

Kashmir's Top Women's College Breaks The Silence On Harassment

For the first time, Kashmir's campuses are openly debating how to make classrooms and workplaces safe for women.

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: It is rare to hear open talk about sexual harassment in Kashmir. That changed in Srinagar on Tuesday, when Government College for Women filled its hall with voices ready to confront the issue.

The two-day workshop, titled Strengthening the Internal

Committees for Zero Tolerance Campus, was an attempt to reimagine how institutions in Kashmir respond to one of the most underreported and stigmatized issues in society.

Organized by the college's Internal Committee with WISCOMP (Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace), New Delhi, the

gathering brought together Internal Committee members and "gender champions" from colleges across the valley.

On stage, Prof. Mohammad Mobin, Vice Chancellor of Cluster University Srinagar, wasted little time. "Internal Committees must inspire trust," he told the audience. He spoke of digital



complaint systems, online reporting, and case tracking that could bring transparency to a process often weighed down by suspicion.

"If students do not believe in the process," he said, "we lose more than cases. We lose credibility."

The challenges in Kashmir are sharper than the statistics

suggest.

Between 2018 and 2022, India reported more than 12,000 cases of workplace harassment, according to the National Crime Records Bureau. Activists say the real number is much higher. In the valley, cultural stigma and fear of retaliation often silence women before they | [More on P6](#)

LS Clears Online Gaming Bill

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the online gaming bill to ban real money online games, citing instances of gambling addiction, money laundering and financial frauds. The legislation will now go to the Rajya Sabha for approval to become a law.

The move affects India's \$3.8 billion gaming industry, which has drawn global investors and fostered fantasy sports apps like Dream11, Games24x7 and Mobile Premier League.

The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, was tabled in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday evening. It essentially bans online gaming apps that require users to pay money to win cash.

"The government believes that the harms of addiction, financial loss and even extreme consequences such as suicides associated with online money gaming can be prevented by prevention of such activities," according to a media statement released by the government.

"Additionally, online money gaming platforms are often misused for financial fraud, money laundering, terror financing and messaging activity that compromise national security," it added.

Piloted by Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025 was passed without a debate as Opposition members raised slogans demanding a discussion on the special | [More on P6](#)

Shah Tables Bills To Oust Jailed PM, CMs; Oppn Erupts

JPC To Examine Bills, Submit Report Before Next Session

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday introduced in Lok Sabha three Bills for the removal of prime minister, chief ministers, and ministers under arrest for 30 consecutive days on charges of corruption or serious offenses, drawing fierce protests from opposition MPs who tore up copies of the draft law and marched close to his seat shouting slogans.

In a charged atmosphere, several opposition MPs spoke against the introduction of the Bills, claiming they violated constitutional principles, targeted federalism, turned the jurisprudence 'innocent until proven guilty' on its head, were open to misuse for political reasons and threatened to turn the



country into a police state.

Shah, however, batted for an enhanced standing for moral values in public life, saying, "We cannot be so shameless that we continue to occupy

constitutional positions while facing serious charges".

On his proposal, the bills were sent by the House to a Joint Committee of Parliament comprising 21 members from

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WHAT ARE THEY (OPPOSITION) TEACHING US ABOUT MORALITY? I had resigned. And I want moral values to rise. We cannot be so shameless that we continue to occupy constitutional positions while facing charges. I resigned before arrest."

Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha for scrutiny.

The committee, whose members will soon be named, has been asked to submit its report to the House by the last

day of the first week of the next session, expected in the third week of November.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025 aims to remove the Prime Minister, a Union minister, a chief minister, or a minister of a state or Union territory when arrested or detained on serious criminal charges for 30 days in a row. If any of them is arrested and detained in custody for 30 days consecutively for offences that involve a jail term of at least five years, the ministers will lose their jobs on the 31st day.

According to the proposed Bill, "There is, however, no provision under the Constitution for removal of a Minister who is arrested and detained in custody on account of serious criminal | [More on P6](#)

and expressed the hope that the government will address the concerns of the opposition.

"Some provisions of the bills are draconian. These will be opposed tooth and nail," NC state spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said and demanded a "relook".

He expressed the hope that the government would listen to the "genuine concerns of the opposition to address them and act rationally".

"We hope the democratic principles will not be allowed to be eroded further," he added. | [More on P6](#)

Centre Should Relook 'Draconian' Provisions Of 3 Bills: NC

The ruling National Conference on Wednesday said some provisions of the three bills moved by Union Minister Amit Shah for the removal of the prime minister, chief ministers, and ministers arrested on serious criminal charges for 30 days, were "draconian",

HC Seeks Govt's Response To PIL On Rotten Meat In J&K

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday sought response of the government within four days to a Public Interest Litigation seeking slew of directions on preventing the sale, storage, distribution, and transportation of rotten, unhygienic, and unsafe meat and poultry products within the Jammu & Kashmir.

A division bench of Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal also impleaded Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to the PIL filed by a practicing lawyer Mir Umar through advocate Shafaqat Nazir.

Besides FSSAI, the response has been sought by August

25 of Union Territory of J&K through the Chief Secretary, Commissioner Secretaries of Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution Department, Health and Medical Education Department as well as Commissioner Srinagar and Jammu Municipal Corporations.

Among others, the PIL seeks urgent judicial intervention to address a "serious and ongoing public health crisis" in the J&K particularly Kashmir Valley.

According to petitioner, the "crisis" stems from the widespread transportation, sale and distribution of rotten, unhygienic, and unsafe meat and poultry products that "enter the J&K without mandatory veterinary health certification or | [More on P6](#)



Premier Educational Institutions Set Up In J&K In Past 10 Years: LG

» Inaugurates Administrative Block At Central University In Ganderbal

» Says Investment in Human Capital, Innovation Must Be Top Priority

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Investment in human capital, innovation and research should be the topmost priority of Jammu and Kashmir's educational institutions, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday.

Sinha was speaking after inaugurating an administrative block and an amphitheatre on the Tulmulla Campus of the Central University of Kashmir (CUK) in Ganderbal district.

The Lt Governor spoke about the need for vital contribution by academicians and students, stressing that India is poised for significant growth over the next two decades with the ultimate objective of Viksit



Bharat@2047.

"Our growth model should focus on creating human capital that can contribute significantly to economic growth," he said.

Highlighting the importance of providing an engaging learning environment, Sinha

said universities must foster critical thinking, life skills, problem-solving and innovation among students.

"We must get rid of 'Sab chalta hai attitude' and make revolutionary changes in the old curriculum of colleges and universities to transform India into a knowledge economy. Our topmost priority should be investment in human capital, innovation and research," he said.

Sinha said adequate attention must also be given to interdisciplinary courses. "Apart from developing creativity, innovation and thinking skills, the interdisciplinary courses also help in making students aware of their social and moral responsibilities," he added.

The LG | [More on P6](#)

Kishtwar Cloudburst Search Ops Enter Day 7, Death Toll Rises To 65

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Search and rescue operations continued for the seventh straight day on Wednesday in cloudburst-hit Chisoti village of Kishtwar, where the death toll has climbed to 65.

Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti, chaired a meeting of various agencies after assessing the ground situation on Wednesday.

The senior official is the first of the 10 IAS and IPS officers who have been directed by the Lieutenant Governor to visit the disaster-hit area over eight days to supervise relief and rescue operations.

The death toll in the natural calamity that struck the last motorable village en route to the Machail Mata temple on

August 14 during the yatra has reached 65, including three CISF personnel and one Special Police Officer (SPO) of J&K Police. Over 100 people were injured and 39 are still missing. "The search on day seven started with early morning showers but later the sun came out and the rescuers fanned out on the assigned locations to look for the missing persons believed to be buried under the rubble or washed away in the stream," an official of the SDRF said.

The search operation was extended on Tuesday to cover the entire 22-km stretch of the stream from Chisoti to Gulabgarh, following the recovery of two bodies downstream over the past two days, the official said.

The rescue teams are working at | [More on P6](#)

Find Reasons For Drop In Social Scheme Enrolments: CM To DCs

'Departments Not To Wait Till March To Chase Revenue Targets'

Warns Delays in Revenue Mobilisation Could Force Expenditure Cuts

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday directed deputy commissioners to identify the reasons behind the decline in enrolments under key social welfare schemes, including PM Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Suraksha Bima Yojana, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana and other pension schemes.

Chairing a meeting to review



the progress of the financial inclusion schemes, social security coverage, district capex, and Constituency Development

Fund (CDF) works, Omar stressed that departments must not wait till the end of the financial year | [More on P6](#)

Budgam-Delhi Daily Cargo Train Gets Nod

Firdaus Ali

Srinagar: The railway board on Wednesday approved the Joint Parcel Product-Rapid Cargo (JPP-RCS) train from Kashmir to Delhi to provide a dependable alternative to fruit and handicraft dealers to showcase their produce across the country.

The train, having an SLR (Seating cum Luggage Rake) with eight parcel vans, will run daily from the Budgam Railway Station in Kashmir to Adarsh Nagar in Delhi, the



Northern Railway's Jammu division said in a statement.

In its first year of operation, the cargo train will operate on a pilot basis, with security arrangements managed by the Jammu and Kashmir Police at both ends of | [More on P6](#)

1997 CORRUPTION CASE

Ex-IAS Officer Gets 1-Year Jail, ₹15 Lakh Fine

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Additional Special Judge Anti-Corruption Court Srinagar on Wednesday convicted one accused namely Habibul Hassan Beigh retired IAS Officer the then member, Special Tribunal J&K Government S/O Gh. Hassan Beigh R/O Chinar Colony Barzulla Srinagar in case FIR No. 22/1997 of P/S VOK (now ACB) Srinagar for an imprisonment of one year and ₹15 lacs fine.

In a statement, the ACB said that Additional Special Judge Anti-Corruption Court Srinagar

Faizan-ul-Haq Iqbal announced a Judgement, wherein Hon'ble Judge has convicted one accused namely Habibul Hassan Beigh retired IAS Officer the then member, Special Tribunal J&K Government S/O Gh. Hassan Beigh R/O Chinar Colony Barzulla Srinagar in case FIR No. 22/1997 of P/S VOK (now ACB) Srinagar for an imprisonment of one year and ₹15 lacs fine.

The case FIR No. 22/1997 U/S 5(1)(e), 5(2) P.C Act.2006 r/w section12/14 | [More on P6](#)



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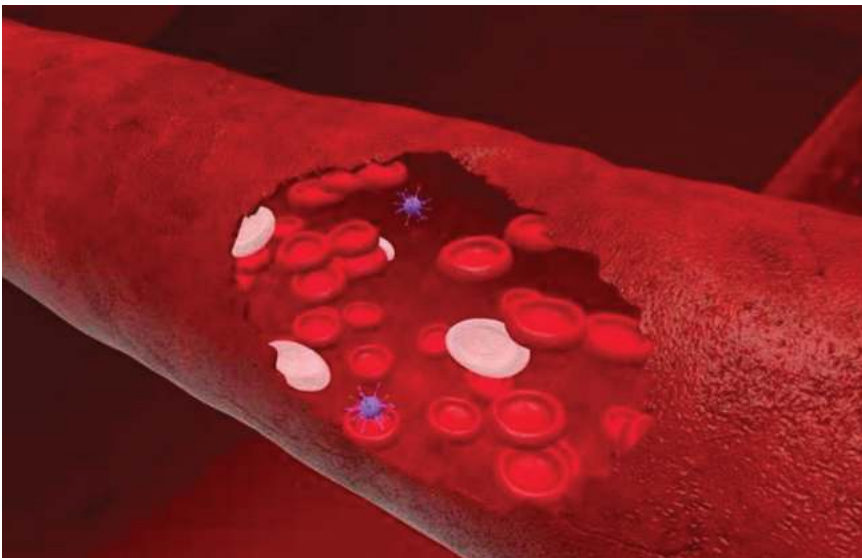
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2

Study Finds COVID-19 May Have Aged Blood Vessels By 5 Years, Especially Among Women

Press Trust Of India

A COVID-19 infection could age one's blood vessels by about five years, especially among women, according to a new study. The effect was found to be stronger among women who experienced persistent symptoms after recovering from COVID-19 -- collectively termed 'long Covid' -- such as shortness of breath and fatigue. "Since the pandemic, we have learned that many people who have had (COVID-19) are left with symptoms that can last for months or even years. However, we are still learning what's happening in the body to create these symptoms," lead researcher Rosa Maria Bruno from Université Paris Cité, France, said. The study, published in the European Heart Journal, looked at around 2,400 people -- about half were women -- from across 16 countries, including Australia, Brazil and those in Europe. While blood vessels are known to become stiffer with age, a COVID-19 infection can accelerate the process and can heighten the risk of developing cardiovascular disease, including stroke and heart attack, the researchers said. The participants' vascular (blood vessel) age was measured using a device that looks at how quickly a wave of blood pressure travels between the ca-



rotid artery (in the neck) and femoral arteries (in the legs) -- called 'carotid-femoral pulse wave velocity'. A higher value indicates more stiffness and ageing of blood vessels. Measurements were taken six months after a COVID-19 infection and again after 12 months. An increase in pulse wave velocity of around 0.5 metres per second is clinically relevant and roughly amounts to ageing by five years, with a three per cent increased risk of cardiovascular disease, in a 60-year-old woman, the researchers said. The study found that, on average, pulse wave velocity among women who had a mild infection was increased by 0.55

metres per second, by 0.60 metres per second in those hospitalised and by over one metre per second for women treated in intensive care. "(Pulse wave velocity) differences were significant in women, but not in men. Among COVID-19 positive women, persistent symptoms were associated with higher (pulse wave velocity)," the authors wrote. "A stable or improved (pulse wave velocity) after 12 months was found in COVID-positive groups, whereas a progression was observed in the COVID-negative group," they wrote. Explaining how COVID-19 impacts blood vessels, Bruno said that the disease-causing virus "acts on specific

receptors in the body, called the angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 receptors, that are present on the lining of the blood vessels." "The virus uses these receptors to enter and infect cells. This may result in vascular dysfunction and accelerated vascular ageing. Our body's inflammation and immune responses, which defend against infections, may also be involved," the lead researcher said. Further, compared to men, women are known to produce a more rapid and robust immune response which can protect from infection but can also inflict damage on blood vessels after initial infection, Bruno said. In a related editorial, published in the European Heart Journal, researchers from Harvard Medical School in the US wrote, "Although the acute threat of the COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic has waned, a new challenge emerged in its aftermath: post-acute COVID-19 syndrome." The study highlights that "COVID-19's vascular legacy is real, measurable, and with a plausible likelihood of sex-specific findings," they wrote. "COVID-19 has aged our arteries, especially for female adults. The question is whether we can find modifiable targets to prevent this in future surges of infection, and mitigate adverse outcomes in those afflicted with COVID-19-induced vascular ageing," the authors said.

LOSS OF CERTIFICATES

I, Shiekh Zeeshan Ahmad, son of Shiekh Fayaz Ahmad, resident of Tawheed Abad, Nowhsara Soura, Srinagar, have lost my Bachelor's Degree documents (Transcript and Provisional Character Certificate) issued by Islamia College of Science & Commerce, Srinagar. These documents are required for issuance of my final qualification certificate by the University of Kashmir, but the process cannot proceed without them. If anyone finds these documents, kindly return them to the office of the Principal, Islamia College, Srinagar. If not found, the case will proceed further. Any objections in this regard may be reported to the Principal, Islamia College, within seven days of this notice; no objections will be entertained thereafter.

Shiekh Zeeshan Ahmad
S/O: Shiekh Fayaz Ahmad
R/O: Tawheed Abad, Nowhsara,
Srinagar 190011 Kashmir mfs

Public Notice

The name of my son has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Ifhaam while his correct name is Ifhaam Mukhtar Wani . 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. Mukhtar Ali Wani F/o Ifhaam Mukhtar Wani R/o Heerpora Shopian fko

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420230003500 issued in favour of KAMRAN QAYOOM MIR Parentage ABDUL QAYOOM MIR Whereas an application has been recieved by one KAMRAN QAYOOM MIR Parentage ABDUL QAYOOM MIR wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as KAMRAN QAYOOM Which needs to be changed as KAMRAN QAYOOM MIR. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shal reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained. Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my name .Parantage and Date of Birth in my Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No:- 5812 2402 2502 has been wrongly mentioned as Altaf Ahmad Lone S/O. Ghulam Rasool Lone DOB 05.02.1976 instead of Altaq Ahmad Lone . S/O. Gh Rasool Lone .(DOB) Date of Birth 01.04.1974. Now I am applying for its Correction as per Service record and School record . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period. Altaq Ahmad Lone S/O. Gh Rasool Lone R/O :- Udiopora. Tehsil :- Langate . Distt :- Kupwara . Post office Langate Pin Code 193302. fko



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application SYED SIRAJ UD DIN BUKHARI S/O SYED HABIBULLAH BUKHARI R/O SHEIKHPORA for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of Son's of SYED QAMIL AHMAD & SYED INAM UL HAQ BULHARI Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of RBA in his /her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the BUKHARI community having annual income 7,12000//in words (Seven Lack Twelve Thousand only) the details of family of the applicant are as follows

1	SYED SIRAJ UD DIN BUKHARI	self	55 years	farmer
2	SHAHZADA AKHTER BUKHARI	wife	50 years	kds worker
3	SYED QAMIL AHMAD BUKHARI	son	24 years	student
4	SYED INAM UL HAQ BUKHARI	son	20 years	student
5	SYED AZMAT UL ISLAM BUKHARI	Do	11 years	student
6	HANIFA BEGUM	Mother	80 years	aged

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI fko

Office of the NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Sub: Application of Haleema Begum W/o Lt. Syed Mohammad Shareef R/o Kreeri for the issuance of a Dependent certificate.

NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, in this context, a detailed report was sought from Patwari Halqa Concerned. The report of patwari halqa concerned and the Death Certificate issued by the Competent Authority reveals that Syed Mohd Shareef S/o Syed Gh. Hassan R/o Kreeri, Tehsil Kreeri has passed away on 27-10-2024. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind the following dependents as tabulated below:

S. NO	NAME OF DEPENDENT	RELATION WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION	Marital Status
1	Haleema Begum	Wife	70	Aged	Widow

The applicant has applied for issuance of Dependent certificate. As such the instant matter is published through newspaper, if anyone is having any kind of objection, He/she may approach this office within 7 days (Seven Days) of the publication of this notice. After passing of stipulated time of 7 days (Seven Days), No objections will be entertained.

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI fko

Public Notice

The name and DOB of my son has been wrongly written in his adhaar card Mufaiz Pahalwan S/o Mushtaq Pahalwan while his correct name is Mufaiz Mushtaq S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Phalwan and his DOB is wrongly written as 06-03-2009 instead of 09-08-2009. 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.

Mufaiz Mushtaq (DOB: 09-08-2009)
S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Phalwan
R/o Sedow Shopian fko

NAME CHANGE

I, Mohd Saleem Lone S/o Mohd Amin Lone R/o Ahmadnagar Srinagar, intend to correct the name in the electricity connection bearing Consumer ID: 0204040028879 which is currently recorded as Mohd Amin Lone.I request the concerned authorities to kindly update the name to: Mohd Saleem Lone S/o Mohd Amin Lone R/o Ahmadnagar Srinagar.If any person has any objection to this name correction, they may file the same with the Sub-Division Office, Hawal, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained thereafter.

Media Line Ads

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420160030973 issued in favour of ROUF AHMAD Parentage ABDUL RASHID PARRAY Whereas an application has been recieved by one ROUF AHMAD Parentage ABDUL RASHID PARRAY wherein he claimed that the Fathers Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as AB. RASHID TANTRAY Which needs to be changed as ABDUL RASHID PARRAY. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shal reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir mcb

Public Notice

This is for the information to the general public that i intend to change the name on my aadhaar card bearing no 393582916440 from MOHAMMAD LATEEF to MOHD LATIF SHEIKH S/O GH MOHD SHEIKH R/O LANILAB BUDGAM PIN CODE 191111. In this regard if anybody have any kind of bojection he/she may file the same which concerned Aadhaar Department within a period of 7 days from the date of publications of this notice.No objection will be entertained afterwards

arinf

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

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 101044029 Session: 2025 Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned by Govt Middle School Ghat Tokuna against my Mother's Name as Kulsooma instead of Kulsuma Bano

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

Name: Arsalan Tariq
Father's name: Tariq Ahmad Guroo
Mother's Name: Kulsuma Banoo
DOB: 12-02-2009
Residence: Ghat Tokuna Awantipora
Mobile no: 6006858072



fko

Public Notice

I have changed my name from my old name (Akhoon Mubashir Bashir jto new name Mubashir Bashir In the future I will be known as (Mubashir Bashir) If any body is having any objection he/she may contact the Passport Office Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days, no objections will be accepted.

jvd

Public Notice

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle , SANTRO , bearing JK05H.5088.. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the ARTO Sopore within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. MR NAZIR BAGHAT. S/o MR ABDUL RASHID BAGHAT fko

ازنیابت یومی زینگیئر

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب شازیہ ثار دختر ثار احمد لون ساکنہ پورہ براد اجرائی

Stamp Vendor

اشتیہار ہرخاص و عام

معاہدہ زیر بحث کے نسبت اول پواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ حاصل کیا گیا مطابق رپورٹ پواری ماہ سال شمعی پورہ کا سکونت دار ہے اور وہ بڑا میں رہائش پذیر ہے ساکن کا کنڈہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

ثار احمد لون ولد غلام محی الدین لون تجارت 56 سال

سلیم بیگم زوجہ ثار احمد لون گھریلو کام 55 سال

دانش ثار پسر ثار احمد لون زیر تعلیم 27 سال

شازیہ ثار دختر ثار احمد لون -- 32 سال

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نائب تحصیلدار FKO

ازنیابت یومی زینگیئر

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب انشاء بخش دختر محمد گمانی ساکنہ تہجلی بار براد اجرائی

Stamp Vendor

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محمد بخش گمانی ولد عبدل غنی گمانی مزدوری 55 سال

سیدہ بیگم زوجہ محمد بخش گمانی گھریلو کام 54 سال

انشاء بخش دختر محمد بخش گمانی زیر تعلیم 25 سال

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی دیگر وارثان موجود نہیں ہے اور اب ساکنہ اپنے حق میں Stamp Vendor Certificate حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذریا اعتراض عدالت حذا کو دفتر کی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

ازنیابت یومی زینگیئر

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب طاریق احمد بٹ ولد غلام محی بٹ ساکنہ پورہ براد اجرائی بیگل ہیر سرٹیفکیٹ بحق خود

اشتیہار ہرخاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض لیگل ہیر/ڈیپنڈنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو گزیر کا روٹی ہے اس بارے میں پواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا بھائی مورخہ 12-06-2015 کو فوت ہوا ہے اور متوفی کے وارثان جائز بذیل ہے

غلام محی بٹ ولد غلام محمد عمر رسیدہ 75 سال والد متوفی

عبدل حمید بٹ ولد غلام محی بٹ دکھاداری 31 برادر

علاوہ ازیں متوفی کی ہمشرہ ان بھی ہے اور ان کی شادی ہوئی اور وہ از خانہ بیرون متوفی ہے اور تا حال اپنے شوہر کے ساتھ اپنے اپنے گھروں میں خاندان آباد ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذریا اعتراض عدالت حذا کو دفتر کی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO r

ازنیابت یومی زینگیئر

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب اشفاق احمد ماگرے ولد عبدل رحمان ماگرے ساکنہ زالورہ براد اجرائی ڈیپنڈنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ بحق خود

اشتیہار ہرخاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض لیگل ہیر/ڈیپنڈنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو گزیر کا روٹی ہے اس بارے میں پواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا بھائی مورخہ 1/8/1999 کو فوت ہوا ہے اور متوفی کے وارثان جائز بذیل ہے

عبدل رحمان ماگرے ولد اسد اللہ ماگرے عمر رسیدہ 70 سال والد متوفی

مسماقتی بیگم زوجہ عبدل رحمان -- 65 سال والدہ --

فردوس احمد پسر عبدل رحمان زمینداری 37 سال برادر --

اشفاق احمد دختر عبدل رحمان گھریلو کام 30 سال ہمشیرہ --

افروزہ بیگم -- 40 سال --

اشفاق احمد ماگرے پسر عبدل رحمان زمینداری 32 سال برادر --

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی وارث نہیں ہے متوفی کی ہمشرہ ان کا لہجہ 5،4 کی شادی ہوئی اور وہ از خانہ بیرون متوفی ہے اور تا حال اپنے شوہر کے ساتھ اپنے اپنے گھروں میں خاندان آباد ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذریا اعتراض عدالت حذا کو دفتر کی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO r

Paras Hosts Cardiac Surgery Beneficiary Meet Showcasing Recovery Stories

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Paras Health Srinagar on Wednesday hosted the Cardiac Surgery Beneficiary Meet, bringing together cardiac patients, doctors, and members of the community to share recovery stories and highlight the growing advancements in heart care available in the Valley.

The event featured patients who spoke about their journeys of overcoming life-threatening cardiac conditions through successful surgeries at Paras Health Srinagar. Their stories served as powerful reminders of resilience, expert care, and the advanced facilities now accessible locally.

Doctors from the Car-

changes, and early diagnosis in tackling the increasing burden of heart disease.

Speaking at the event, Dr Syed Asrar Ahmad Qadri, Director, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeon, Paras Health Srinagar, said, “We have successfully managed some of the most complex cardiac cases, including high-risk bypass surgeries, valve replacements, and emergency interventions. What makes the difference is timely intervention, multidisciplinary collaboration, and the trust patients place in us. My advice to the community is to focus on prevention—regular check-ups, managing blood pressure and diabetes, avoiding smoking, and following a heart-



diothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS) team shared insights into complex cases managed at the hospital and shed light on the rising need for cardiac surgeries in the region. They also stressed the importance of preventive measures, lifestyle

healthy lifestyle. At Paras Health Srinagar, our multi-specialty approach brings together cardiology, intensive care, radiology, and surgical expertise under one roof, ensuring comprehensive management and excellent outcomes for patients.”

Youth Injured After Attacked With Pen

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A youth was injured after allegedly being attacked by another youth with a pen in Khimber area of Srinagar on Wednesday. Officials said.

An official said that the youth, identified as Sahil Ahmad Ganie son of Abdul Hameed Ganie, was assaulted in the main chowk Khim-

ber by another youth.

“The youth received injuries after being attacked with a pen. The reason behind the altercation between the two individuals was not immediately known,” he said.

The official added the injured youth has been hospitalised, while police have taken cognizance of the matter.

Dental Surgeons Protest Over Recruitment Freeze

Agencies

Srinagar: Dental Surgeons from various parts of Kashmir held a protest in Srinagar on Wednesday, raising concerns over the long-pending recruitment process for government positions in the Union Territory.

The protest, attended by dozens of dental professionals, took place at the Press Enclave Srinagar. The participants said that despite repeated assurances from authorities, no new recruitment has been conducted for years, leaving many qualified professionals in uncertainty.

One of the protesting Dental Surgeons said, many of them have com-

“Patients are facing delays and inadequate dental care due to the shortage of government employed dentists

pleted their postgraduate studies, but there is no recruitment in sight. “It is disheartening that our



Advisor To CM Holds Meetings With Various Delegations

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Nasir Aslam Wani, held a series of meetings on Wednesday in Srinagar, engaging with the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) as well as several other delegations to discuss a range of public, trade, and employee-related issues.

At the Civil Secretariat, Advisor Wani chaired a high-level meeting with the KCCI delegation led by its President, Javed Tenga. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce, S. Vikramjit Singh, Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir, Mussrat Islam, and other officials.

The KCCI President raised concerns regarding the handicrafts and handloom sector, particularly in the wake of notices issued by the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom to Kashmiri handicraft showrooms over the sale of machine-made products alongside handcrafted items. He also stressed the need to expedite the testing and certification of GI-tagged products at the PTQCC laboratory at Baghe-Ali Mardan Khan.

Officials briefed the Advisor about the background of these notices, citing formal complaints from tourists who had been sold machine-made imitations as genuine Kashmiri handicrafts. In one serious case, a showroom was blacklisted for selling counterfeit

products with fake GI labels in order to deceive buyers.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to protecting artisans and weavers, Advisor Wani directed the department to prepare a comprehensive proposal to safeguard the interests of both artisans and business stakeholders. He advised the KCCI delegation to hold formal consultations with the Department and submit a proposal for consideration regarding the sale of machine-made products, provided such items are clearly labeled and

SEM and additional high-resolution digital microscopes to speed up GI product testing.

Later in the day, at the Raabita Office, Gupkar, Srinagar, Advisor Wani met several delegations, including representatives of the Non-Gazetted Employees of the Civil Secretariat, Accounts Officers, Lab Staff of Water Testing Laboratories of PHE, Khidmat Centre Association, All J&K Rehbar-e-Janglat Employees Association, and students of Medical Technology.

The Advisor gave a patient

“Nasir emphasized that strict action would be taken against mislabeling, misbranding, and deceptive alterations of products being passed off as authentic Kashmiri handicrafts.

categorized separately to ensure transparency and prevent misleading practices.

The Advisor emphasized that strict action would be taken against mislabeling, misbranding, and deceptive alterations of products being passed off as authentic Kashmiri handicrafts. He also urged KCCI to sensitize dealers about the importance of promoting and protecting genuine crafts.

Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce briefed the meeting about the upgradation of testing facilities at PTQCC, which has recently acquired a digital microscope and is in the process of procuring advanced machines like

hearing to their grievances and assured that their demands would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action. He stressed that the Government is committed to resolving the genuine concerns of employees, institutions, and trade bodies in a time-bound manner.


Advisor Wani observed that such interactions provide an important platform for the administration to directly engage with stakeholders and gain a deeper understanding of grassroots issues. He noted that the Chief Minister has initiated a sustained process of public outreach to ensure that concerns are addressed promptly and effectively.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

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BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
BUIBHARA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 26 Safar 1447	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	4: 26
	ZUHR	12:35
	ASR	5: 18
	Magrib	7:17
	ISHA	8: 42

This Day In History

- 1541- Ottoman Turks under Suleiman the Magnificent capture Buda, the capital of the Hungarian Kingdom. Dominate central Hungary for 150 years
- 1573- Spain begin siege of Alkmaar in the Netherlands
- 1598- Deed of Transfers proclaims Netherlands independence
- 1673- Sea battle at Kijkduin: De Ruyter defeats English & French fleet
- 1703-The Edirne Event: Turkish army removes Sultan Mustafa II, lessening the power of the sultans
- 1808- Battle of Vimeiro: British and Portuguese forces led by General Arthur Wellesley defeat French force under Major- General Jean-Andoche Junot near the village of Vimeiro, Portugal, the first Anglo-Portuguese victory of the Peninsular War.
- 1914- Belgium: German troops occupy Tarnines
- 1914-French offensive in the Ardennen/Sambre
- 1915- Italy declares war on Turkey in World War One
- 1942- World War II: a Nazi flag is installed atop the Mount Elbrus.
- 1943- Japan leaves Aleutian Islands
- 1953- Sultan Sidi Mohammed Am Joessoef V of Morocco deposed
- 1957- 1st launching in Baikonur, Kazakhstan (R7 “Semiorka”- rocket)
- 1965- Gemini 5 launched into Earth orbit (2 astronauts)
- 1968-Radio Prague (Czechoslovakia) at 12:50 AM announces a Soviet led invasion
- 1968- Warsaw Pact forces continue their invasion of Czechoslovakia to end the reform movement known as the Prague Spring

From KO Archives

‘Illiterate’ Appointed Instead Of Namesake

Mushtaq Aftab

Chadura (Budgam) - Even as numerous scandals of fake appointments have surfaced in various government departments over the recent years, incidence of the wrong doing is far from being stamped out. Some diehards still manage to get a job in one or the other department by manipulating records and documents, and by tapping the 'right' person and the 'tight' timer.

An illiterate villager has got a government job allegedly by impersonation, and got away with it, assurance of the finance minister to get the wrong undone notwithstanding. In the process, the genuine claimant for the appointment continues to be jobless. Reports said Nazir Ahmad Dar r/o Abdul Kabir Dar R/o Badipore, has passed his 12th (TDC) clam examination. But, it is his namesake in the neighbourhood who, though illiterate, has allegedly got a government job. The only difference between the two is in the names of their grandfathers. While the former's grandfather is named Abdullah Dar, the latter's name is Ahmad Dar.

According to reports, the uneducated Nazir Ahmad Dar was appointed in the horticulture department in 1996. He is posted in the district office at Budgam. Sources in the department said Dar managed to procure the certificates of his educated namesake which he produced in support of his claim. The department did not entertain the 'genuine' claim of the educated Dar.

Though the serious case of alleged swap was brought to the notice of the state vigilance organisations, no action has been taken so far. The educated Dar approached the finance minister, Abdur Raheem Rather, who also happens to be his neighbour. He had assured him to get the right person appointed against the post. However, justice ' still eludes hint despite lapse of about four years

In another case, Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar s/o Ghulam Ahmad Zargar r/o Badipore has managed to secure a job allegedly by producing a fake certificate of academic qualification. According to reliable sources, he is barely read upto 4th standard. However, he managed to get a certificate of having passed his 9th class (under metric) examination from the government higher secondary school, Nagam, in 1996 allegedly, through his brother, Abdul Rasheed Zargar, who is a teacher at Badipore.

On the basis of the alleged fake certificate, Zargar was appointed as a peon in the animal husbandry department. He has been working at the veterinary dispensary here for about three years past. Sources said the department did not take any action to unravel the facts and bring the accused to justice even after the matter was brought to its notice.

(Kashmir Observer, August 21, 2000)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform for the general public that in my Aadhar Card my name has been wrongly mentioned as Nasreena Bano while my actual name as per my marriage Certificate is Naseema Akhter, now I want to correct the same, if anybody have any objection in this regard they may file the same in the concerned department within the period of 7 days from the publication of this notice, after that no objection will be entertained

Naseema Akhter
W/o Fayaz Ahmad Mir
R/o Safa Kadal Mailk Shaib Srinagar

MEDIA LINE

PUBLIC NOTICE

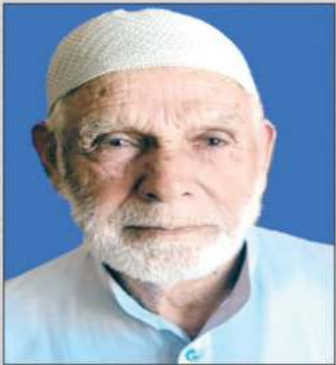
I want to change the name of the electricity connection bearing Consumer ID number 0204040016282 from Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat to Hilal Ahmad Zargar S/o Mohammad Amin Zargar resident of Wasi Masjid Umer Colony, Lal Bazar Srinagar. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she should intimate the Assistant Executive Engineer Sub Division Hawal within the stipulated time of one week from the date of publication of the notice in this newspaper. After the expiry of the timeline no objection would be entertained by the concerned authorities.

Hilal Ahmad Zargar
S/o Mohammad Amin Zargar
R/o Wasi Masjid Umer Colony,
Lal Bazar Srinagar

mkz

اللَّهُ وَلَنَا إِلَهِ جَعَو

BHAT FAMILY BEREAVED



With profound grief, we announce the sad demise of **Haji Ali Muhammad Bhat** of Batpora Wathora, **Tehsil Chadoora**, the esteemed father of Prof. (Dr.) **Nazir Ahmad Bhat** — a renowned personality, distinguished educationist, and able administrator. He left for his heavenly abode on 19-08-2025.

May Almighty Allah (SWT) grant him the highest place in *Jannat-ul-Firdous* and bestow patience upon the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. Aameen.

Contact: 9419 017787

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KO VIEW

Apple Farmers
Need Protection

Although, the ongoing trade tensions between India and the United States have not hit Kashmir’s apple industry, a sector that sustains hundreds of thousands of families, it hasn’t helped it either. The import of the cheaper foreign apples including those from the US continues unabated impacting the market share of Kashmiri apple. While President Trump’s tariffs on Indian goods were initially aimed at steel, aluminum, and other industrial exports, the ripple effects are now being felt in the orchards of Kulgam, Sopore, and Shopian. It is expected that the if India was forced to lower tariffs on the US fruit, cheap American apples, pouring into Indian markets, will threaten to undercut local produce at a time when costs for farmers are climbing sharply.

Kashmir produces nearly four-fifths of India’s apples. It is more than a regional specialty, it is a backbone of our economy. Orchardists, laborers, transporters, commission agents, and market vendors all depend on this fruit trade. A dip of even a few rupees per kilo affects all of them: wages fall, debt grows, and smallholders edge closer to ruin.

Today, that danger is no longer theoretical. Wholesale prices in the Valley are already down, while input costs, electricity, irrigation, fertilizers, pesticides continue to rise. Farmers who borrowed to maintain their orchards through the Kisan Credit Card scheme are staring at mounting repayments. When agriculture is pushed into such a squeeze, the effects for farmers are grim.

This is why New Delhi cannot afford to sit on its hands. Other countries have not hesitated to shield their growers when global trade turned hostile. India must consider a strong, proportional response, whether by imposing steep import duties on American apples or by offering immediate relief to domestic producers through subsidies, credit restructuring, or targeted price support. The point is not to encourage an endless tariff war, but to ensure that small farmers do not pay the price for geopolitical maneuvering.

Also, promises of free or subsidized power for orchard irrigation remain unfulfilled in many pockets of Kashmir. Infrastructure to store, sort, and market apples is still inadequate. And while high-density plantation schemes are encouraged, there is little planning to protect farmers from volatile prices. Unless these gaps are addressed, temporary trade shocks will keep returning as existential threats.

At stake is more than an industry. Kashmir’s apple belt is a rare zone of economic self-reliance, one of the few rural sectors that has consistently supported families without constant government aid. If the central government fails to act decisively, this strength will erode, and rebuilding it later will be far more costly than protecting it now.

The government must send a clear signal: when global markets turn unfair, India will stand by its farmers, as prime minister Narendra Modi himself has said. If that means calling for tariffs, relief packages, or both, so be it.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

From ₹5,000 to Crore

Small, disciplined savings and smart investing can turn modest earnings in Kashmir into lasting wealth.

Irshad Mushtaq

Money is rarely just money in Kashmir. It shapes choices, opens doors, and often determines futures. For a young professional or a small entrepreneur, financial decisions are practical, urgent, and deeply personal.

Starting with 5,000 a month may seem enough for a few comforts, a small gift, or a meal out. Saved instead, it becomes 60,000 a year. Over 20 years, disciplined saving grows to 12 lakh. On paper, it is modest, yet it lays the foundation for something far larger: autonomy over one’s life.

The real power comes from compounding. At annual returns of around 18%, those monthly contributions can rise to nearly 1 crore in two decades. In a place where jobs are seasonal and income fluctuates, this is a path to opportunity, choice, and security.

Once wealth accumulates, stewardship matters. A well-diversified portfolio yielding roughly 10% annually can generate 10 lakh a year. Investing across quality domestic funds, select sectors, and measured global exposure protects growth while mitigating risk. Strategic adjustments reinforce stability, ensuring money works for its owner.

Success in Kashmir also requires personal discipline. Honesty, diligence, and mastery of one’s trade amplify returns. Avoiding unnecessary debt and risky schemes ensures resources remain productive. Knowledge multiplies these benefits: tracking markets, learning sector trends, and making informed shifts enhances outcomes.

Turning 5,000 a month into 1 crore is ambitious but achievable. For Kashmiris, this journey demonstrates that small, deliberate choices can transform lives, families, and communities.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Kashmir Must Rise
Above Sectarian Divides

Sectarian rifts, fuelled by outside manipulation and internal neglect, threaten Kashmir’s tradition of harmony. Reclaiming unity is both a religious obligation and a survival strategy.

Habib Bilal

For generations, Kashmir was known as Paradise on Earth. Its snow-fed rivers and apple orchards were celebrated in poetry, but so was its tradition of harmony.

Muslims in the valley lived alongside Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists, carrying forward an ethic of tolerance that became a part of their shared identity.

What made that coexistence possible was not politics or convenience, but a deeper truth: Muslims themselves had learned to live with one another in unity.

That unity is now under strain.

Sectarianism, once alien to life in Kashmir, is creeping in through social media, outside manipulation, and political opportunism.

The result is troubling: suspicions between Shias and Sunnis, and between Barelvi, Deobandi, and Salafi traditions, have begun to overshadow the bonds of brotherhood.

These rifts may appear minor, but in a region already fragile from decades of conflict, they threaten to corrode the very foundations of society.

The irony is that sectarianism has no basis in Islam. The Qur’an and the Prophet Muhammad rejected it unequivocally. “Surely this religion of yours is one, and I am your Lord, so fear Me alone,” says the Qur’an (Al-Mu’minun 52-53). In another verse, it warns, “Do not be like those who split into sects after clear proofs had come to them” (Ale-Imran, 3:105).

These commands are meant to protect the Muslim community from the exact divisions we now see in Kashmir.

The Prophet himself offered both warnings and metaphors. He compared believers to a single body: if one limb suffers, the whole body responds with pain. He cautioned that those who separate from the main body of Muslims risk dying in a state of ignorance.

The message is stark: unity is a duty, and division is a betrayal of faith.

Sectarianism is not just a theological problem. It has practical, even devastating, consequences.

A community that spends its energy debating minor points of doctrine wastes resources that could build schools, generate livelihoods, or address poverty. Internal quarrels strip Muslims of moral authority, leaving them less able to speak with one voice on issues of justice and dignity. They open the door for outsiders to exploit divisions for their own agendas.

Sectarianism provides one more lever of manipulation in Kashmir, where politics has long thrived on divide-and-rule.

Religious leaders must carry a share of responsibility. Sermons too often dwell on differences, reinforcing divides rather than closing them. Pulpits can either unite or fragment. The choice lies with those who hold them.

Imagine if mosques became centers of dialogue and cooperation, emphasizing common principles rather than doctrinal quarrels. That shift alone could restore much of the harmony that once defined Kashmiri society.

The youth of Jammu and Kashmir also hold the key. With smartphones in hand, they are the most powerful narrators of the valley today. Yet too often their social media posts amplify sectarian language, spreading suspicion at the click of a button. This is not harmless banter.

A tweet or video clip that mocks another tradition can harden divisions for years. If Kashmiri youth recognized that disagreements do not require disrespect,

common values, youth who refuse to spread hate, communities that reject political manipulation, and scholars who frame difference as diversity rather than division.

It also requires memory, recalling that Kashmir earned its reputation for harmony because its Muslims once found peace within themselves.

The Qur’an calls believers to hold firmly to the “rope of Allah” and avoid divisions. That call is as urgent in today’s Kashmir as it



“

Sectarianism has no roots in Kashmir's cultural past. The valley's legacy is one of shared shrines, collective prayers, and festivals where differences dissolved into common rituals. To let sectarian divisions define the present is to betray both faith and history. It is to trade the rope of unity that the Qur'an commands believers to hold firmly for the brittle threads of factional pride.

and that reverence across sects is a form of strength, they could model the unity their elders failed to preserve.

The timing matters. Kashmiri Muslims face immense political and social challenges, from curbs on democratic representation to economic marginalization. To fracture now is to walk into a trap set by those who benefit from a divided community.

History tells the story clearly: whenever Muslims stood united, they achieved progress. And whenever they splintered, decline followed.

Sectarianism has no roots in Kashmir’s cultural past. The valley’s legacy is one of shared shrines, collective prayers, and festivals where differences dissolved into common rituals.

To let sectarian divisions define the present is to betray both faith and history. It is to trade the rope of unity that the Qur’an commands believers to hold firmly for the brittle threads of factional pride.

Unity requires deliberate choices: preachers who stress

was in the Prophet’s time. Unity is both a religious obligation and a survival strategy.

If Muslims in the valley rise above sectarianism, they can preserve not only their faith but also the cultural heritage that made Kashmir a symbol of coexistence. If they do not, they risk watching that heritage slip away.

Kashmir has already endured decades of political turmoil. It cannot afford to add sectarian strife to its wounds.

The choice before Muslims of the valley is simple, though not easy: to rebuild the bonds of brotherhood and live the true spirit of Islam, or to let division hollow out the paradise they inherited.

The path to unity is clear. What remains is the courage to take it.

The author is a research scholar in Islamic Studies at the School of Social Sciences, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir.

Letter to Editor

The Wound in Ganderbal is More Than a Crime Scene

The tragedy in Ganderbal left the valley stunned. A young girl died at the hands of her own sister, a person meant to be a companion, protector, and second mother. The crime did not happen in a stranger’s shadow but inside a home, the place that should shield us.

The horror goes beyond headlines. It reflects a deeper sickness, a slow corrosion of bonds, empathy, and responsibility in our families.

Homes in Kashmir were once spaces of nurture, where patience, love, and respect were taught before lessons in letters or numbers. Today, too often, they resemble battlegrounds. Small disagreements escalate into rage. Sibling rivalry replaces companionship. Neglect, impatience, and self-centeredness feed the soil in which anger grows. Affection is replaced by entitlement, empathy by re-

sentment, respect by rivalry. In such soil, even the sacred bond of sisterhood can break.

The crisis is generational. Children and teenagers here are technically skilled, fluent in gadgets and apps, yet illiterate in empathy. Girls are trained to excel professionally, boys to pursue ambition, but both often evade the responsibilities that make homes thrive. Desire outweighs duty. Freedom replaces accountability. Rebellion masquerades as strength.

The consequences are evident: fractured marriages, fatherless children, and siblings estranged before they even part ways.

Anger is not only a personal failing. In a culture where patience is mocked and humility scorned, it becomes a social illness. Everyday life in Kashmir shows its subtler forms: disrespect between parents and

children, cold wars among siblings, spouses treating each other as competitors. Normalized anger leaves violence inevitable.

Children surrounded by parents yet starved of love become “orphans with living parents.” Emotional absence leaves wounds that no school or guardian can heal. Ganderbal is not unique. Across India, siblings kill siblings over petty disputes, children lash out at parents, and marriages dissolve into battles of ego. These incidents are mirrors, showing what happens when homes lose sanctity and values are replaced by vanity.

Ganderbal must be remembered as a moral turning point. Homes should teach compassion before alphabets. Parenthood must be reclaimed as sacred. Emotional education, including anger control, empathy, conflict resolution, must be

prioritized alongside science and technology. Society must rethink freedom: true freedom lies in fulfilling responsibilities with dignity.

The wound in Ganderbal is more than a crime scene. It reflects the cracks in our homes, the neglect of sacred bonds, and the dangers of raising children hollow inside. Justice in the courtroom punishes acts of violence. Justice in society rebuilds love, responsibility, and faith in family.

The question is not whether punishment will follow. The question is whether we will learn. If we do not, the wound in Ganderbal will fester, spreading silently until every home carries a scar of its own.

Sincerely

Dr. Rizwan Rumi

Guardian of Wahibugh

In a village shaped by Kashmir's quintessential struggles, 27-year-old Suheel Gulzar Sofi uses education, faith, and service to unite his people.

Gowher Bhat

On a cold spring night in Srinagar, the corridors of LD Hospital were hushed except for the shuffle of feet and the sound of machines.

It was nearly 3 a.m. when an elderly woman's blood pressure surged dangerously above 200. Panic rippled through the ward as attendants called for help.

Before the doctors could respond, a young man from Pulwama lifted her into his car and drove her to another facility, staying by her side until the crisis passed.

The man was not a doctor or a nurse. He was Suheel Gulzar Sofi, a 27-year-old civil engineer from the village of Wahibugh. For him, that night was no exception.

"This is what a human being should do when someone's life is in danger," he said later.

In Wahibugh, where nearly every household carries a story of struggle, Suheel has become the person people

and streams that feed the Jhelum, this small Pulwama village depends on agriculture, with few opportunities beyond the fields.

Unemployment among Kashmiri youth remains among the highest in India, government surveys put it above 18 percent, and many young men leave the valley in search of work.

Suheel could have followed the same path. With degrees in civil engineering and computer applications, he had every reason to pursue a career outside his village.

Yet, those who know him say he made a different choice: to use his education to serve the people around him.

His professors remember him as a student who grasped difficult concepts with ease. His neighbours remember him as the young man who fixes water pipes, tutors children, and helps carry the sick to hospitals.

"Suheel has the rare ability to understand complex things and still remain grounded," one of his teachers recalls.



has been education.

Each week, he gathers children from underprivileged households and teaches them for free.

Such support can change the course of a child's life in a region where private tuitions are often expensive and where public schools suffer from shortages of teachers.

"Our children are getting a chance to study, and it's all thanks to Suheel," says Ishfaq, a farmer who earns just enough from his apple orchard to feed his family.

Another villager, Mohammad Shafi, a wood seller, says his son has learned more than academics: "He [Suheel] has taught him kindness and responsibility. That is a gift we can never repay."

Across Kashmir, parents worry about education. Despite one of the highest literacy rates among Indian states, dropout levels in rural districts remain high, especially among poor families.

Many children leave school early to help in fields or shops. Suheel's free classes, neighbours say, keep dozens of children in Wahibugh connected to learning, and to hope.

On Fridays, when Wahibugh gathers for prayers, Suheel can be found at the mosque before the crowd arrives. He sweeps the floor, arranges prayer mats, and checks the loudspeakers.

For him, faith is service. "Mosque is not just a place of worship," he says, "it is also a

responsibility for us."

Akram, a villager who watches him each week, points out how this example has changed others. "When people see him work with his hands, they remember what faith is supposed to mean."

Suheel's sense of responsibility stretches into the streams that run past Wahibugh.

Kashmir's rivers and springs, once pristine, are increasingly polluted by waste and neglect. For a community that depends on orchards and fields, clean water is survival.

Suheel gathers groups of children to clean riverbanks, explaining why each scrap of plastic removed matters.

"Water is life," he tells them. "If our rivers stay clean, our village will thrive."

Last month, he led a small campaign along a stream near the village. Children collected bottles and wrappers, and he spoke to them about how pollution harms the apple orchards their families depend on.

Ishfaq, the farmer, remembers watching. "That's how you teach responsibility," he says.

Pulwama, like much of south Kashmir, has lived under the shadow of conflict for three decades. Violence, joblessness, and drug abuse have frayed social bonds. Reports from the Jammu and Kashmir administration suggest the valley has over 70,000 active drug users, many of them young.

In this atmosphere, Suheel's

choices carry unusual weight. "Suheel doesn't wait to be asked. He sees a need and fills it," says Ayoub, the shopkeeper. "He is showing us that one person can make a difference."

His efforts won't fix Kash-



His efforts won't fix Kashmir's larger struggles, but in Wahibugh, they matter: the elderly reach the hospital, children finish their homework, and rivers stay clean.

mir's larger struggles, but in Wahibugh, they matter: the elderly reach the hospital, children finish their homework, and rivers stay clean.

Leadership here is beyond politics or power. It's a young engineer safeguarding the hope of his hamlet.

"He is a guide, a protector, and a friend," says Shafi, the wood seller.

In Wahibugh, Suheel shows that steady service can be the truest form of leadership.

— The author is a Pulwama-based educator and writer.

Last month, he led a small campaign along a stream near the village. Children collected bottles and wrappers, and he spoke to them about how pollution harms the apple orchards their families depend on.

rely on when daily life falters. Nestled among orchards

For many families in Wahibugh, Suheel's greatest gift

The Doctor Who Heals With His Voice

Kashmir's hospitals are often overwhelmed, yet in one Srinagar clinic, patients say healing begins with words and trust.

Syed Majid Gilani

In the winter of 2011, when my mother's blood sugar kept rising despite months of treatment, we were desperate. She had been diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes, and like many Kashmiri families, we had made rounds of government hospitals and private clinics.

Each doctor adjusted her medicines, ordered more tests, and told us to wait. Nothing seemed to work. She grew weaker, her diet grew stricter, and the uncertainty pressed heavily on all of us.

One day, a cousin suggested we visit a physician named Dr. Irfan Ali, an internist practicing in Srinagar. "He listens," my cousin said.

That simple description felt a big relief. In a place where consultations are hurried, and where patients often leave with more confusion than clarity, the promise of a doctor who listened was enough for us to try.

That morning, we stepped into his modest chamber. My mother sat across from him, weary and anxious. What followed was not a typical consultation. Dr. Ali asked about her fears before he asked about her food. He heard her complaints in full, without interruption. He wrote her prescription neatly, every letter clear.

By the time we left, something in her had lifted. It was not only the medicine that mattered, but the attention.

In the months that followed, her sugar levels stabilized. They have remained under control ever since.

From that day on, he became our physician of choice.

Over the years, I have often thought about what sets him apart. Part of it is skill. His training in internal medicine is evident in the care with which he diagnoses. Yet skill alone does not explain the trust he has earned.

What distinguishes him is a way of treating patients that feels increasingly rare: with respect, patience, and a sense that illness is not just physical but emotional.

In 2017, when I went to see him for my own health concern, I noticed it again.

I was tense when I entered, but the consultation calmed me even before the medicine could. He listened carefully, nodded thoughtfully, and spoke with kindness.



Looking back on that first visit in 2011, I see more clearly what we were searching for. It was not only a solution to my mother's illness. It was reassurance that someone would guide us honestly through the uncertainty of disease.

That day, I realized something about his practice: he heals with words as much as with prescriptions.

This may sound small, but in Kashmir it is not. Studies show that Jammu and Kashmir has one of the lowest doctor-patient ratios in India. The World Health Organization recommends one

doctor for every thousand people. The ratio is almost double that in the valley, one doctor for nearly two thousand patients.

In large hospitals like SMHS or SKIMS, patients often wait for hours only to be rushed through five-minute consultations. In such a system, listening becomes a casualty.

Yet listening is what Dr. Ali restores. His patients leave with answers, referrals when necessary, and prescriptions they can actually read.

He does not hold on to cases unnecessarily. He refers promptly to surgeons or specialists when the situation demands it. This honesty has made him widely trusted.

I have often wondered why his style matters so deeply to us. Part of it lies in Kashmiri culture itself.

Here, word of mouth is the most reliable referral system. Families discuss doctors over dinner, shopkeepers exchange stories about treatments, and one person's good experience can ripple through an entire neighbourhood.

In this informal network, Dr. Ali's name circulates with warmth. His patients become his ambassadors, through stories of care.

For my family, he has become more than a physician. His office is where we go when we are unwell, yes, but also where we go when we need assurance.

The visit itself is part of the healing ritual. My mother says that she feels better the moment she sits in front of him, even before medicine touches her tongue.

This is what healthcare in Kashmir often misses. We have capable doctors, many of them highly trained. We have hospitals, though overburdened. Yet what patients crave most is dignity and time.

Looking back on that first visit in 2011, I see more clearly what we were searching for. It was not only a solution to my mother's illness. It was reassurance that someone would guide us honestly through the uncertainty of disease.

In Dr. Irfan Ali, we found that. He has reminded me of what medicine can still be: an act of kindness.

— The author is a government officer in Kashmir and a storyteller by passion. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com.

The Cost of Clicks

From betrayal among friends to moral erosion, social media is reshaping values, tempting youth, and amplifying content that shocks more than it informs.

Raqif Makhdoomi

I was scrolling through X, formerly Twitter, when a tweet kept appearing over and over. Normally, I scroll past vulgar posts without a second thought. They flood timelines, designed to provoke, amuse, and shock.

But this one stopped me. The words "Recorded secretly" jumped out, and I felt a pang of unease.

The tweet narrated a story about a girl whose friend was secretly recorded by her boyfriend's friend. It described a night when four people went out: the boyfriend, the girl tweeting, the friend who got recorded, and the friend behind the camera.

According to the account, the two friends stepped aside, leaving the



Kashmir values trust and respect, yet social media pushes the opposite. It prizes attention over ethics and voyeurism over care. We can keep scrolling, or we can pause and reclaim our values.

couple alone. The boyfriend's friend filmed them without consent.

At first, the girl tweeting claims she resisted the situation, seeing her friend being coerced. Yet soon, the story shifted: money exchanged hands, and she helped the boy, allegedly enjoying the unfolding events and making her friend pay for their outing.

Reading it, I felt a deeper chill than the mere vulgarity of the story.

Laws exist to protect women

from harassment, but what about harassment by peers, betrayal among friends?

Trust is sacred. We often confide more in friends than in family. And here, friendship became a weapon.

Even if this story is fake, the mere act of framing such betrayal as entertainment exposes a moral decay.

This is not an isolated post. Every day, X and similar platforms overflow with stories designed to shock, provoke, and attract clicks.

The introduction of monetization made things worse: reach equals payout, and vulgarity equals reach. The platform thrives on the most extreme content.

Kashmir, despite its cultural roots, is not untouched. Online, our youth are drawn into a race of who can be the boldest, the most sensational, and the most visible.

The consequences extend beyond clicks. Repeated exposure to pornographic or sexually explicit content alters thought patterns. Suicides follow shame when unmarried girls become pregnant, often after relationships shaped by this imported "modern culture." Young men describe depression, citing loneliness or lack of a girlfriend as the cause.

Western notions of casual relationships, often glamorized online, have seeped into Kashmir, masking moral consequences with the veneer of freedom.

Islam offers a clear guide. Surah Al-Isra, 17:32, warns: "Do not ap-

proach adultery. It is truly a shameful deed and an evil way."

The Quran forbids even actions leading to adultery, emphasizing moral responsibility before temptation fully manifests.

Scholars explain that Zinah can happen in many ways, through the eyes, hands, lips, and more. It shows that morality is about the way we think and act. Scholars follow careful rules to interpret religious guidance, but most of us take shortcuts and bend it to our convenience.

Social media exploits these gaps in understanding. It magnifies betrayal, scandal, and temptation. It thrives on exploiting human weakness for visibility and profit.

As I scroll, I feel the tension between ancient guidance and modern temptations. We are witnessing the signs our Prophet Muhammad (SAW) warned about: moral confusion, peer pressure, and fitnah surrounding youth.

The solution is not only regulation but conscious choice, education, and adherence to values rooted in the Quran.

Kashmir values trust and respect, yet social media pushes the opposite. It prizes attention over ethics and voyeurism over care.

We can keep scrolling, or we can pause and reclaim our values.

— The author is a law student and rights activist based in Srinagar.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir's Top Women's

even consider approaching a committee. Many students say they do not know who sits on those committees or what the complaint process looks like. Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath, Director of WISCOMP, urged the audience to think beyond rules. "We need a new vocabulary to talk about gender," she said in her keynote address. "Leadership must be empathetic, inclusive, and aware of power structures that silence women."

She pointed to women leaders who have balanced strength with humility, insisting that higher education should cultivate not only knowledge but also a culture of dignity and respect.

The college principal, Prof. Yasmeen Farooq, reminded participants that building a zero-tolerance campus is a collective task. "Committees alone cannot do it," she said. "It requires every teacher and student to stand together."

The sessions unfolded in layers: legal frameworks of the POSH Act, interactive group activities, and role plays that mapped the spectrum of harassment.

In one exercise, When Women Write, participants were divided into groups and given brief case studies to reflect on and discuss.

For faculty serving on Internal Committees, the workshop offered both clarity and solidarity.

"Often, you feel isolated handling cases," said a professor from north Kashmir. "Here, you realize the struggles are shared, and solutions can be shared too."

The urgency was clear. Women's literacy in Jammu and Kashmir has improved dramatically, yet their participation in the workforce remains among the lowest in India.

Experts say unsafe or unsupportive campuses are part of the reason. For students in the hall, hearing senior educators speak openly about harassment was itself a turning point.

"When professors talk about it, it makes us believe things can change," said one student as the day ended.

For her and many others, the workshop was a rare acknowledgment that dignity and safety must stand at the center of education in Kashmir.

Heavy Rains

cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides, mudslides and shooting stones during the August 23–26 period. People have been advised to stay away from rivers, streams, nallahs, loose structures and vulnerable areas, and exercise extreme caution.

"All concerned departments and the public are advised to follow the guidelines and take necessary precautions," the advisory read.

Shah Tables

charges. In view of the above, there is a need to amend Articles 75, 164 and 239AA of the Constitution, for providing legal framework for removal of the Prime Minister or a Minister in the Union Council of Ministers and the Chief Minister or a Minister in the Council of Ministers of States and the National Capital Territory of Delhi in such cases."

Opposition MPs Protest, Tear Bills

As soon as the Bills were introduced soon after 2 pm, opposition members trooped into the well, raising slogans and some even tore copies in front of Shah for the sight to be captured by cameras broadcasting the home minister's remarks.

A few BJP members, including Union ministers Kiren Rijiju and Ravneet Singh Bittu, stepped out of their seats to prevent opposition members from coming near Shah and waved them to go back to their side of the aisle.

When Congress MP K C Venugopal questioned Shah about his claim of public morality by referring to his arrest in a criminal case when he was the home minister of Gujarat in 2010, the senior BJP leader hit back.

He said he wanted to set the record straight as he had resigned on moral grounds before his arrest on "false" allegations and did not join a constitutional position till he was discharged by the courts.

"What are they (opposition) teaching us about morality? I had resigned. And I want moral values to rise. We cannot be so shameless that we continue to occupy constitutional positions while facing charges. I resigned before arrest," Shah said.

Opposition MPs, including AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi and Congress' Manish Tewari and Venugopal, and RSP's N K Premachandran, spoke against the introduction, terming the proposed law against the Constitution and federalism.

The home minister also said that the Bills will be sent to the Joint Committee of Parliament, where members of both Houses, including those from the opposition, would get an opportunity to give their suggestions.

The three Bills are the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill 2025; the Constitution (One Hundred And Thirtieth Amendment) Bill 2025; and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2025.

The constitutional amendment bill will require the support of at least two-thirds of the members in both houses. The ruling alliance currently lacks such a majority on its own.

The Bills have proposed that if prime minister, union ministers or chief ministers, are arrested and detained in custody for 30 consecutive days for offences that attract a jail term of at least five years, they will lose their jobs on the 31st day.

Demanding that Shah withdraw the Bills,

Tewari said they were "squarely destructive" of the basic structure of the Constitution and turned the fundamental principle of the rule of law that a person is innocent till proven guilty on its head.

The Bills give due procedure a go-by and make an investigating officer the "boss of prime minister of India", he asserted.

The Congress MP said the proposed law distorts parliamentary democracy by undermining the will of the people through mere custody bereft of judicial determination. It also opens the door for political misuse by the state's instruments whose arbitrary conduct has been "frowned upon" by the Supreme Court, he added.

Owaisi said it allows executive agencies a free run by becoming the judge, jury and executioner based on flimsy allegations and suspicion, putting chief ministers and ministers at their mercy.

He accused the government of being hell-bent on creating a police state, likening it to Nazi Germany's secret police service, the Gestapo.

Venugopal claimed the Bills were aimed at sabotaging India's federal structure.

The home minister, meanwhile, rejected Premachandran's contention that the Bills were brought in haste, saying they will be sent to the joint committee, where members of both Houses would get an opportunity to give their suggestions.

Due to the noisy protests, Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House briefly. The Bills were introduced and then sent to the joint committee after the House reconvened at 3 pm.

BJP leaders have linked the need for the Bills to the decision of then-Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to continue to hold the post for months after his arrest in a corruption case and the incidence of several ministers in different states, including V Senthil Balaji in Tamil Nadu, following a similar practice.

Centre Should Relook

Dar said the party hopes these bills will be "relooked".

"These bills are going to the JPC. We hope the concerns raised by the Opposition on the bills are addressed there as well," the NC state spokesperson said.

J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) chief Tariq Karra alleged that the bills reflected the "authoritarian character" of the ruling dispensation at the Centre.

"Rather than further strengthening the states and restoring statehood to J&K, they have shown the whole world their authoritarian mindset and authoritarian attitude under which they are trying to tighten the noose around the neck of a CM or a minister of any state," Karra said here.

PCC president was speaking to reporters after paying floral tributes to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his birth anniversary at the party office.

Karra said the Centre should respect the wishes and aspirations of the people of J&K. "They played with the identity of the people of J&K, took away their constitutional guarantees, the protection of land, resources and jobs. Now, rather than respecting the wishes and aspirations of the people of J&K, they are showcasing their anti-J&K mindset once again," he added.

To a question whether the Congress party will support the signature campaign announced by J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for the restoration of statehood, the JKPCC chief said the National Conference runs as per its agenda, while the Congress party has its own agenda that it follows as it is not bound by compulsions of being in government.

"Do not put your words into our mouth. We are in complete alliance with them (NC), but we are not a part of the government. We have said that we have our own agenda, we had our own manifesto, and they have theirs.

"They talk about statehood in their own way, and we do it in our own way. The aim is the same. But since they are in the government, they may have some compulsions that the Congress does not have. So, we have openly launched a struggle for the restoration of the statehood," Karra added. (PTI)

LS Clears Online

intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar by the Election Commission.

Once the legislation is passed by both Houses of Parliament, offering or facilitating online money gaming will be punishable by imprisonment of up to 3 years and/or a fine of up to Rs 1 crore.

The bill also seeks to prohibit advertisement related to online money games and bars banks and financial institutions from transferring funds for any of such games.

Advertising of money games can attract imprisonment up to two years and/or fine up to Rs 50 lakh. Facilitating financial transactions related to money games can lead to imprisonment up to three years and/or fine up to Rs 1 crore.

Repeat offences attract enhanced penalties, including 3-5 years' imprisonment and fines up to Rs 2 crore.

Offences under key sections are sought to be made cognizable and non-bailable.

Online money game is one played by a user by depositing money in expectation of winning monetary and other enrichment.

The bill outlaws all online betting and gambling (satta and jua) activities -- from online fantasy sports to online gambling (like Poker, Rummy and other Card games) and online lotteries.

Talking to PTI after passage of the bill by the Lower House, Vaishnav said online money gaming has become a serious social and public health issue, with proven significant negative impact on society.

"Our endeavour is to promote eSports and social gaming, online social gaming, and we

would like India to become a game-making hub. For that, a lot of efforts are already being made," he said.

The minister said so far as digital technologies go, online gaming has emerged as a "major sector" with three main segments.

"Two segments, eSports and online social gaming, are good for society. We are promoting two out of three segments... These two will get legal recognition and they will be promoted. And this bill will create an authority which basically creates programs and schemes which promote eSports and online social gaming," Vaishnav said.

The third segment, online money gaming, is causing harm to the society, he said, adding that this has emerged as a major social and public health problem.

Endorsements by top cricketers and film stars have incited interest in real money gaming apps such as fantasy sports betting games offered by Dream11, Games24X7, and Mobile Premier League.

There is a realisation that online gaming has become a major problem for the society, a senior official said, adding that the government has decided to keep the welfare of people above revenue loss from its ban.

According to the bill there will be a regulator for eSports, educational platforms, and social games. It seeks to completely ban offering, operating, or facilitating online money games, irrespective of whether based on skill, chance, or both.

The bill seeks to "ensure the responsible use of digital technologies", "maintain public order and protect public health" and "safeguard the integrity of financial systems and the security and sovereignty of the state".

Additionally, online money gaming platforms are often misused for financial fraud, money laundering, terror financing, and messaging activities that compromise national security.

The legislation aligns digital domain with existing laws for corresponding activities in the physical world, wherein betting and gambling are restricted or punishable -- such as in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 as well as various state government legislations.

The bill recognised e-sports as a legitimate form of competitive sport in India, for which the Ministry of Sports will frame guidelines and standards for conduct of such events.

For online social games, the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) will extend support to online games that foster educational and cultural values, skill development and social engagement.

Citing "psychological and financial harm" that can be caused by such games, the bill says that no person "shall offer, aid, abet, induce or otherwise indulge or engage in" the offering of online money games and such services.

Industry bodies representing real money game players -- India Gaming Federation (AIGF), the E-Gaming Federation (EGF), and the Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS) -- in a letter to Home Minister Amit Shah raised concerns over the bill saying the online skill gaming industry is a sunrise sector with an enterprise valuation of over Rs 2 lakh crore and annual revenue exceeding Rs 31,000 crore.

It contributes over Rs 20,000 crore in direct and indirect taxes annually and is projected to grow at a 20 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR), doubling by 2028, the industry bodies said.

However, another section of the gaming industry, came in support of the bill.

NODWIN Gaming Co-Founder and MD Akshat Rathee said the government's intent to recognise and promote esports is an encouraging step towards building a structured and globally competitive ecosystem.

Animesh Agarwal, Co-Founder and CEO of SBUL, said by drawing a clear line between skill-based competitive gaming and betting, the bill safeguards the integrity of the ecosystem while opening doors for structured growth.

HC Seeks Govt's

public health inspection".

"Such unsafe food items pose a grave threat to the lives and health of thousands of unsuspecting consumers, exposing them to potentially fatal diseases including food poisoning, salmonella, E. coli contamination, and other zoonotic infections," the petitioner says.

Despite repeated seizures and media reports highlighting the problem, the petitioner says that authorities have "failed" to take effective, sustained action to prevent the menace.

The petitioner contends that this "inaction" constitutes a violation of the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India and breaches multiple statutory provisions including the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and related regulations, as well as the Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000.

The petitioner says that the State's constitutional duty under Article 47 to improve public health and nutrition is being "undermined by this neglect".

Among others, the petitioner seeks enforcement of food safety laws, accountability of authorities, and directions for the establishment of stringent preventive and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that only safe, hygienic meat and poultry products are permitted for sale in J&K, thereby protecting public health and upholding constitutional guarantees.

The petitioner says that in Jammu & Kashmir, meat and poultry consumption is predominantly by the Muslim majority population, for whom adherence to "Halal dietary principles is not merely a preference but a religious obligation.

"Given this demographic reality, "Halal

certification" of all meat and poultry products is not just desirable, but necessary to safeguard religious rights, public health, and consumer trust," the petitioner says, adding, "The recent discovery of large quantities of rotten meat in Kashmir has underscored the urgent need for strict regulatory mechanism."

Such incidents reveal serious lapses in quality control, hygiene standards, and supply chain monitoring, the petitioner says.

The petitioner has sought directions to the government to ensure all necessary measures to prevent the sale, storage, distribution, and transportation of rotten, unhygienic, and unsafe meat and poultry products in J&K.

He has also sought establishing and implementing, within a time-bound framework, a permanent inspection and monitoring mechanism at all entry points, slaughterhouses, and markets to ensure that all meat, fish and poultry products entering and sold in the J&K are duly certified safe for human consumption by competent veterinary authorities.

The petitioner also seeks direction to the authorities to strictly enforce the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011, the Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000, and all other applicable laws, rules, and regulations relating to the sale and handling of meat and poultry products. Besides, he has sought directions to the authorities to conduct regular, surprise inspections of markets, cold storages, restaurants, and slaughterhouses, and to seize and destroy all unsafe meat products found unfit for human consumption, maintaining public records of such actions for transparency.

He has also sought directions to prosecute and penalise all persons, traders, and entities found guilty of selling, storing, or transporting unsafe meat products, in accordance with the penal provisions of the FSSA, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and other applicable laws.

Premier Educational

described the university as the axis of development, with students as its periphery. "Human development is never mechanical. It requires a better university, teachers and learning environment," he said.

"Due to rapid growth and evolving technology, we need human resources with exceptional qualities. They should have lifelong learning skills and the ability to change with time for reskilling and up-skilling," Sinha said.

He further said that in the past 8–10 years, several premier educational institutions have been established in Jammu and Kashmir under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"It is a fact that from the past 8-10 years, we have been able to establish some premier educational institutions under the leadership of PM Modi. Be it IIT, NIIT, Central University and AIIMS, J&K has benefited from these institutions," he said.

Sinha added that ongoing syllabus reforms would benefit students and the nation as a whole. He expressed hope for a bright future for the Central University of Kashmir and wished to see the varsity among the top universities by 2047.

"I want the committee members of the Central University to take the varsity at global level. The students need to study beyond the syllabus and I am sure that with this, the students of CUK will focus on it and will contribute to national development," the LG said.

Search Ops Enter

multiple locations, especially the major impact spot near a langar (community kitchen) site, sifting through the debris using heavy machinery, including earth movers and sniffer dogs.

Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti on Wednesday chaired an hour-long meeting with senior civil, police, Army and paramilitary officers in Kishtwar town and discussed the ongoing rescue and relief operation in detail.

Bharti visited the scene following an order issued by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday and undertook a comprehensive assessment of the ground situation.

The official engaged with local residents and held detailed interactions with rescue personnel and civil administration teams, besides evaluating the immediate requirements of the affected families to ensure the timely delivery of relief measures.

The Principal Secretary underscored the need for a swift, coordinated and sustained response from all departments and agencies concerned to maximise rescue outcomes and accelerate relief and rehabilitation efforts.

The flash-floods triggered by the cloudburst left a trail of destruction, flattening a makeshift market, a langar site for the annual Machail Mata yatra, damaging 16 houses and government buildings, three temples, four water mills, a 30-metre-long bridge, besides over a dozen vehicles.

The joint teams of police, army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), CISF, Border Roads Organisation (BRO), civil administration, and local volunteers are engaged in the rescue efforts.

Army engineers on Sunday built a Bailey bridge over Chisoti nullah, providing much-needed connectivity to the village and the Machail Mata shrine. The Army has also inducted a couple of all-terrain vehicles as part of the efforts to intensify the rescue and relief operation.

The rescuers also conducted over half a dozen controlled explosions to blow up giant boulders hampering the search.

The annual Machail Mata yatra, which

began on July 25 and was scheduled to conclude on September 5, remained suspended for the seventh consecutive day on Wednesday. However, authorities will allow a group of devotees carrying 'Charri' from Jammu and is expected to reach the shrine on August 21 or 22.

The 8.5-km trek to the 9,500-foot-high shrine starts from Chisoti, located about 90 km from Kishtwar town.

Find Reasons For

to chase revenue targets. He said monthly monitoring and timely corrective measures were essential to avoid last-minute rushes.

The chief minister also reviewed GST collection, including tax and non-tax revenue for the current financial year, an official spokesman said.

Principal Secretary (Finance) Santosh D Vaidya gave a detailed presentation on the financial and social inclusion schemes, revenue generation trends and district-wise progress under capex and CDF works.

The chief minister took note of the tardy pace in uploading and tendering of works.

Omar directed all the departments and district administrations to focus on revenue realisation and social inclusion schemes, and monitor the progress on a monthly basis rather than leaving corrective measures to the last quarter of the fiscal.

"Departments must not wait till February or March to chase revenue targets. Each department will receive specific communication from the finance department flagging their areas of concern and giving a six-month revenue target breakdown. They should start working on improving revenue realisation today, with a clear monthly plan," Omar said.

He said the deputy commissioners will be receive district-specific instructions from the finance department, particularly regarding the coverage of social welfare schemes such as the PM Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Suraksha Bima Yojana, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Integrated Social Security Scheme, and widow, old-age and disability pensions.

"We will conduct another review of the social welfare schemes after three months, and I expect to see a significant improvement in coverage at the district level," Omar said.

The chief minister called for expediting the finalisation of work plans under the CDF and to upload the works on the BEAMS portal.

He also gave instructions that the MLAs be informed about the works included in the UT and District Capex plans, which were prioritised by the MLAs during the pre-budget meetings, and to intimate them about the works found unviable.

The chief minister cautioned that delays in revenue mobilisation could force the government to take difficult decisions, such as imposing cuts in department expenditures.

"If departments do not want to find themselves in a position where their expenditure is curtailed, they must focus on improving revenue realisation. The responsibility lies with each department to ensure timely progress," the chief minister said.

Budgam-Delhi

the route.

Vivek Kumar, the Divisional Railway Manager for Jammu Division, said the goal of the JPP-RCS is to promote freight transportation through railways.

"It is a virtual aggregation platform, which will help in connecting the participation of railways in the private sector. This cargo train is being operated for the first time in the Jammu division," he said.

Kumar also mentioned that the train service will commence soon and that the registration fee for bookings has been reduced.

Uchit Singhal, the Senior Commerce Divisional Manager, explained that the primary aim of operating this train is to benefit Kashmir's traders and facilitate the delivery of goods, such as apples, saffron, walnuts, Pashmina shawls, carpets, and other handicrafts, to every corner of the country.

The train is expected to reach its destination in Delhi in approximately 23 hours, which is faster than road transport from Budgam.

Loading and unloading facilities for goods will be available at the Bari Brahmana station in Samba district.

"This initiative is aimed at increasing the share of railways in the courier business and to provide an efficient, reliable, and economical option to the customers," the statement said.

Additionally, the main goal is to highlight unique products, including fresh and dried fruits and handicrafts, beyond the valley and encourage their marketing in India and abroad.

"With this facility, the business class can deliver their goods to their destination in a very short time... this will prove to be an economical option compared to road traffic. The economy of Jammu and Kashmir will benefit, and new sources of employment will also be generated," the statement said.

Ex-IAS Officer

of J&K Public Men & Public Servants Declaration of Assets & other provisions Act 1983 was registered on 24-04-1997 in P/S VOK now ACB Srinagar into the allegations that said public servants has amassed huge property in the shape of movable/immovable assets during his service.

During the course of investigation conducted by Police Station VOK (now ACB) Srinagar the charges against the accused (Ex-IAS Officer Habibul Hassan) were proved beyond any doubt with oral & documentary evidence which was on record. The charge sheet of the case was presented by the P/S VOK on 13-11-2000 before Hon'ble Court of Anti-Corruption Srinagar for judicial determination. The said accused has been sentenced U/S 5(1)(e), 5(2) P.C Act with an imprisonment of one year and 15 lacs fine. On behalf of the ACB Srinagar the case was argued by Sr. Prosecuting Officer Wajahat Jameel, reads the statement.

Farmers Skill Development Training Programme Concludes At Bandipora

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: A three-day farmers' skill development training programme under capacity building activities of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) concluded on Wednesday at Sericulture Nursery Ayatmulla, Bandipora.

During the programme, around 19 farmers were imparted training on the latest techniques and innovations in sericulture-related activities.

The training focused on equipping farmers with modern skills aimed at making the

workforce more productive, sustainable, and self-reliant, thereby contributing to the overall growth of the sericulture sector and improving the livelihoods of farmers.

After the completion of the training, the department distributed certificates and essential equipment among the participants.

On the occasion, District Sericulture Officer Bandipora encouraged the farmers to adopt innovative practices for enhancing productivity and ensuring long-term sustainability in the sericulture sector.



Committee On Estimates Reviews Functioning Of Power Development Department

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The House Committee on Estimates on Wednesday convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to review the functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (PDD).

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairperson, Shamim Firdous, and attended by members including Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Chander Prakash Ganga, Gharu Ram Bhagat and Arjun Singh Raju.

Senior officers present in the meeting included MD JKSPDC/JKPC-CL, Rahul Yadav; Secretary Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita; MD JKPTCL, Roheela Wani; MD JKPDCL, GP Singh; DG Budget, Finance Department, MS Malik; MD KPDC, Mahmood Ahmad Shah; Special Secretary PDD, M.Y. Malik; Chief Engineers and others.

The Committee held a detailed review of progress on implementation of various schemes. These included the status of smart metering, cabling, allocation and utilization of funds, infrastructure development in power generation and transmission, improvement in HT/LT lines, replacement of defunct transformers and ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Committee also reviewed the implementation of Amnesty Scheme, RDSS, IPDS, PMPD and other ongoing projects.

The Chairperson emphasized the need for result-oriented ini-

tiatives to address the power cuts and curtailment, prompt repair and replacement of damaged transformers, restoration of defunct street lights besides eradication of power theft. She stressed the importance of ensuring scheduled power supply to consumers, particularly during peak hours.

The Committee called for effective resource mobilization for power generation, better manpower management and timely disposal of ex-gratia relief to the families of daily wagers/casual labourers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The Chairperson directed for taking up the vacancies in the department with the recruitment agencies for early selection. She also asked for ensuring rationalization of staff for the convenience of the public.

The Committee further stressed on expediting fund utilization under RDSS and other schemes. He urged for concrete steps for implementation of the Chief Minister's Amnesty Scheme for recovery of power dues from consumers. It also underlined the importance of inter-departmental coordination for seamless service delivery and effective scheme implementation.

The Chairperson emphasized on taking pro-public measures while strengthening the infrastructure development and ensuring general public is majorly benefitted under various schemes of the department. Directions were also passed for sustainable measures to minimize T&D losses across J&K.

3-Day Annual Kailash Yatra Begins In Bhaderwah



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Charri Mubarak of the three-day annual Holy Kailash Yatra left today for Kailash Kund from the ancient Vasuki Nag Temple, Gatha, Bhaderwah.

Amidst the chanting in praise of Lord Vasuki Nag, the Yatra passed through Bhaderwah town where DDC Chairman Dhananther Singh Kotwal, MLA Dalip Singh Parihar, Former Deputy Chief Minister, Dr. Nirmal Singh, SSP Sandeep Mehta, ADC Anil Kumar Thakur, ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyai, ASP Vinod Sharma, CEO BDA, Joginder Singh, President of Sanatan Dharam Sabha, other tehsil officers and a large number of locals accorded a warm send-off to the pilgrims.

This year, only limited yatis have been allowed to par-

ticipate in the Yatra as a precautionary measure in the backdrop of recent cloudburst incidents and the inclement weather condition in the region.

As per the schedule, after a night halt at Hayan (Nalithi), the Yatra will reach the holy destination on Aug 21, 2025, where devotees will take a dip in the sacred waters of Kailash Dal. After performing religious rituals, the Yatra will begin its return journey to Bhaderwah on Aug 22, 2025.

The local administration has made elaborate arrangements on the yatra route including deployment of medical teams with sufficient medicines, provision of drinking water, generator-based electricity, firewood, tents for pilgrims and fool-proof security to ensure smooth conduct of the Yatra.



A HOUSEBOAT GUTTED in a fire incident on River Jhelum on Wednesday.

KO PHOTO

Div Com, IGP Jammu Flash-Flood Affected Areas Of Kathua

Observer News Service

KATHUA: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Jammu, B.S. Tuti on Wednesday conducted an extensive tour of cloudburst and flash flood-induced landslide hit areas of Kathua district to assess the situation and review the ongoing relief and restoration measures.

At the relief camp established at SIDCO Ghati, the Div Com met the affected families of Jode area where five persons lost their lives in the recent calamity. He interacted with the displaced families, expressed deep concern over the loss of lives and extended condolences. He assured the victims of every possible support from the government and informed that the immediate financial assistance under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has already been provided by the District Administration. He directed Deputy Commissioner Kathua to ensure speedy restoration of road connectivity in the affected areas.

The Div Com also visited Dilwan village, which witnessed significant damage to road infrastructure and habitations due to flashfloods. He directed the concerned Executive Engineers of PWD, PHE and PDD to work in close coordination for restoration of essential services in the shortest possible time to mitigate the hardships of the affected families.



Later, the Div Com visited Government Medical College, Kathua, where he met the injured persons of Jakhole and Janglote who were admitted for treatment. He enquired about their health and medical care being provided. He directed

the GMC authorities and district administration to ensure best possible treatment and proper care of the injured and their families. Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, apprised the Div Com that adequate medical facilities and all necessary assistance are being extended to the victims.

DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma; ADC Kathua, Vishavjeet Singh; Tehsildar concerned besides officers of PWD, PHE, PDD and other departments accompanied the Divisional Commissioner during the visit.

'Hospital On Wheels' Brings Healthcare To Remote Village

Observer News Service

RAMBAN: In a major step towards strengthening rural healthcare delivery, the District Administration Ramban, under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, is taking medical services to the doorsteps of people in remote and far-flung areas through the ongoing "Hospital on Wheels" initiative.

As part of this initiative "Hospital on Wheels", a Mobile Medical Camp was organized on Wednesday at Village Ind, Medical Block Gool to bridge the healthcare gap in inaccessible

areas by providing timely treatment, free medicines, essential diagnostics and creating health awareness among the rural population.

A dedicated medical team, comprising doctors and paramedical staff, attended to over 160 patients, including 145 in General OPD and 21 in Dental consultations, besides conducting basic investigations such as blood sugar, anaemia and malaria testing. Screenings for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Tuberculosis under NTEP were also carried out. Notably, 30 ABHA IDs were generated to promote digital health services under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

To further empower the community, awareness sessions were held on various health schemes and programmes including JK SEHAT, PMJAY, NTEP, E-Sanjevani and ABDM initiatives. Villagers were also sensitized about adopting healthy lifestyle practices to prevent lifestyle-related ailments.

Such outreach programmes will continue across inaccessible areas to strengthen public health delivery and improve health outcomes. The camp was carried out under the supervision of the District Health Society Ramban.

Research-Driven Education Key To Addressing Contemporary Challenges: Sakeena

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Wednesday remarked that research-driven education is key to addressing contemporary challenges and building a knowledge-based society.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing a Two-Day International Conference on Emerging Trends in Multidisciplinary Research (ICETMR-2025), after its inauguration, organized by Government Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College here today.

MLA Jammu East, Yudhveer Sethi; Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, Shantmanu; Vice Chancellor Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. K S Chardrasekar; noted academicians of Jammu University, Prof. Rajnikant; Principal, GGM Science College Prof. Romesh Kumar Gupta, eminent academicians, distinguished dignitaries, invited speakers, delegates from diverse disciplines and large



number of students were also present on the occasion.

In her Presidential Address, the Minister lauded GGM Science College for its commitment to academic excellence and for providing a platform to young researchers. She highlighted on the importance of fostering innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and critical thinking among researchers and students to prepare them for future global challenges.

The Education Minister also appreciated the efforts of the faculty and administration in nurturing a culture of inquiry and encouraged them to actively

contribute towards nation-building through meaningful research and innovation.

While speaking on the significance of this two day conference, the Minister said that this conference is a unique platform for vibrant exchange of ideas and scholarly discussions aimed at uplifting the educational standards of Jammu and Kashmir. She added that the conference will bring together leading academicians, researchers, and experts from across the country and around the globe to deliberate on new frontiers of research, innovation, and knowledge exchange,



JKEDI Conducts Boot Camp At Government College For Women

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Boot Camp Campaign under J&K Startup Idea Challenge reached Government College for Women (GCW) Parade, Jammu on Wednesday. The boot camp, which was the fourth in the series of 46 programs, aimed to foster startup ideation and entrepreneurial spirit among the students.

The boot camp was conducted by a three-member team from JKEDI comprising Zahid Ali, Project Manager, Rajesh Kumar Kotwal, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Jammu and Sorab Mengi, Assistant Manager.

The boot camp witnessed the participation of around 100 students, showcasing their enthusiasm for exploring entrepreneurship as a viable career choice. Out of these students, 13 participants pitched their startup ideas before the panel of experts. After a rigorous evaluation process, seven innovative ideas were shortlisted for the next rounds. The panel appreciated their creativity and provided constructive feedback. The session concluded with an interactive exchange of ideas, where students received encouragement and insights from the distinguished panel.

The J&K Startup Idea Challenge was inaugurated on July

10 by the Deputy Chief Minister of J&K at a Startup and Entrepreneurship meet held at JKEDI. Aligned with the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27, the initiative will cover all districts of J&K through 46 boot camps and multiple workshops, under the overall supervision of Director JKEDI.

The shortlisted participants will undergo intensive mentoring and pitch training at JKEDI's Pampore and Bari Brahmana campuses before competing in a Grand Finale, where the best 20 ideas will be presented before a jury of industry experts, investors and policymakers. Winners will receive prizes, incentives and incubation support at JKEDI and partner incubators across J&K.

A total of 46 boot camps shall be held across the colleges and universities of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir under the J&K Startup Challenge. In addition, two major workshops and two intensive boot camps will be organized at JKEDI's Pampore and Bari Brahmana campuses. These sessions will offer focused mentoring, pitch training and business model refinement for the shortlisted participants. The initiative will culminate in a Grand Finale, where the top 20 shortlisted ideas will be pitched before a distinguished jury comprising industry experts, investors and policymakers. The winners will receive prizes and incentives.

CS Discusses Advancing 'Climate Smart Agriculture' With ICRISAT Delegation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday held detailed deliberations with a delegation from the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, to advance the agenda of Climate Smart Agriculture in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation, led by Dr. Stanford Blade, Deputy Director General, ICRISAT, also included Senior Scientists, Dr. Manzoor Dar and Dr. Demaris Odeny, while Professor Haroon Naik, Director Research, SKUAST-Kashmir, was present during the meeting.

The discussions primarily revolved around the establishment of Himalayan Centre of Excellence for Dryland Agriculture at SKUAST-K, envisioned as a landmark initiative to position J&K as a leader in climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture.

The proposed Centre will serve as a hub for research, innovation and technology dissemination suited to the unique agro-ecological conditions of the Himalayan region. Its focus areas will include

development of climate-resilient crop varieties, strengthening decentralized seed systems, promoting regenerative and dryland farming practices and advancing soil and water conservation besides enhancing farmer-centric value chains across the UT.

A key part of the deliberations highlighted the critical importance of fodder security for J&K. With a large proportion of farming households dependent on livestock particularly in hilly and rainfed areas.

The Chief Secretary was apprised of the urgent need to strengthen fodder development programs. He was informed that ensuring year-round availability of quality fodder would improve livestock productivity and enhance both nutritional and livelihood security for rural communities.

The Centre of Excellence is expected to integrate the crop-livestock systems, advanced research, and farmer-focused innovations, thereby contributing to sustainable livelihoods, resilience against climate shocks and long-term prosperity of J&K's farming communities in the times to come.

which will help in shaping the academic and research ecosystem here for a long time.

Addressing the gathering, MLA, Yudhveer Sethi appreciated the College for hosting a conference of such scale, emphasizing the role of youth in shaping a progressive society.

Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Chief Secretary highlighted the government's initiatives to promote innovation-driven education across Jammu and Kashmir.

In his welcome address, Principal, Prof. Romesh Kumar Gupta highlighted the institution's vision of nurturing academic excellence and fostering multidisciplinary learning. He reaffirmed the college's commitment to empowering students and faculty to contribute meaningfully towards societal progress and national development through quality education and research.

Vice Chancellor Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. K S Chardrasekar spoke in length about the need to strengthen research culture in higher education institutions.

In his keynote address Prof. Rajnikant underscored the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in advancing research and inspired participants to pursue research that blends scientific innovation with societal relevance.

Convenor and Organizing Secretary, Dr. Parshotam Singh Manhas presented an overview of the conference, informing that 178 researchers will present their work during the two-day event while as Conference Coordinator, Dr. Vandana Khajuria highlighted the significance of such platforms in inspiring young minds and encouraging collaborative learning.

On the occasion, the Minister also released the Abstract Book and the College Newsletter, reflecting the scholarly contributions of the participants.

Earlier, the Education Minister e-inaugurated Skill Tower hosting different Skill laboratories, Geography Block, renovated Physics and Chemistry Block of heritage Building, Conference Hall and Browsing Centre for the GGM Science College.

Top Indian Athletes Set To Compete In Dal Lake's Water Sports Festival

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Some of the best canoe, kayak and rowing exponents from across the country will vie for supremacy at the iconic Dal Lake when the inaugural Khelo India Water Sports Festival commences here on Thursday.

The three-day event will see more than 400 athletes compete for 24 gold medals in the three water sports disciplines with Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Kerala expected to dominate.

The KIWSF is the first consolidated Open-age category championship where all 14 kayaking & canoeing events and 10 rowing events, which are part of the Olympic curriculum, will be held. The first edition of the KIWSF



will also have three demonstration events - water skiing, 'shikhar' boat spring and dragon boat race - to add more glamour to the event.

A total of 36 states and union territories are participating in the festival.

Suhani Meena, a rower from Madhya Pradesh who will be competing here, said the KIWSF was a great opportunity to

showcase her talent.

The qualification standards for all medal events have been kept very high. In kayaking and canoeing, the last nationals held at Tehri (Uttarakhand) in November will be the benchmark.

The top 15 in singles and doubles and the top-eight in fours will participate in KIWSF. In rowing, only the top-eight from the nationals held in Bhopal in March this year will be eligible.

The country's leading rower, Army man Arjun Lal Jat, representing Delhi here, will be one of the star attractions. Jat, 28, has taken part in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and won silver in the light-weight double sculls at the Asian Games in Hangzhou in 2023.

The KIWSF will see almost equal representation from men and women. Of the 409 athletes competing for medals, 202 will be female. Madhya Pradesh (44), Haryana (37), Odisha (34) and Kerala (33) will have some of the largest contingents at KIWSF 2025, while Gujarat, Puducherry and West Bengal will have the smallest teams.

Nitish Chaudhary, a two-time national silver medalist from Rajasthan, said, "For a water sports athlete like me, the climate and the facilities here are amazing."

Three gold medals - in kayaking and canoeing - will be decided on day one. All 10 rowing finals are slotted on August 23.

The opening ceremony, expected to be attended by the union minister of state Raksha Khadse, will be held on Thursday.

SA's Subrayen Reported For Suspect Bowling Action

South Africa off-spinner Prenelan Subrayen was reported for a suspect bowling action during the first one-day international against Australia, the ICC said on Wednesday.

"The match officials' report specified concerns about the legality of Subrayen's action," the ICC said in a statement.

Subrayen picked up 1-46 in his debut ODI against Australia on Tuesday as South Africa romped to a 98-run win to lead the three-match series 1-0.

The 31-year old Subrayen has 14 days to undergo an independent assessment of his bowling action at an ICC-accredited testing laboratory. He is allowed to bowl until the results of his tests are known.

The rule allows a bowler 15 degrees of elbow extension when he delivers the cricket ball. This is not the first time that the off-spinner has come under scrutiny. (AP)

Italian Football Coaches Call For Israel To Be Suspended

The Italian Soccer Coaches' Association is pushing for Israel to be suspended from international competition over the war in Gaza.

Ahead of Italy's crucial World Cup qualifiers against Israel in the next two months, the AIAC says "Israel must stop. Soccer must also take action."

The AIAC has written a formal letter to the Italian soccer federation, to be forwarded to European and world soccer's governing bodies, calling for Israel to be suspended.

"The AIAC Board of Directors unanimously believes that, given the daily massacres, which have also resulted in hundreds of deaths among managers, coaches, and athletes ... it is legitimate, necessary, indeed a duty, to place at the center of federation talks the request, to be submitted to UEFA and FIFA, for the temporary exclusion of Israel from sporting competitions," the letter concludes.

"Because the pain of the past cannot cloud anyone's conscience and humanity."

Italy is set to play Israel on neutral turf in Debrecen, Hungary on Sept. 8, before hosting the return match in Udine on Oct. 14.

GBHSS Kakapora Emerges Victorious In Zonal Cricket Final



Observer News Service

PULWAMA: Government Boys Higher Secondary School Kakapora showcased remarkable talent and determination in clinching the championship title after defeating Government Higher Secondary School Ratnipora in the final match of the much awaited Zonal Level Cricket tournament.

The event, organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Zone Kakapora, was held at Green Park, Lelhar Kakapora, from August 18 to 20.

The tournament witnessed overwhelming participation from various schools, reflecting the passion, sporting spirit and potential of the youth of Zone Kakapora. The final match drew enthusiastic spectators and concluded with thunderous applause for the winning team.

Adding to their moment of glory, five standout players from HSS Kakapora have been selected to represent Zone Kakapora in the forthcoming Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament, scheduled to be held at Sports Stadium Pulwama.

Online Gaming Bill: Cricket Industry's Revenue Could Be Hit

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The 'Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill 2025', which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, could spell the end of "real money gaming platforms", that have stakes in the sponsorship market of Indian sports, most significantly cricket.

The contents of the bill, which aims to regulate one of the fastest growing industries, is music to the ears for the Esports fraternity in the country.

But the multi-billion dollar fantasy gaming industry comprising companies that have spent big money in sponsorship of cricket might see a marked dip in their revenues.

And as a chain reaction, it could also affect the sports sponsorship market, including individual players' sponsorship and franchise-based domestic leagues of disciplines like kabaddi and football.

The Online gaming regula-

tion bill looks to create a regulatory body that will look after four diverse segments -- Esports, educational gaming, social and casual gaming and real money gaming. Of these, there will be restrictions on online money games, states the document which is in possession of PTI.

As per "PROHIBITIONS" clause: "No person shall offer, aid, abet, induce or otherwise indulge or engage in the offering of online money game and online money gaming service."

"No bank, financial institution, or any other person facilitating financial transactions or authorisation of funds shall engage in, permit, aid, abet, induce or otherwise facilitate any transaction or authorisation of funds towards payment for any online money gaming service."

The "OFFENCES AND PENALTIES" clause clearly terms real money gaming as a criminal offence which could lead to jail and humongous fine for the service provider.

Spinner Kuldeep Yadav Slips To Third In ODI Rankings



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav has slipped to third place in the latest ICC ODI rankings for bowlers released on Wednesday with South African tweeker Keisling Maharaj reclaiming the top position.

Maharaj regained the top position after helping his team beat Australia by 98 runs in the first ODI of their three-match series in Cairns.

The 35-year-old left-arm spinner, who was named Player of the Match after grabbing five for 33, overtook Kuldeep and Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana to the top spot, which he had earlier held briefly in November

and December 2023.

Apart from Kuldeep, Ravindra Jadeja is the only Indian bowler who is in the top 10 in the updated list.

The Indian team has not played an ODI match since their title triumph in the Champions Trophy.

In the men's batting rankings, Shubman Gill continues to top the list with 784 points, with Shreyas Iyer being the other Indian in the top 10 at sixth position.

In the men's T20I rankings, India's Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma remained on the top two places with skipper Suryakumar Yadav in the sixth spot and Yashasvi Jaiswal in 10th position.

Salah Voted POTY By Fellow Pros In English Football

Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah was voted the men's player of the year in English soccer for last season at the Professional Footballers' Association awards on Tuesday.

For Salah, it marks a record third time he has won the award that is voted by his fellow professionals. The 33-year-old Egypt international scored 29 goals and provided 18 assists in the Premier League as Liverpool powered to a record-equaling 20th English top-flight championship.

Salah also collected the Football Writers' Association's Footballer of the Year award for a third time earlier in the year. Aston Villa midfielder Morgan Rogers was voted as the men's young player of the year. (AP)

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