounded by bodies – some of them children with broken necks and severed limbs. I lost hope of my survival," she says. Somehow, they clawed their way out.

At least 60 people lost their lives when a massive cloudburst led to flash floods in this remote mountain village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district.

Every survivor here carries a story about escaping from the very jaws of death.

"We stopped at a Maggi shop. People told us to run (because of the cloudburst), but we stayed back, thinking it was safe here," Devanshi says, narrating her ordeal.

Within minutes, a large mass of mud collapsed over the shop. "Mata saved us," she repeats as she recounts how her family members and villagers pulled her out of the debris.

She was taken to a hospital along with other family members, where she was given first aid.

Sneha from Jammu says she had felt it was all over for her after being washed away and buried under a vehicle. "As we reached our vehicles, we heard a loud bang and saw a cloudburst over the hill," she recalled.

In no time, a wall of mud, boulders, and trees swept them towards the Chenab River, trapping them.

"My father managed to free himself first, then helped me out. I pulled my mother out from under

an electric pole. She was barely conscious and badly injured," she said.

She said some villagers were washed away into the Chenab. "Bodies lay everywhere. The entire hill had come down. Even the Thakur ji idol of Chittoo Mata Temple was washed away before our eyes."

Sneha says the swift action of officials, police, the Army, CRPF, and locals saved countless lives. "Within an hour, vehicles arrived to take the injured to hospitals. If they had been late, many more would have died," she said.

The sudden roar of water, the deafening blast, and the avalanche of mud, boulders, and trees turned Chositi village into a scene of unimaginable destruction within seconds. A cloudburst high above the hills triggered flash floods that swallowed homes, vehicles, and lives, leaving survivors in shock and grief.

The shocking scenes of physical and psychological trauma unfolded on a massive scale as search and rescue operations were underway, digging out mud-buried bodies and rescuing the injured.

Sudhir from Udhampur was with a group of 12 when the "sky and earth seemed to collapse together".

"After the blast sound, the whole area was filled with fog and dust," he recalled. "Most of my group members were trapped in slush. My wife and daughter were buried under other people. At the bridge construction site, I saw dozens swept into the Chenab. It took seconds for the hill to bury everything."

Blood-stained bodies, mud-filled lungs, shattered ribs, and deep wounds packed with stones – these are just some of the harrowing injuries sustained by people, including pilgrims and security personnel, caught in the aftermath of the catastrophic cloudburst in the foothill hamlet of Chositi.

Undergoing treatment at the hospital, Sunita Devi from Nanak Nagar said, "I was running when I fell, and some women fell on me. An electric pole hit me and I got a severe shock. I was looking for my son the whole time. We all survived... Mata Rani saved us."

Others were not so fortunate. Uma from Jammu clung to a vehicle tyre to avoid being swept away. "A policeman saved me. But my sister, Gahna Raina, is still missing," she said.

Vaishali Sharma, who was in a 15-member group, said they ran into a shop for shelter when told about the cloudburst.

"It was around 12:15 PM when we neared the bridge. We were told to run and took shelter in a shop, but it caved in under mud and boulders. I was caught between the rocks. I don't know where my parents are. Thanks to the Army, I and five others were rescued."

Rescuers, including personnel from the Army, police and CRPF and villagers, continued to pull out survivors and retrieve bodies late into the night. Officials said the quick response helped prevent a higher death toll.

Additional Superintendent of Police Pradeep Singh said all forces were engaged in the massive search-and-rescue effort. "SDRF, Army, CRPF, CISF, Police – everyone is on the ground."

He said that locals too played a huge role, especially over 20 bikers led by Ganga Ram, who ferried injured people from Chositi to Hamori as the road was cut off by the flooded nallah. "Without them, more lives would have been lost."

"This has been a battle against death," a rescue worker said. (PTI)

IAF On Standby,

at the "first available operational weather window", a source said.

A massive flash flood triggered by the cloudburst struck the remote mountain village of Chisoti on Thursday, killing at least 60 people and injuring more than 100, officials said.

Most of the 34 cloudburst victims, who were identified and handed over to their families, were cremated in their home towns across Jammu division on Friday, officials said.

Meanwhile, another team of NDRF with sniffer dogs also joined the rescue and relief operation at the cloudburst-hit village.

Thirty-four bodies have been identified and handed over to their families in Kishtwar, Jammu, Udhampur and Doda during the day and most of them have been cremated, the officials said. Among them, eight victims from Chasoti village were consigned to flames by their relatives, while the last rites of a retired soldier identified as Vaneet Sharma was held at his native village, Chansari Mughal Maidan, they said.

The officials said the funeral of 23-year-old Gehna Raina, a resident of Bakshi Nagar locality of Jammu, was also performed by her family. Raina's father Bharat Bhushan and her younger sister escaped with injuries in the incident and her body was retrieved after eight-long hours of hectic search.

Meanwhile, J&K minister Satish Sharma visited the residences of several victims to offer condolences to the bereaved families.

During his visit, Sharma interacted with the family members, expressed deep grief over the irreparable loss of precious lives and prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls.

He also conveyed heartfelt sympathies and wished for strength and courage to the families to bear the tragedy.

The minister assured the affected households that the government stands with them in this difficult time and said that all necessary support and relief measures would be extended without delay.

Sharma said the heartbreaking incident has shattered the entire J&K, reiterating the government's commitment to provide full assistance and rehabilitation support to the families of the victims.

The minister also attended the last rites of the victims held at different places in Jammu district.

Meanwhile, the rescue operation was going on at war footing with nearly a dozen earth movers and special equipment mobilized to locate the missing persons, whose exact figures are not known yet, the officials said.

PM Modi Promises

Kishtwar on Thursday, killing at least 60 people and injuring more than 100.

Modi spoke with Omar and Sinha on the tragedy in the wake of the cloudburst, officials said.

He took stock of the situation and promised all help, they added.

In a post on X, Modi said, "Spoke to Jammu and Kashmir LG, Shri Manoj Sinha Ji and CM Shri Omar Abdullah Ji regarding the situation in the wake of the cloudburst and flooding in Kishtwar."

"Authorities are working on the ground to assist those affected," he added.



NC PATRIARCH DR FAROOQ ABDULLAH with his two grandsons at Bakhshi Stadium. PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti can also be seen in the picture. **KO PHOTO**



THOUSANDS OF SHIA MUSLIMS marked Arbadeen, the 40th day after Imam Hussain(A.S)'s martyrdom, with processions and majalis in Bemina and Chattabal. **KO PHOTO**

Director Information Hoists Tri-Color At DIPR Complex

Extends 79th Independence Day greetings



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Celebrating the 79th Independence Day, the Director Information, Nitish Rajora on Friday hoisted the National Flag at the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Complex at Polview here.

Joint Director Hqrs, Vivek Puri, Deputy Director, (PR/AV) Javed Ahmad and other senior officers and officials of the Directorate participated in the flag-hoisting ceremony.

At the outset, the Director

extended his heartfelt Independence Day greetings, recalling the sacrifices of freedom fighters and emphasizing the need to uphold the values of unity and integrity.

The Director appreciated the commitment of the staff in disseminating credible information to the public and urged them to work with renewed dedication.

He also called upon everyone to contribute positively towards nation-building and to strengthen the spirit of patriotism.

Mocking Of Classmates Prevalent Among 38% Of JK students: MoE

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In Jammu and Kashmir at least 38 percent of school students are reportedly being mocked by their classmates—thus raising a question on functioning of anti-ragging cells in educational institutes.

According to the official document from the Ministry of Education (MoE) available, "At least 38 percent of students reported that their classmates made fun of them."

"A positive school environment is essential for students' well-being and academic success. The survey findings indicate areas where improvements are needed to promote safety, inclusivity, and emotional security in schools," MoE said in the report.

It also said, "Strengthening anti-bullying measures, fostering peer inclusivity, and implementing key protection policies can significantly enhance the overall learning experience."

The MoE figures highlight critical areas requiring attention to create a safer and more student-friendly school environment.

In the meantime, the MoE report further states that cultural and sports activities were re-

ported by nearly all schools.

"Art-based initiatives and school fairs were also widely observed. Participation in science exhibitions and literary activities, including school magazines or newspapers, was reported by several schools," it reads.

It also said, "These varied experiences provide important platforms for student expression, creativity, and hands-on learning. Schools may consider offering more structured opportunities in literary and science-based formats to expand student involvement."

Pertinently, KNO in previous week reported that a segment of students in Jammu and Kashmir, are pessimistic about their ability to achieve their future goal while a huge number of students in schools are reeling under stress, anxiety, isolation or loneliness.

MoE had said, "A segment of students reported feeling stressed, unhappy, or isolated, and some also expressed reluctance to attend school."

"Some students mentioned difficulty in talking to someone when feeling upset, while a few shared concerns about the pressure of excessive activities," it reads—(KNO)

20 Families Evacuated After Houses Developed Cracks In Rajouri

Press Trust Of India

RAJOURI/JAMMU: At least 20 families, comprising 90 members, were evacuated after their houses developed cracks in a remote village in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, officials said.

The cracks in the houses were caused by land sinking in a nearly two square kilometre area in hilltop Panjnara village in Kotranka sub-division following heavy rains, the officials said.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kotranka, Dil Mir confirmed the shifting of the affected families to a government accommodation at a safer place to prevent loss of lives.

"The houses have developed cracks and pose a danger to the inmates. Accordingly, the inmates were evacuated with the help of SDRF (State Disaster Relief Force) and police teams along with their valuables," he said.



Mir said a team of SDRF was stationed in the village, while other residents have been asked to remain alert and ensure immediate evacuation in case the structures develop cracks.

Many areas of Rajouri including Kotranka have witnessed incessant rains over the last five days.

National Conference MLA Javid Iqbal said the develop-

ment of cracks in the houses due to land sinking is a serious concern and the government machinery has already been mobilised to ensure the safety of the public.

The people need to take precautionary measures for their safety, he said, assuring all possible help from the government to cope with the situation.

J&K Bank Celebrates 79th Independence Day With fervour

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank on Friday celebrated the 79th Independence Day of the nation with patriotic fervour.

At the Bank's corporate headquarters, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee hoisted the Tricolour in the presence of the Bank's Chief General Managers Sunit Kumar and Imtiyaz Ahmad, General Managers, DGMs, senior officers and other staff who stood in solemn attendance to mark the occasion.

Addressing the gathering under this year's theme "Honouring Freedom, Inspiring the Future", MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee paid rich tributes to the countless freedom fighters whose courage and sacrifice secured the country's independence, as well as to the valiant soldiers who continue to guard the nation's sovereignty.

On the occasion, he dwelled upon the real meaning of independence in the present context. MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "Freedom is not just a gift to cherish but a mission to keep striving for a better tomorrow. The true meaning of Independence for all of us today is responsibility — the responsibility to contribute, to inspire and to carry forward the mission of our nation's progress and take it to the next level."



Highlighting the Bank's unique role in the economic life of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, he remarked, "As the backbone of J&K's economy, our responsibility towards the welfare of the people of Jam-

mu & Kashmir and Ladakh is greater than any other bank in the country."

While referring to the Bank's proud tradition of service, he said, "Our predecessors have served the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh well with dedication, and it is our duty to carry that proud legacy forward with honesty and commitment."

MD & CEO also expressed his condolences on the Kishtwar cloudburst tragedy on the occasion. He stated, "On this day of national pride, our hearts go out to the families affected by the tragic cloudburst in Kishtwar. We stand in solidarity with them and reaffirm our commitment to support our people in times of need."

Concluding his address with a pledge for the future, the MD & CEO urged, "Let us pledge today to fulfil our responsibilities with sincerity, so that the story of our progress remains one of pride for generations to come."

Following the flag hoisting ceremony, the MD & CEO felicitated persons-of-distinction from the Bank's support staff for their exceptional service, dedication and unique contributions towards the institution.

CM Omar Reaches Kishtwar, Says PM Modi Assured All Support

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday evening arrived in Kishtwar for his onward visit to disaster-hit Chasoti village of the district on Saturday to assess the damage caused to the area. Abdullah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured all support to the government.

A massive cloudburst led to flash floods in the remote mountain village in Kishtwar on Thursday, killing at least 60 people, including two CISF personnel, and trapping many more. Rescuers worked frantically and pulled out 167 people from under mounds of rubble. Of these, 38 are in serious condition, officials said.

"Chief Minister reached Kishtwar and met locals who shared accounts of the ground situation about the Chasoti cloudburst," the Department of Information said on X.

Speaking to media persons, the chief minister said he has talked to Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this connection. "The PM expressed grief over the loss of precious lives. The prime minister assured that there will be no shortage

of support from the Centre for whatever assistance we require," he said.

Abdullah, who will visit the cloudburst-hit village on Saturday, termed it a very big tragedy and extremely unfortunate incident. He put the figures of confirmed deaths at 60 and missing between 60 and 70.

"However, some people are exaggerating the figures. Rescue operations are underway to search for the missing," he added.

The chief minister questioned the reason behind the deaths and said, "We will also have to sit and discuss why this happened." Pointing towards warnings by the MeT Department regarding weather conditions, Abdullah said, "We need to see whether the administration should have taken certain steps to save these precious lives. We will have to sit together and talk about this."

Abdullah earlier in the day said on X, "I will be leaving for Kishtwar later this afternoon and will be going to the scene of the cloudburst tragedy early tomorrow morning to see, firsthand, the extent of the damage."

He further said that he would review the rescue operation and assess what further help is required.

Dy CM Interacts With Cloudburst Victims At Chashoti



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Friday visited Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu to meet with the victims and survivors of a devastating cloudburst at Chashoti, Kishtwar.

He interacted with the patients and their attendants and enquired about the medical facilities being provided to them.

The Dy CM assured the patients that the government is committed to provide all nec-

essary facilities to the patients for their early recovery. He conveyed solidarity to the affected families, assuring them that they are not alone and the government is all standing with them.

The Dy CM also directed the medical team for ensuring round the clock and quality treatment for the affected.

Principal GMC Dr Ashutosh Gupta, Superintendent GMC Dr Varinder Trishal, Dy Superintendent Dr Bharat Bhushan apprised the Dy CM about the condition of the injured.

Principal Account General Voices For Environmental Audit

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Accountant General-PAG J&K K P Yadav on the eve of 79th independence day hoisted the national flag at his office headquarter in Jammu. During his speech Mr Yadav raised his concern about the natural disasters happening due to climate change. He expressed anguish over the destruction that took place in Chositi Kishtwar.



Principal Auditor General said that carrying out Environmental Audits while execution of developmental works is the need of the hour and it will help reduce such incidents.

PAG emphasised that the Government has initiated several programmes and schemes for the welfare of the public and highlighting the shortcomings in their implementation and suggesting ways to

improve them is our job.

He also pointed out that Dharali and Kishtwar incidents are manifestations of interference with nature and there had been environmental degradation in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and carrying out environmental audits in its true letter and spirit will help reduce these incidents. During the function Mr Yadav distributed letters of commendations among his staff for their meritorious work.

I-DAY 2025: Div Com Kashmir Hoists National Flag At Office Premises

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Friday hoisted the National Flag at the office premises to celebrate Independence Day with the staff and security officers at Div Com office, here.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo; Additional Commissioners Kashmir, Deputy Director Planning and other officers and officials participated in the Independence Day celebrations.

On the occasion, Div Com extended best wishes to the people on the eve of Independence Day and called the occasion a proud moment for all the citizens.

He praised the civil administration for their efforts in ensuring the success of the Yatra and Operation Sindoor, dedicating his award from the Chief of Army Staff to the divisional administration and line departments in recognition of their vital contributions & support during these two events.



NSP Will Ensure All-Round Development Of Indian Sports: PM Modi

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday described sports as an essential aspect of India's journey towards becoming a developed nation, saying that the new National Sports Policy (NSP) will ensure a sporting growth that covers the farthest school to the elite Olympics.

In his Independence Day speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the PM said the country has come a long way from the time when sports was not seen as a viable career option.

"Sports is an essential aspect of development and I am happy, that from the time when parents used to scoff at children spending time in sports, we have reached a point where it



has changed. Now, parents are happy if children take interest in sports," Modi said as guests such as double Olympic-medallist shooter Manu Bhaker applauded.

"I consider it a good omen. It fills me with pride to see sports finding a space in Indian fami-

lies. It is good for India's future," he added.

The NSP, which calls for greater accountability of administrators and establishment of processes to "ensure ethical practices, fair play and healthy competition in the sports sector", was introduced on July 1 after cabinet approval.

It professes the creation of national agencies and inter-ministerial committees to facilitate swift action and effective resolution of issues. The policy also proposes a revamped funding mechanism, including initiatives such as "Adopt an Athlete", "Adopt a District", "Adopt a Venue", "One Corporate-One Sport", and "One PSU-One State" wherever feasible.

"To promote sports, we have come up with the National Sports Policy after several de-

cadres. It would ensure development of sports, from school to the Olympics.

"We will develop an ecosystem whether it is coaching, fitness or infrastructure. We will create an ecosystem that penetrates the farthest corner of the country," the PM declared.

The Prime Minister also reiterated that fitness is an important part of sporting culture and for that, the nation needs to fight obesity by cutting down consumption of oil.

"When I talk of fitness and sports, I want to talk about obesity, which is a huge problem for the country. It is predicted that every third person is expected to be obese in future, we have to reduce consumption of oil to win this war on obesity," he said.

Aaditya Slams BCCI Over India-Pak Matches

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray on Friday targeted the BCCI over India Pakistan cricket matches in the Asia Cup and said after so many efforts of the Union government to tell the world that Islamabad is behind the Pahalgham attack, the "greed for money of the cricketing body stands above the sacrifice of the armed forces".

He said it will be a real shame if the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) thinks it's above what Prime Minister Narendra Modi said from Red Fort during the Independence Day speech.

"With all the might that BCCI has in the ICC (International Cricket Council), it's a joke to say we are bound by the Asia Cup Rules," he added.

The two marquee India versus Pakistan games will be held in Dubai during the Asia Cup scheduled to start in the UAE from September 9. (PTI)

Bethell Youngest England Cricket Captain At 21

Jacob Bethell will break a record which has stood for 136 years when the 21-year-old allrounder becomes England's youngest ever men's cricket captain next month.

Bethell will lead England against Ireland in three Twenty20s in Dublin.

The previous youngest England captain was Monty Bowden, who was 23 in 1889 when he took charge for a test in South Africa after regular skipper Aubrey Smith fell ill with fever.

Some senior players will be missing in Ireland including usual white-ball captain Harry Brook, who will be in charge of one-day international and T20 games against visiting South Africa earlier in September. The captaincy is part of a rapid rise for Bethell, who made his debuts for England in all three formats only last year. (AP)

'Arsenal Players Back Martin Odegaard As Captain'

Mikel Arteta says he and his players have no doubts about Martin Odegaard's qualities as Arsenal captain.

The Norway international has been captain for three years — all second-place finishes in the Premier League — and that won't change as the Gunners prepare for their season opener at Manchester United on Sunday.

Club great Tony Adams had called for Arteta to give the armband to Declan Rice in a bid to elevate the team to its first top-flight title since 2004.

Arteta, himself a former Arsenal captain, said that's not happening.

"It's not just my opinion," he said Friday, "it's all the staff and especially the players. I asked them to vote (on) the captain and I got the results yesterday and by a mile — by 100 miles — everybody chooses the same person, which is Martin Odegaard, which is the most clear sign that you can have.

Odegaard is also Norway's captain. (AP)

Lionel Messi's India Tour Gets Final Seal Of Approval

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Lionel Messi's much-anticipated visit to India has received its final seal of approval with the Argentine superstar set to kick off his three-city tour in Kolkata on December 12, promoter of the event Sadaru Dutta said on Friday.

As earlier reported by PTI, the football-mad city of Kolkata will be the first stop in Messi's whirlwind trip named 'GOAT Tour of India 2025', followed by Ahmedabad, Mumbai and New Delhi.

The visit will conclude after a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence on December 15.

This will be the Argentine great's first trip to India since 2011 when he visited the country with his national to play a FIFA friendly against Venezuela at the Salt Lake Stadium here.

Dutta met Messi's father earlier this year to present the proposal, and on February 28, Messi himself met



him at his residence for a 45-minute discussion.

Messi's entourage may also include Inter Miami teammates Rodrigo De Paul, Luis Suarez, Jordi Alba and Sergio Busquets among others but Dutta refused to divulge any name.

Messi's visit will feature masterclass with children in each city, aimed at inspiring the next generation of Indian footballers.

He will land in Kolkata on the night of December 12 and spend two days and one night in his longest stop on the tour.

His December 13 schedule begins with a meet-and-greet in the morning, which will also feature a special food and tea festival. The day's highlight will be the unveiling of Messi's statue, followed by the 'GOAT Concert' and 'GOAT Cup' at either Eden Gardens or Salt Lake Stadium.

FC Goa Drawn With Ronaldo's Al Nassr In ACL 2 Group Stage

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Indian Super League side FC Goa was on Friday drawn along with superstar footballer Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr of Saudi Arabia in Group D of the AFC Champions League 2, the continent's second tier club competition, beginning September 16.

Captained by Ronaldo, the Portuguese five-time Ballon d'Or winner, Al Nassr failed to qualify for AFC Champions League Elite after finishing third in the Saudi Pro League. They are now clubbed in Group D of ACL 2, along with FC Goa, Al Zawraa SC of Iraq and FC Istiklol of Tajikistan.

The draw for the tournament was conducted at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Friday.

FC Goa are the Super Cup 2025 winners and semi-finalists in the ISL 2024-25. Al Zawraa SC are the Iraq Stars League 2024-25 runners-up, and FC Istiklol



are the Tajikistan Higher League 2024 champions.

The tournament will be played in home and away format. But it is difficult to know just yet whether Ronaldo will play in India in FC Goa's home match.

While the 40-year-old Ronaldo is expected to play against FC Goa in Al Nassr's home fixture, his appearance in India could be doubtful. Reports suggest his contract with Al Nassr includes a clause exempting him from away matches in continental tournaments.

FC Goa secured the group stage qualification after beating Al Seeb Club of Oman 2-1 in the play-off match in Margao on Wednesday. They will play continental football for the second time, having represented India in the 2021 AFC Champions League (ACL), then the continent's top tier club competition.

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