

## 2 Govt Employees Sacked Over Terror Links

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday terminated the services of two government employees in the Union Territory over their alleged involvement in terror activities, officials said.

The sacked employees were identified as Syad Ahmad Khan, an assistant stockman in the Sheep Husbandry Department residing in the Keran area, and Khurshid Ahmad Rather, a school teacher from the Karnah area -- both in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Article 311 (2)(c) of the Constitution was invoked to terminate their services after investigations by security and intelligence agencies established their involvement, they said. Both of them are currently lodged in the Kupwara district jail.

According to officials, Rather is accused of working as an over-ground worker (OGW) for the Lashkar-e-Taiba.

A probe revealed that Rather, who was appointed under the Rehbar-e-Taleem scheme in 2003 and confirmed in 2008, allegedly procured and

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# Government Takes Over 215 Jama'at Linked Schools

Intelligence Agencies Reported These Schools Adversely, Says Secy SED

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Friday ordered the takeover of 215 schools affiliated, directly or indirectly, with the proscribed organisation Jama'at-e-Islami (JeI) and its affiliate Falah-e-Aam Trust (FAT).

According to Government Order No. 578-JK(Edu) of 2025, the decision follows adverse reports from intelligence agencies which identified these schools as directly or indirectly linked with the banned outfit. The validity of their existing managing committees had either expired or was reported negatively, officials said.

The order states that the management of these schools will now be taken over by the respective



District Magistrates/Deputy Commissioners, who will propose fresh committees after due verification.

The government has directed the concerned authorities

to ensure that the academic future of students enrolled in these institutions is not affected in any manner. District Magistrates, in consultation with the School Education

## Edu Min Denies Ordering DCs To Take Over Schools

Soon after the School Education department ordered taking over of 215 schools affiliated with the banned outfit Jamaat-i-Islami (JeI) and Falah-i-Aam Trust (FAT), minister Sakina Itoo responded by saying she had not asked the deputy commissioners to take control of

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provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Rules 2010, read with SRO 292 of 2018 and SO 177 of 2022.

Secretary to government for School Education Department (SED) in an order said that the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in February 2019 and February 2024 issued under sub-section (1) of section (3) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967) declared the Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), Jammu and Kashmir as an unlawful association

"The Intelligence Agencies (IA) have identified a number of schools which were found to be directly or indirectly affiliated with proscribed organisations Jama'at-e-Islami (JeI) and Falah-e-Aam Trust (FAT)," reads the order.

Sharma in the order further stated that the

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## J&K Assembly Session Likely In Sept

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: National Conference Minister Javid Ahmad Dar said on Friday that the autumn session of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly is expected to be convened next month.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function, the minister said the autumn session of the Assembly is likely to be held next month.

"The session is on the cards. It is essential to convene the Assembly by the first or second week of September," Dar said in response to a question regarding the opposition's demand for an assembly session to pass a resolution seeking restoration of statehood to Jammu & Kashmir.

The minister said it would not be appropriate at this stage to comment on the bills brought by the Union Government to remove chief minister ministers in States and Union Territories, saying they have been sent to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for examination.

"They have been sent to JPC. We will speak when any decision would be taken on them (by JPC)," he said. | More on P6

## CAT Dismisses Plea For Rescheduling JKSSB Exam

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Jammu Bench, has dismissed a set of applications seeking re-scheduling of the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) examination slated to be held later this month.

The plea had been filed separately by four candidates on the grounds that the JKSSB test dates -- August 24 (Junior Engineer Electrical posts) and August 31 (Junior Engineer Civil posts) -- clash with the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examination scheduled to be held from August 22-31.

The tribunal, however, declined to interfere with the examination schedule set by the JKSSB, saying more than 31,000 candidates cannot be made to suffer for the inconvenience of four candidates, as all preparations for holding the tests have been completed and admit

| More on P6



cards issued to the aspirants.

"Moreover, interference with the examination process at this stage would cause a huge loss to the public exchequer due to cancellation of various arrangements made for the examination scheduled on Aug 24 and Aug 31," the CAT bench, comprising Administrative member Pragna Sahay Saksena and Judicial member Sanjeev Gupta, said in a seven-page order.

The CAT passed the judgement after hearing the arguments from Senior Additional Advocate General | More on P6

## People's Voice Must Be Soul Of Govt Policy: LG

'25 Cr Uplifted From Poverty in 10 Yrs India's Biggest Feat' | Felicitates Winners Of CIPS Awards In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that policymaking must move beyond offices and be rooted in the aspirations of people to ensure a responsive and responsible governance system.

Speaking at a felicitation ceremony in Srinagar to honour winners of the Centre for Innovations in Public Systems (CIPS) Awards, the LG congratulated the awardees for their transformative work in health, education, IT and rural development.

"People's voice must be the soul of a government policy. Policies cannot be drafted in offices anymore. Policymaking should be done on the ground while



incorporating the suggestions and needs of the citizens," Sinha said.

He lauded the courage and dedication of all the awardees with which they have stepped forward in sectors like health, education, information technology, rural development and bring about

a positive change in the lives of a large portion of the country's population.

"Civil servants, engineers, doctors, scientists, technocrats are the administration's backbone. Their impartiality, honesty, efficiency and fearlessness are our most valuable assets. | More on P6

## Kishtwar Rescue Operation Continues

Missing Man Returns Home on 9th Day



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Search operation by multiple agencies to trace people who went missing during the recent cloudburst and flashfloods in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district entered the ninth day on Friday.

Meanwhile, the family of one person who was earlier listed missing reported that he has returned home safely, officials said.

No fresh bodies were found during the operation.

Sixty five people, including three CISF personnel and

one Special Police Officer of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, have died in the natural calamity that struck Chisoti, the last motorable village en route to Machail Mata temple, on August 14. Over 100 people were injured.

"The search operation continued for the ninth day on Friday, but no one was found during the efforts by multiple agencies," a senior officer told PTI.

He added that the number of missing people came down to 32 after one person from the missing | More on P6

## J&K Govt Re-fixes JKAS Seniority After Court Ruling

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has re-fixed the seniority of two officers in the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) in compliance with a judgment passed by the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

As per a government order, the seniority of Dr Ghulam Nabi Itoo and Tariq Hussain Ganai has been revised following a legal challenge to the JKAS seniority list issued in 2021.

The case, initially filed by Dr Itoo and others before the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), contested the 2021 list and sought restoration of an earlier seniority order from 2011. The Tribunal ruled in favour of the petitioners, setting aside the 2021 list and reinstating the 2011 positions.

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir subsequently challenged the Tribunal's decision in the High Court, but the petition was dismissed, with the court upholding the CAT's ruling.

Following the court's directive, the government has assigned Dr Ghulam Nabi Itoo a seniority position 113-A, while Tariq Hussain Ganai has been placed at position 120-A in the revised JKAS seniority list.

## Struggle Begins Anew: CM After Statehood Hopes Dashed

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: With the hopes for restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir in the Monsoon Session dashed, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said the struggle begins anew from here.

"Leave it now, the hope has gone, the water has crossed over. We will start our process from here. We had hoped that this would not be needed, that the promises made to us would be acted upon. On those promises, action will be taken," Omar told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

"Well, If we need to struggle a bit, have to work hard a



bit ... That we will do on our part," the National Conference leader said.

The chief minister was attending the 56th School Raising Day of Sainik School in Nagrota and inaugurated

Triveni Girls Hostel.

He also accused the Centre of intending to use the three proposed bills on prime minister, chief ministers, and ministers to selectively target the politicians.

## ₹1 Million Loan Fraud: Poor Teacher Left Paying EMIs

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Srinagar: A humble village teacher from Muppathri in central Kashmir's Budgam district has been battling a nightmare for the past two years after falling victim to a shocking cyber fraud.

In early August 2023, Jalaludin had already noticed suspicious withdrawals from his salary account and rushed to the local J&K Bank branch, asking officials to freeze his account. But as banking hours had ended, staff reportedly kept his application pending and directed him to approach

the police instead. The police, in turn, advised him to contact the cyber wing. The bureaucratic shuffle caused crucial delays -- delays that fraudsters soon exploited.

Same night (August 8, 2023) Jalaludin received an unexpected SMS notification on his phone -- his account had been credited with a staggering 10.5 lakh. By the time banks opened the next morning, the money was gone.

Fraudsters had allegedly availed a loan in his name, transferred the amount into his account. | More on P6

## SC Upholds Ban On Riverbed Mining In Kashmir

A ruling over a small Budgam stream has turned into a test case for how Kashmir manages its fragile rivers amid the surge of construction.

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In Panzan, a Budgam village in central Kashmir, the Shall Ganga stream sustains rice fields, apple orchards, and wetlands alive with migratory birds. Two years ago, villagers saw excavators tear into its bed, hauling boulders and gravel for highway projects. The murmur of water gave way to the grind of machines.

That scene set off a legal fight that ended this week in New Delhi.

The Supreme Court of India



Friday dismissed appeals by a private contractor, the National Highway Authority of India,

and the Jammu and Kashmir government, and upheld a National Green Tribunal order

banning mining in the stream. The judges ruled that Kashmir's own environmental watchdogs had failed to uphold their mandate.

The case had been pushed forward by Raja Muzaffar Bhat, a Kashmiri environmental activist. In 2022, he petitioned the tribunal against NKC Projects Pvt. Ltd., accusing the company of violating sand-mining rules.

The tribunal first stayed the work and later imposed a complete ban. The company challenged that decision, but the country's | More on P6





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# IIT-B Researchers Assess Feasibility Of DSWC Systems For Cooling Data Centres

Press Trust Of India

Amid rapid expansion of data centres driven by growing demand for digital services, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay on Friday said they have come up with a new methodology to assess the feasibility of Deep Seawater Cooling (DSWC) systems. Researchers from IIT Bombay, under the guidance of Prof Gurubalan Annadurai, have unveiled a comprehensive methodology to assess the feasibility of DSWC systems, presenting an alternative to conventional, energy-intensive cooling methods. "As the planet warms and our digital footprint expands, finding energy-efficient and sustainable cooling solutions is a critical necessity. In DSWC systems, cold water from deep ocean layers is transported through long pipelines to land-based facilities," said Dr Kashish Kumar, a postdoctoral fellow at IIT Bombay and the lead author of the study. The new study presents a framework that enables the precise calculation of the resources required and the payback period on investments, while implementing a DSWC system based on the prescribed methodology. According to the International Energy Agency, data centres accounted for approximately 1-1.13 per cent of global electricity consumption in 2022, a figure projected to rise significantly in the coming years, the report stated. Cooling these server-packed facilities is a significant



nificant part of this energy burden, often consuming up to 40 per cent of a data centre's total energy use. This demand is expected to more than double by 2030, primarily driven by the expansion of Artificial Intelligence. While the depths of the ocean offer easy solution to our cooling needs, transporting large amounts of water over long distances, while maintaining its temperature and rate of flow, can be cost-intensive to both install and operate.

"As the cold water travels through warmer upper ocean layers, it can absorb heat and become less effective for cooling. Each segment (of pipeline) is also exposed to harsh marine conditions, including salinity, high pressure, and biological activity (biofouling)," said Dr Kumar while explaining the challenges of using DSWC. In tropical oceanic regions, particularly around the equator and extending into low latitudes such as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, seasonal variations in seawater temperature, especially at depths beyond 100 metres, are minimal, she explained. "This consistent deep-sea temperature ensures that the DSWC system delivers reliable cooling performance throughout the year, without requiring seasonal modifications or recalibrations," Dr Kumar added.



As the planet warms and our digital footprint expands, finding energy-efficient and sustainable cooling solutions is a critical necessity. In DSWC systems, cold water from deep ocean layers is transported through long pipelines to land-based facilities

Researchers found that when applied to a data centre with a 100 MW cooling load in a tropical region like the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a DSWC system could achieve an impressive annual energy saving of 79 per cent. The approach promises substantial environmental benefits, including over 79 per cent annual reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, the study revealed. However, the researchers acknowledge certain limitations, as their study relies on some simplifying assumptions, such as fixed supply air temperature and heat exchanger performance based on standard guidelines, which might vary in real-world scenarios. The system also performs economically and operationally better in coastal regions with easy access to deep ocean cold water. Nevertheless, the framework developed allows for investors to carefully assess the economic and technical feasibility of switching from conventional to DSWC systems. By harnessing the naturally cold temperatures of the deep ocean, DSWC systems can alleviate strain on electrical grids, lower operational costs for businesses, and contribute substantially to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Dr Kumar said. "Developing nations may benefit immensely, particularly island nations and coastal regions. However, international cooperation, technology transfer, and targeted policy support (green finance or infrastructure subsidies) are essential for scalability," Dr Kumar added.

## Researchers Observe Mathematicians Describe Unpredictability Prior To 'Eureka' Moment

Press Trust Of India

Minutes before a mathematician had a breakthrough 'eureka' moment, researchers saw subtle changes in their behaviour that notably became less predictable -- findings offer a new window into understanding human creativity, they said. Derived from the ancient Greek language, the word is famously known to have first uttered by the mathematician and inventor Archimedes, when he discovered the principle of buoyancy while taking a bath and ran naked down the streets shouting 'Eureka!'. However, how these sudden 'eureka' moments -- that drive progress in science and mathematics -- happen remains shrouded in mystery, the researchers from the US' universities of California Merced and Indiana said in the study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The team videographed six PhD-level mathematicians as they worked out "notoriously tough problems" from the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition -- considered a premiere one at the university level -- on a blackboard. Analysing more than 4,600 moment-to-moment interactions with blackboard "inscriptions" that included



writing, pointing, erasing and shifting attention, the researchers observed that the mathematicians' behaviour became measurably less predictable in the minutes before suddenly exclaiming 'aha!' or 'I see it!'. Familiar patterns of moving between ideas gave way to novel, unprecedented connections, the team said. "Using naturalistic video recordings of mathematicians working on proofs 'in the wild' (i.e., in their own offices and seminar rooms), we show that insights that appear to come out of nowhere are actually prefigured by changes in how mathematicians are writing and gesturing," the authors wrote. They used analytical methods from statistical physics and theoretical ecology to understand the onset of 'eureka' moments. Using information theory -- a mathematical

analysis of concepts, parameters and rules that influence how a message is conveyed -- the researchers quantified the unpredictability prior to the 'eureka' moment and found that it reliably ramped up before insights were verbalised. "This is one of those discoveries that was possible only because we made connections between very different scientific disciplines," senior author Tyler Marghetis, Assistant Professor of Cognitive and Information Sciences, University of California Merced, said. "We took ideas from ecology and physics, added tools from information theory, and combined them with a century of work on the psychology of creativity," Marghetis said. The authors added that even though the study focussed on expert mathematicians, the methodology can be applied in any field where thinking unfolds in observable steps, such as a chemist sketching molecular bonds, or an artist exploring new forms. The study's approach could help scientists better understand the micro-dynamics of creativity and, perhaps, even predict breakthroughs before they happen, the authors said. "Our method for inferring when mathematicians are on the cusp of a breakthrough is quite general, so it may apply to other systems that generate a time series of discrete, symbolic events," they wrote.

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### Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam

Sub... Application of Sajad Ahmad Yatoo s/o Mansoor Ahmad Yatoo R/o Tilgam for issuance of legal hair certificate..

#### Public Notice

It is inform to general public that applicants father's legal hair certificate is under process in this office in this matter report Was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants father's namely Mansoor Ahmad Yatoo s/o Mohd Sultan Yatoo R/o Tilgam died on 29/07/2025 and left following legal hairs

S No.	Name	Relation with Deceased	Age	Occupation	Status
01	Mohd Sultan Yatoo	Father	76	Old Age	Married
02	Mala Begum	Mother	65	Old Age	Married
03	Saleema Begum	Wife	55	Housewife	Widow
04	Farhat Mansoor	Daughter	31	Student	Unmarried
05	Rahila Mansoor	Daughter	27	Student	Unmarried
06	Sajad Mansoor	Son	21	Student	Unmarried
07	Ronak Mansoor	Daughter	15	Student	Unmarried

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

SD Naib Tehsildar Tilgam fko

### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK0420110013678 issued in favour of MOHD YOUSUF MIR Parentage GH MOHIDIN MIR

Whereas an application has been recieved by one MOHD YOUSUF MIR Parentage GH MOHIDIN MIR wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as MOHAMMAD YOUSUF MIR Parentage GH MOHIDUDIN Which needs to be changed as MOHD YOUSUF MIR Parentage GH MOHIDIN 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

Subject: Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name and style M/S" Madadgar Tour and Travel" Situated at Sakidafar, Gandarpora, Novpora Srinagar

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I Irsha Hilal Najmi S/o Hilal Ahmad Najmi R/o Mureed Pora, Hawal Srinagar, Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "Madadgar Tour and Travel" Situated at Sakidafar, Gandarpora, Novpora Srinagar, Kashmir under the Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, PanCard, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years) Character Certificate (Police Department) Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/ Adventure tour Operator Now as per 18K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration (e-mail Id:-ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

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### اڙنيات بومي زندگي

عنوان:- درخواست بجانب فاروق احمد ذار ولد اسد الله ذار ساکن بنگلی پورہ ابرار اجرائی لیگل میر سرٹیفیکیٹ بحق خود

#### اشتهار برخاص دعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض ڈیپنڈنٹ سرٹیفیکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا والدہ بحق بیگم مومند 28/12/2024 کو فوت ہوا ہے اور موتنی کے وارثان جائزہ نہیں ہے

مشتاق احمد ذار ولد اسد الله ذار	مزدوری	58 سال	پر موتنی
غلام محمد ذار ولد اسد الله ذار	--	51 سال	--
اقتیاز احمد پسر	ناتوان	47 سال	--
اسحاق احمد ذار پسر	ڈرائیور	40 سال	--
فاروق احمد پسر	مزدوری	39 سال	--

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی دیگر وارثان موجود نہیں ہے اور امتیاض احمد ذار جو کہ بھتیجی طور پر ناتوان ہے اس سائل اپنے حق میں لیگل میر سرٹیفیکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ سرٹیفیکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار سات دن کے اندر نامزد آئے پھر یا اعتراض عدالت حد کو پیشی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعدگز رے مہاج کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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## J&K Bank Provides 5 E-Carts To Kashmir University

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of its commitment to sustainability through eco-friendly measures, J&K Bank today handed over five e-Carts to the University of Kashmir under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program aimed at supporting the institution's Green Campus Initiative.

At a brief function held at the University Campus, the Bank's Chief General Manager Imtiyaz Ahmad handed over the keys of the eco-friendly vehicles to Vice Chancellor Prof. Nilofer

mobility within the University, especially for females and specially-abled persons while reducing our carbon footprint on the campus".

She further said, "We are proud to have such a great relationship with the J&K's premiere financial institution. This relationship has been nurtured by decades of trust, mutual respect and shared vision of educational excellence in the campuses of University of Kashmir, J&K's historic, highest seat of learning."

She appreciated the Bank's generous and



Khan in presence of Registrar Dr Naseer Iqbal, Dean Academic Affairs Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, and Director (Institute of Technology - Zakura Campus) Prof. M Tariq Banday. Dean Students Welfare Prof. Parvez Ahmad, Bank's Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshad Qadri and Zonal Head (Srinagar) Layek Ahmad Jan also attended the function besides other officials of the Bank and the University.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof. Nilofer Khan described the initiative as "very good and a great service for the student community as these eco-friendly carts will ease

consistent support to the University under CSR but urged the bank to identify and undertake some critical projects aimed at bringing relief to the students coming from economically weaker sections.

On the occasion, the Bank's Chief General Manager Imtiyaz Ahmad said, "As the premier financial institution of J&K, we believe it is our responsibility to support initiatives that strengthen environmental sustainability and community welfare. The Green Campus Initiative of University of Kashmir is a visionary step and we are glad to be their partner in this cause."

## Body Of MBBS Student Saba Rasool To Arrive Home Today

Observer News Service

Srinagar- The mortal remains of Saba Rasool, a Kashmiri student who passed away in Iran's Urmia province, will arrive in Srinagar today. According to her family, funeral prayers will be held at Zadi Masjid Sekidafar Park after which she will be laid to rest at her ancestral graveyard at Waniyar.

Her death has drawn grief both in Iran and at home, where her family and friends await her return.

Saba, a fourth-year medical student from

Safakadal, Srinagar was pursuing MBBS at Urmia University of Medical Sciences in Iran.

Initial speculation from some foreign students had pointed to possible medical negligence in her treatment. However, her brother, who traveled to claim her body, categorically dismissed these allegations. He shared his late sister's messages, confirming that she was under the care of her professor, Dr. Shakeri, a well-regarded physician in Urmia, along with other faculty members of the medical sciences university.

## Workshop On RTI, Citizen-Centric Governance Held

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Central Information Commission (CIC) and the J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPARD) jointly organized a workshop on "Right to Information and Citizen-Centric Governance" here.

Chief Information Commissioner, Heeralal Samariya, delivered the keynote address, highlighting the challenges faced by the CIC and public authorities in implementing the RTI Act in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Samariya emphasized the crucial role of Central Public Information Officers (CPIOs) and First Appellate Authorities (FAAs) in ensuring effective implementation of the Act. He also stressed the importance of proac-

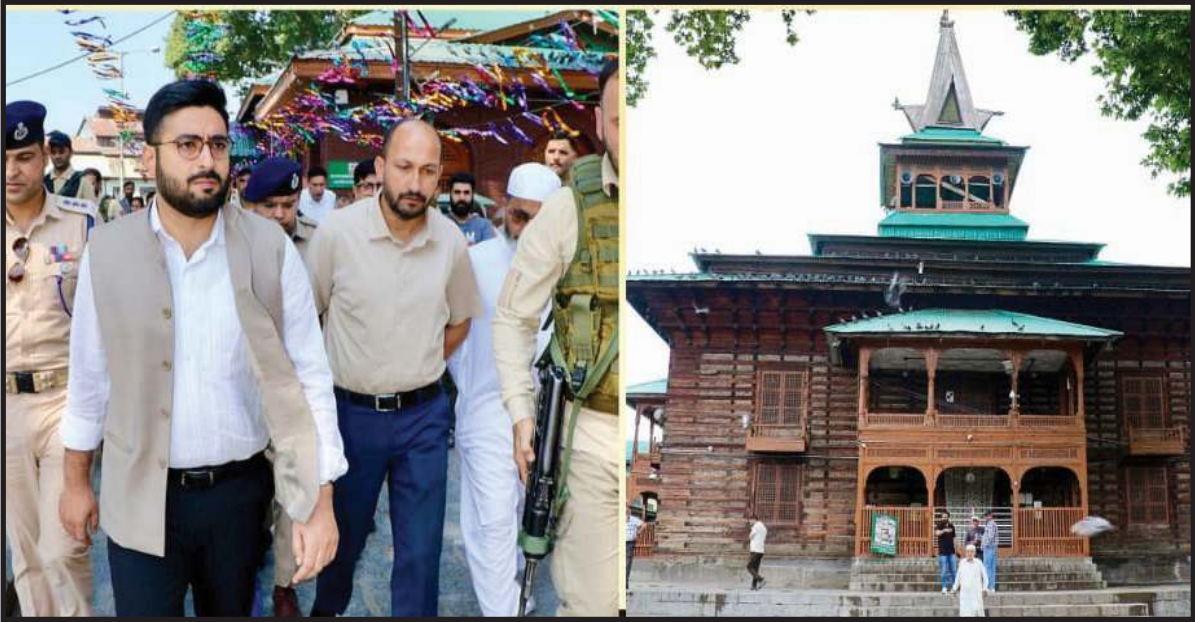
tive disclosure by public authorities and regular transparency audits to assess the effectiveness of the RTI framework.

The workshop, attended by nearly 250 officers, including FAAs, CPIOs and other officials from various public authorities, provided a platform for interactive discussion and knowledge sharing.

Samariya addressed the queries and concerns raised by the participants, offering valuable insights and guidance.

Rehana Batool, Director IMPARD, spoke about the institute's activities while Dr. Jahan Ara Jabeen provided an overview of the implementation of the RTI Act in Jammu and Kashmir.

The workshop was widely appreciated by the participants, who praised the collaborative effort between CIC and IMPARD.



## DC Finalizes Urs Arrangements At Khanqah-e-Naqshband Sahib

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Friday, visited the Khanqah-e-Naqshband Sahib in Khawaja Bazar area in Shahr-e-Khaas locality of the district to review the preparations for the upcoming annual Urs observance.

On the occasion, DC took stock of the facilities being put in place to ensure smooth observance of the annual religious occasion at the Shrine. He held a detailed meeting with shrine administration and officers from various line departments to discuss and finalize arrangements.

DC reviewed the arrangements, concerning supply of water and electricity, sanitation and cleanliness measures, medical facilities, transport & parking facilities.

DC directed the officers of the line departments to ensure all nec-

“DC directed the officers of the line departments to ensure all necessary arrangements are diligently put in place to facilitate a peaceful and smooth observance of the Urs.

essary arrangements are diligently put in place to facilitate a peaceful and smooth observance of the Urs.

He also directed the concerned

to ensure adequate supply of water at the shrine for devotees. He emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness in and around the shrine and instructed the SMC authorities to take necessary measures for sanitation, besides making all street lights functional in the area.

Similarly, PDD Engineers were directed to ensure an uninterrupted power supply in the area during the Urs days. Health authorities were asked to ensure adequate arrangements for medical facilities at the shrine during the Urs days.

During the visit, DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, KPDC, City Drainage, City Roads, KPDC, Tehsildar Khanyar, Chief Sanitation Officer, Medical Superintendent Gousia Hospital, Senior Officers of Police & Traffic departments, AD FCS&CA, representatives from Khanqah-e-Naqashband Sahib and other concerned.

## DC Reviews Enrolment Progress Under Financial Inclusion Schemes

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To review the progress of enrolments under major financial inclusion and social security schemes being executed through banks and financial institutions in the district, a comprehensive review meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, DC took a department wise review of the progress under various Financial Inclusion schemes including distribution of RuPay Debit Cards under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yo-

jana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY).

On the occasion, DC directed stakeholder departments to collaborate proactively, ensuring swift achievement of targets so that the benefit is extended to all the eligible beneficiaries for financial inclusion in the district. He stressed committed efforts by all line departments and banks to register all left out eligible citizens.

He emphasized the need for all concerned departments and banks to build public confidence in financial inclusion schemes, and highlighted the importance of these initiatives in providing financial support, particularly to marginalized sections, by offering life and accidental insurance coverage.

DC urged the concerned depart-

ments and banks to infuse confidence in the public regarding financial inclusion schemes and ensure all highlighted the importance of these schemes in providing financial support to citizens, especially those from marginalized sections by offering life and accidental insurance coverage.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar; Superintending Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad; PO ICDS, Bureeda Majeed, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, DSWO, DMO, Assistant Labour Commissioner, LDM (Banks), Chief Sanitation Officer (SMC), and other concerned Officers.

### OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER IQRA EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION KALANTRA PAYEEN, ZONE WAGOORA BARAMULLA

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This certificate is issued upon request for official purposes.

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fko Phone: 9622464953

### NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender No: 118-2025-26-ADEN-JUC Date: 21.08.2025. Sr. DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) with closing date-15/09/2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bid up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Tender Type		Tendering Section		Bidding System	
Open		Works		Single Packet System	
Date of Uploading Tenders		Bid Starting Date		Bid Closing Date/Time	
21.08.2025		01.09.2025		15.09.2025/ 15:00 Hrs.	
S.No.: 1	Tender No. 118-2025-26-ADEN-JUC				
Details of Tender: Construction of RCC box (2 nos. twin boxes of size 5mx1.35m air pushing) bridge in lieu of steel trough bridge no. 158(11x1.83) at km 62/8-9 in PHR-LNK section.					
Advertised Value (Rs.)		Earnest Money		Validity of Offer	
2,24,56,976.49/-		2,62,300.00/-		60 Days	
				12 Months	
Similar nature of work:- Similar nature of work:- "R.C.C bridge/Limited height subway work."					
Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.					
2554/2025					

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice			
Sr.DEN-IV/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> with closing date: 12.09.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>			
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	
Open	Works	Single Packet System	
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
21.08.2025	29.08.2025	12.09.2025, 15:00	
S.N.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	
1	18-2025-26-MCTM-DRM-JAT	TTR of 23 nos (1 in 12) & 02 nos (1 in 8.5) under ADEN-MCTM	
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
2,31,97,664.68	2,66,000.00	60 days	12 Months
Similar nature of work - CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of Track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post work for track maintenance machine like Tamping Machines/Ballast Screening/Regulating Machines and TTR by T-28			
2	19-2025-26-BDGM-DRM-JAT	Transportation of material from Dhillwan depot or any other location as per requirement of railway to BAH-L-BRML section under ADEN/BDGM	
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
39,99,997.25	80,000.00	60 days	8 Months
Similar nature of work - Nil			
Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against the tender.			
No: 18-2025-26-MCTM-DRM-JAT & 19-2025-26-BDGM-DRM-JAT Date: 21.08.2025 2568/25			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAFZR-SLR25-100	05/09/25 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 18104/F1, 11058/R1, 14633/F1, 12014/F1, 14632/R1, 14632/F1, 14633/F2, 14542/F1, 14633/R1 & 20424/F1.
EAFZR-SLR25-100	08/09/25 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 12422/F1, 14682/F1, 14880/F1, 15532/F1, 22552/F1, 12032/F1, 22424/F1, 22126/F1, 14622/F1 & 22446/F1.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>		
SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE 2550/2025		



KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of  
Kashmir Observer LLP  
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex,  
Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam  
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K  
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider  
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo  
News Editor: Farzana Nisar  
Online Editor: Syed Hamid  
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,  
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah  
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad  
RNI Registration No: 69503/98  
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16  
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja  
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705  
Editorial: (0194) 2502327  
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

## Kashmir's New Stage Is Streaming

The valley has always been a place of stories. They live in its songs, papier-mâché patterns, poetry recited in community gatherings, and youth waiting for a stage. What Kashmir has lacked is a platform large enough to carry these voices beyond its mountains. That possibility is finally arriving with the rise of streaming services. Later this month, Prime Video will release Songs of Paradise, a musical drama inspired by the life of legendary singer Raj Begum. The film, directed by Kashmiri filmmaker Danish Renzu, brings back the voice of a woman who once sang her way into the conscience of the valley. More than nostalgia, its global release signals a new beginning for Kashmiri creativity. For decades, the region has been absent from the map of Indian cinema. Kashmir has provided the backdrop for countless Bollywood romances, yet the valley itself has not produced a mainstream feature film or web series that tells its own story. Local artists have worked in fragments while waiting for opportunities that never arrived. Streaming platforms can change this. India already has nearly 50 million paid OTT subscribers, and the audience is hungry for authentic, place-rooted stories. Series like Mirzapur or Delhi Crime have shown how regional narratives, when well told, can capture international attention. There is little reason why Kashmir's cultural icons cannot travel the same path. The potential is vast. Folk musicians struggling to preserve wanvun traditions, artisans painting walnut wood with age-old patterns, and young filmmakers scripting on laptops in cramped Srinagar rooms carry stories that could find global resonance. With the right investment and platforms willing to take risks, Kashmiri talent can move from margins to mainstream. The stakes are more than cultural. Kashmir's economy remains fragile. Youth unemployment is among the highest in the country. A thriving creative sector, powered by digital distribution, can create livelihoods while also reshaping how the world sees Kashmir. The valley has waited long enough for its creative voices to be heard. The release of Songs of Paradise shows what becomes possible when a Kashmiri story is carried by a global platform. Streaming services now have the chance, and the responsibility, to open the door wider. Behind it stand thousands of young artists, ready for the world.

# Waste Piles Up While Wars Take the Blame

Officials in Jammu and Kashmir are blaming Operation Sindoor for failing to clear toxic garbage. The river, and the people who drink from it, are paying the price.



Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat

After every disaster in Kashmir, government offices discover a convenient alibi. When floods devastated the valley in 2014, officials in towns untouched by water suddenly claimed their records had been “washed away.” Requests under the Right to Information Act were stonewalled with this excuse. The damage became less about nature and more about officialdom shielding itself. The same story is unfolding again in Poonch. This time the scapegoat is Operation Sindoor, a security offensive launched in May after the Pahalgam attack. The operation lasted barely three or four days. Yet when the National Green Tribunal (NGT) pressed the local administration to remove mountains of garbage choking the Pulast Nadi, the Assistant Commissioner Development, who also heads the Municipal Council, claimed the waste could not be cleared because of the Op Sindoor. The tribunal's order was unambiguous. On April 9, it directed that all “legacy waste” dumped along the Poonch river must be removed by August 31. That gave the municipality almost five months. Even after Operation Sindoor ended, officials had weeks to begin work. They did nothing. By the time the case was listed again on August 19, less than 10 percent of the waste had been cleared. Faced with an angry bench led by Justice Prakash Srivastava, the officer changed tack. He promised that all waste would be cleared by November 30. The NGT forced him to submit an undertaking within ten days. What happened days before that hearing was worse. On August 16, municipal workers drove JCB machines straight into the dump site and pushed tons of waste into the river itself. The act was recorded by local residents who shared geotagged videos and photographs. The attempt was cynical: make the dumping ground look cleaner in photographs while the garbage simply disappeared into the current. I alerted Deputy Commissioner Ashok Sharma, who had only recently taken charge, and sent him the evidence. He stopped the work



By invoking a counter-terror operation to justify civic failure, officials not only trivialized their responsibility but also insulted the seriousness of the operation itself. Security cannot be used as camouflage for mismanagement.

immediately. Yet reports suggest it silently resumed later. More than administrative laziness, this is environmental crime that violates the Municipal Solid Waste Rules of 2016 and the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act of 1974. The Poonch river supplies drinking water to thousands downstream. Every bag of waste pushed into its waters seeps into kitchens and stomachs. The NGT has already imposed a penalty of Rs 1.62 crore on the Municipal Council for continuous violations. Earlier, it even fined the Deputy Commissioner personally for failing to act. Officials had secured 12 kanals of land near Kassalian village for scientific waste disposal. The land lies unused. Instead, the garbage keeps flowing into the river under Sher-e-Kashmir Bridge. Ordinary residents have shown more urgency than officials. Hindu, Sikh, and Muslim groups have jointly petitioned the administration to act. The Sanatan Dharma Sabha Poonch wrote to the DC this month, calling the dumping “unscientific and dangerous.” Activists like Lokesh Sharma have taken the issue to the press. This unity is rare and powerful. It shows that communities understand what is at stake: clean water, safe air, and dignity. I first visited the Poonch dump site in 2016 and wrote about the danger it posed. After years of broken promises, I went to the NGT in 2023. Since then, the tribunal has repeatedly gilled the administration. Little has changed.

Each deadline leads to another, each order meets another excuse. This time, the excuse was Operation Sindoor. By invoking a counter-terror operation to justify civic failure, officials not only trivialized their responsibility but also insulted the seriousness of the operation itself. Security cannot be used as camouflage for mismanagement. Jammu and Kashmir's rivers are lifelines. They irrigate fields, power turbines, and fill taps. To poison them with untreated garbage is to endanger every family downstream. It is negligence dressed as governance. The Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir must hold the Poonch administration accountable. Statements made to the country's highest environmental court cannot be shrugged off as casual falsehoods. The officials who misled the NGT and endangered public health should face disciplinary action. The river flowing through Poonch carries centuries of history and sustains a district. Today it also carries the stench of decay and delay. Unless we act, the region's waters will become repositories of excuses rather than sources of life.

Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow and Chairman of the Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement. He can be reached at [bhatrajamuzaffar@gmail.com](mailto:bhatrajamuzaffar@gmail.com).

## Trumpism Will Outlast Donald Trump. Here's Why

Between Rousseau's “general will,” Herder's “organic nation,” and modern liberalism lies the tension that explains America's populist revolt.



Wajahat Qazi

The United States, as gleaned from ‘mainstream’ media and the hulla-baloo raised thereof, appears to be in crisis mode, almost on the verge of decline, taken over by the forces of irrationality. But this is a caricature, even from afar. The proverbial marrow of the problem appears to lie in a mélange of ideological and extreme form of liberalism, the concept and idea of man(woman) that emerges from this-classical and modern, and variants of nationalism elaborated upon by Herder, Rousseau and so on. To throw this broad assertion into sharp relief, consider extreme ideological liberalism and the concept(s) of man(woman). This form of liberalism fawningly and grovelingly elaborated upon by a person of Francis Fukuyama fame, in his, ‘End of History’ thesis postulated that liberal democracy was the last bastion of mankind. This ideology reckoned that all peer competitors had all died and there was no serious competitor to it. And that a new man(woman) had emerged from liberal democracy's ‘triumph’. Because of these, virtually, practically and philosophically history had ended. The ‘new’ man(woman) was a modern one, not encumbered by the ‘detritus’ of tra-

dition, custom or any other ‘baggage’. Undercutting the western classical concept and idea of man(woman), which held the human being to be defined by purpose whose goal was the cultivation of virtue, this concept reduced humans to a bundle of ‘utils’ driven merely by utilitarian urges (pleasure maximization and pain minimization), emotional ‘baggage’, social influences and socialization into these (so called ‘nurture versus ‘nature’) and other assorted ‘prejudices’. The ideology of extreme liberalism preened and postulated that it would liberate mankind from these. Inhering in the pretenses of liberal democracy was universalism best reflected in Fukuyama's assertions (paraphrased here) that ‘even though it was in America that Liberal democracy had reached its apogee, the rest of the mankind would follow with both the push and pull factors.’ This universalism could, after being given a jolt or a push, resonate in and among all peoples of the world. It would appear that in reified form liberal democracy's push was globalism, another ideology where economics and its vision of man(woman) came to rule the proverbial roost. Allied to a narrow vision and idea of nationalism where Rousseau's ‘general will’ was wed with it, the globalist experiment

began in the United States, leaving its mark on all spheres of life. Thus began the dissipation of the ‘organic’ concept of the nation and nationalism adumbrated by Johanne Herder, and the privileging of ‘homo economics’, bound together in a spaghetti bowl of ‘multiculturalism’. In this schema, the liberal canards were apparently held together by multiculturalism with open immigration policies. The larger idea seemed that in the sphere of immediacy, cultures that migrated to the US would retain their power. But in the ‘long duree’ scheme these too would dissolve in the liberal mush. All this is not to demean liberalism which has some really redeeming features like tolerance and toleration but to put extreme liberalism into perspective. When the ‘general will’ was elevated to the position of the sovereign, nationalism in the US lost its ‘sting’. But humans being human need an anchor to give sense and meaning and even stability to their lives. To give people that, in the US, extreme liberals concocted and conjured the idea of ‘civic nationalism’. While in the ‘roaring nineties’, the end of the cold war (which had given people in the US some degree of stable expectations) and the heyday of globalization, the occlusion of Herder's idea of organic national-

ism, the elevation of ‘the general will into a sovereign status’ and fetishizing ‘civic nationalism’, the undercurrents of resistance to these remained obscure. But gradually, these came to the fore when the ‘vox’ (people) of the US saw their world-familiar, stable and known- dissipate. (It may be that the 2008 financial crisis was the proverbial crisis that opened the pandoras box.) In any nation other than America, the resistance would have taken the form of revolution. But in the US, it took the form and shape of ‘populism’ emblemized by Donald Trump. Parsed and pared to essence then, this populist yearning was a cri de la cœur by Americans to revert to a past or an age where Americanness was not dissolved in globalism (no matter the window dressing and gloss imparted to it), where the nation gave meaning to people's lives and an economic paradigm gave society stability and structure. In combination, reversion to an organic concept of nation, where economics is not unmoored, leading to the financialization of the economy, where identity is not collapsed in the vortex of civic nationalism and the ‘general will,’ are the explanatory variables of Trumpism, a movement that is not going anywhere after Donald Trump's presidential term is over.

From a power political perspective and a political party one, it was the democrats who embraced extreme liberalism lock stock and barrel, embracing, for example, identity politics over say bread and butter issues for ‘ordinary’ Americans and foreign policies where other countries had voice and even veto on these. The Dems probably believed that the pain was short term and the attendant price to be paid not a great one. But the tides of history and the future have their own ‘logic’. It was ordinary’ Americans that resisted and showed their power with gusto in 2016 and 2024. The question is, will America, at this ‘inflection point,’ be turbulent and chaotic? I doubt it. The country will, in all likelihood, revert to a ‘golden mean’ that is best for its people and their interests. That is, people's interests and the nation's interest will become aligned and congruent. What about the country's foreign policy? The same could be said for it. If these realignments take root, what is the rest of the world to do? Adjust and realign their people's and state's welfare. The world is in the midst of a transition brought about by a multitude of forces that include Donald Trump's use of American power. The attendant ‘disruption’ need not be deleterious. It can indeed be a force for general good, only when and if countries across the world re-adjust and think of their people first! Wajahat Qazi, with a Distinction in International Relations from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, has engaged global affairs both in scholarship and practice, including his tenure as Associate Editor at Kashmir Observer.



# The Hidden War Within Kashmiri Families

Behind the phrase “domestic disputes” is a human rights crisis Kashmir has yet to confront.

Dr. Jeelani Saima

On a routine morning in Anantnag, hospital staff wheeled in a young woman with burns covering most of her body. Her in-laws told doctors it was a kitchen accident.

The explanation was familiar, almost rehearsed.

By evening she was gone, another name added to Kashmir's grim ledger of women whose lives end violently inside their own homes.

Across the valley, cases like hers appear with alarming regularity. They are explained away as “domestic disputes,” as if the phrase itself could soften the blows, erase the burn marks, or silence the cries of women who die too young.

The term hides a much harsher truth: women in Kashmir are being beaten, set on fire, pushed to suicide, or slowly worn down by relentless cruelty.

Physical violence is only the most visible form. Many women endure constant humiliation, forced isolation, and the sting of being cut off from parents who are told not to interfere.

Some are denied the right to work or have their earnings confiscated by husbands and in-laws.



cated by husbands and in-laws.

For families who speak out, the motive is often the same: dowry, the old and illegal custom that still drives many young women into abusive marriages.

Parents say their daughters are harassed for money, goods, or property, and when demands are not met, abuse escalates until death is

disguised as suicide or an accident.

Kashmir's social fabric makes these tragedies harder to escape.

Divorce carries an almost unbearable stigma for women, branding them and their families with shame. Few parents encourage daughters to return home once married, even if the marriage is violent.

Many women endure abuse in silence, knowing that leaving may mean a lifetime of whispers and closed doors.

The discord that has defined Kashmir for more than three decades also bleeds into this crisis. A society accustomed to loss has grown desensitized to violence in all its forms.

Widespread unemployment

adds to household tensions.

Collective trauma, depression, and anxiety have become common, and frustrations often spill over into family spaces where women become the easiest targets.

The distinction between political and domestic violence blurs inside these walls.

Institutions meant to protect women provide little comfort. Laws such as the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act and the Dowry Prohibition Act exist on paper, but their enforcement is feeble.

Police often treat cases as family matters, urging reconciliation rather than registering criminal complaints. Court cases drag on for

years, sapping families of money and resolve.

Safe shelters are scarce, mental health services are difficult to access, and many women do not know what legal rights they have.

With every institutional failure, perpetrators are emboldened and victims further silenced.

The scale of the problem is reflected in numbers.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau, Jammu and Kash-

Each statistic hides a name, a face, and a family that will never recover.

Breaking this cycle requires more than laws. Police and courts must recognize domestic violence as a serious crime, not a quarrel to be patched up.

Communities must confront entrenched norms that tie family honour to a woman's silence. Religious leaders, with their reach and influence, can play a role in challenging the dowry system and the stigma of divorce.

Women need safe places to turn to: helplines that work, counseling centers, and shelters where they are not treated as a burden.

They also need financial independence. Skill programs and employment opportunities can give them the means to walk away from abusive homes.

Kashmir's uncertain reality still looms large, shaping daily life and deepening social stress. Yet it cannot be an excuse for ignoring the violence taking place inside homes.

Each woman who dies in the name of dowry, each suicide driven by despair, and each life wasted in silence is a reminder that the valley is fighting a war within its own households.

Beyond private disputes, they are preventable crimes, demanding urgent attention before more names slip silently into the shadows of memory.

— The author is an Assistant Professor at Government Medical College, Anantnag, specializing in women's health and social issues. This article has been edited for clarity and precision.

Kashmir's uncertain reality still looms large, shaping daily life and deepening social stress. Yet it cannot be an excuse for ignoring the violence taking place inside homes.

## The Heart of a Kashmiri Home

Her laughter and care were the pulse of the house. Now, the courtyard and orchard remember her, and so do we.

Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

It is strange to measure absence. My grandmother, Moajie, left us in the early hours of August 15, at 4:19 am, a Friday, as if the valley itself held its breath. Outside, life carried on with its usual cadence, but inside, our nanihaal, the maternal home of Ganderbal, paused. How do you bid farewell to someone whose existence was your first language of love?

A maternal home in Kashmir is incomplete without grandparents. Their presence fills walls with warmth, courtyards with laughter, and even ordinary afternoons with the pulse of belonging.

Moajie was the heartbeat of our home. Her love was ordinary and extraordinary at once. Ordinary in the way a grandmother cares: with food, protection, and endless worry. Extraordinary in how it endured through sickness, and time's unrelenting erosion.

She held us together. In moments of joy, her courtyard became the center of laughter. In moments of fear or hardship, her voice was the thread that turned anxiety into patience.

Childhood in that courtyard was a tapestry of small miracles. Mud walls became palaces. Cherry and grape orchards swelled with sun and wind. Moajie's hands seemed to summon sustenance and stories from an old sandook as if by magic.

Each grandchild carried a piece of her, stitched into the fabric of daily life. We never imagined a day when that thread could fray.

Twenty days before she passed, I went to see her. She was frail, her body no longer her own, her breaths measured by machines.

Two cousins lifted her gently, as one lifts a child. Night pressed against the room. And yet, her eyes found me. “Emis Dichva chai?” Have you served him tea?

Even then, her concern was for others, not herself. When asked who I was, she named me with clarity, as if love itself had summoned memory from a place where it might otherwise have been lost.

That night, she asked for kishmish dach, the long green grapes of our valley, the ones that become raisins. I searched for them, hoping to grant her a taste of memory,

only to find none.

The longing itself was an act of grace, a reminder that even love cannot satisfy every desire.

In her final days, Moajie was admitted briefly to SKIMS Soura. When she returned home, frail and fading, she was accompanied by my mother, cousins, and a driver.

I watched her, sensing the edg-

And yet, her love lingered in gestures, habits, and the smallest details of everyday life.

She passed on Jummah, the holiest day, as if the valley itself folded her into its own light. Those who came to offer prayers said with certainty, “She's jannati.” A woman of goodness, endurance, and unshakable love.

Grief is more than absence. It



She passed on Jummah, the holiest day, as if the valley itself folded her into its own light. Those who came to offer prayers said with certainty, “She's jannati.” A woman of goodness, endurance, and unshakable love.

es of goodbye closing in. Dawn brought the phone call with news I had already known in my heart: Moajie had slipped from our world.

Her home became heavier with absence. The courtyard, once alive with voices and the smell of cooking, was still. The sandook remained closed.

Her questions, the gentle insistence that we had eaten, that tea had been served, were stilled forever.

is the slow education of living in a world that feels less full, certain, and stitched together.

In every tea poured, kite flown, fruit plucked, and unoffered grape, her presence reverberates.

She is gone, yet through the love she bore and gave, she remains, perhaps the truest immortality.

— The author hails from Ganderbal. He can be reached at @peermohdamir.

## A Heaven Without Pillars

From Kashmir's days of silence to the vastness above, the sky remains a canvas of survival, beauty, and prayer.



Sadiya Handoo

I painted the vast blue sky with beautiful white clouds on a small canvas. Suddenly, I had a flashback to a time when the internet and phone services were shutdown in Kashmir due to political turmoil in 2016.

Back then, no one knew anything about anyone. Phones were useless, and everyone was under lockdown for a long period of time.

After services were restored, I remember telling my friend a joke about how I used to stare at the sky from the window just to pass time and survive the boring days of lockdown.

The flashback ended, and I thought to myself: What made me look at the sky for so long? What was so special about it?

The sky gives me hope, peace, and a feeling of unconditional love. Our eyes see the canopy above us stretched out with no edges and end. It is the sky that gives birds the freedom to fly.

Above, it extends into outer space, a boundless dimension filled with awe-inspiring galaxies, planets, moons, stars, and other celestial bodies.

On a clear day, the sky is dotted with fluffy, cotton-like clouds, and sunlight scatters across the surface of the Earth. Just a little bit of sunshine is enough to lift our mood. Rain pours down from the sky, and the sound and earthy smell bring freshness, peace, and tranquility to the soul. Rain revives the lifeless and ensures sustenance for all living beings.

The sky is home to many breathtaking natural phenomena. After a

rainstorm, a multicoloured rainbow with its vibrant hues evokes a sense of joy and hope. Sunrise and sunset paint the sky with brilliant shades of red, orange, pink, and purple. The glowing northern lights, seen near the poles, cast a stunning and surreal light across the sky. The day turns into night, and the sky glows with constellations of stars.

The sky holds the sun, the stars, and the moon, each breathtakingly beautiful. They stir our souls and are often used as powerful symbols in love and poetry. We all share the same moon, watching it change through phases, just as we change through our own.

In the Holy Qur'an, the sky is described as a “protected ceil-

ing”. It is a divine painting crafted by God, reflecting His power, wisdom, and creativity. Verse 50:06(Surah Qaf) of the Qur'an states: “Have they not looked at the sky above them-how We built it and adorned it, and how there are no rifts in it?”

This verse invites us to reflect on the creation and perfection of the sky, highlighting its flawless design.

It is the sky that every oppressed soul and caged bird looks up to, whispering silent cries and prayers, for hope and emancipation.

With arms outstretched, every prayer rises beyond the clouds. A tired soul looks up, searching for something that feels like peace, a place where dreams are shared and faith is revived.

We are so consumed by the hustle culture and everything happening around us. We're taught to constantly chase extraordinary lives, but in doing so, we often forget how to live, slow down, and find meaning in the ordinary.

We believe that happiness lies only in the grand achievements, yet how often do we pause...and simply look up?

The sky, so vast, silent, and ever-present reminds us that the ordinary can be extraordinary too.

As William Martin writes: “Make the ordinary come alive for them. The extraordinary will take care of itself.”

Sometimes, all it takes is a glance at the sky to remember that.

— The author is a Business Administration graduate and a digital marketing enthusiast with a growing passion for writing and creative expression.

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CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Government Takes

validity of the managing committee of 215 such schools has expired and have been reported adversely upon by the intelligence agencies.

Pertinently, in June 2022, the School Education Department had ordered cessation of schools functioning under the Falah-e-Aam Trust (FAT).

SED had said that in pursuant to the directions passed by the High Court, all the students presently studying in these banned institutions shall admit themselves to nearby government schools for the current academic session 2021-22.

The government that time had said that approximately 11000 students were reportedly studying in these schools and institutions run by the FAT, consequent to the ban, the students were allowed to take admission in nearby government schools.

It had also said that no new admission shall be taken in these banned FAT institutions and no further registration of these institutions shall be done,

According to the previous communique, the case of FAT was examined in the department and it was found that the government of Jammu and Kashmir has already declared and banned the FAT association organization to be an unlawful association on 11 May 1990 and October 2019.

In Anantnag district, a total of 37 private schools are listed. These include institutions such as Hazrat Amir Kabir Memorial School Brakpora (HAKMS), Islamia Model School Akingam, Paradise English Medium School Chee (PEMS), Hanfia Islamia Institute Tachloo, Sheikh-ul-Aalam Memorial Institute Nagam, and Gazi Memorial Institute Soaf Shali. The list further features MS Najmiya Islamia, MS English Medium Halmulla, MS Sheikh-ul-Alam Public School, Public English Medium School Veeri, Green Land Public School Chandpora Anantnag, MS New Ira English Medium (NEEMS), Iqra Public High School Katriteng Gundi Nowroz, Shining Public High School Arwani, Public Model School HP Bagh, HS Rehmati Aalam GB Khalil, and Public English School Hakura.

Other notable institutions include Badasgam Public Model School Anantnag, Baba Naseeb-ud-Din Gazi Public School, Hashmi Public High School Larkipora, Modern Public School Salia, Modern Public School Seer Hamdan, Rural Public School Mattan (RPS Mattan), Brilliant Public School Aahoo, Sheikh-ul-Alam School Shangus (SAMI), Public School Sallar, Iqra Public School Daulat Abad, SSM Mahind, Public English Medium School Adlash Magam, New Era Public School Sultanpora, United Public School Sirhama, Modern Public School Shaligam, Modern Public School Khiram, English Medium School Larnoo, Sheikh Noor-u-Din Public School, Habibia Public Model School, and Noor-ul-Huda Public School.

In Bandipora district, schools include Syed Kamal-Din Bukhari Public School Naidkhai, Islamia Model School Saderkote Bala, Islamia Model School Ajas (now Candid Model School Ajas), Islamia Model School Ganastan, Islamia Model School Wangipora, and Syed Kirmania Memorial School Trigam.

In Baramulla district, the institutions listed are Al-Huda Public School Binner, Hanfia Model Higher Secondary School Azad Gunj, Gani Memorial School Nadihal, Islamia Model School Khanpora, Sheikh-ul-Aalam School Chakloo, Shah Wali Ullah Public School Jalsheeri, New Child Care High School Boniyar, Chinar Public Model School Trikanjan, Naulihal Public Secondary School Behrampora, Paradise Public School, and Deod Mouj Memorial Public School Mundji. The list also includes Sadeeqiya Public School Gundbrath, Eagle English Medium Public High School Bomai, MET Brathikalan (Modern Education Trust Brathikalan), Makhdoomi Model High School Warpora, Apna Public High School Wadoora, English Medium Public School Malmapanpora, Baba Nadir Public School Nathipora, Bilal Memorial English Medium Public School Hathlangoo, Afi Model High School Dangerpora, Al-Azhar School of Education Lathishat, Iqra Public School Sempora, Eagle English Medium Public School Logripora, Islamia Model High School Fatehgarh, Islamia Model High School Malpora, Syed Mukhtar Memorial Educational Institution Heewan, English Medium School Audoora, New Islamia Model School Palhallan, Abu Bakar M.T. Lolipora, and Liaqat Educational Institute Goshbugh.

Further schools in Baramulla include Shaikh-ul-Aalam English Medium Model School Andergam, Iqbal Memorial Public School Wussan Khui Pattan, New Era Model Public School Chijhama, Model Public School Ladoora, Model Public School Mazbugh, Public Educational Trust, Islamia Model School Amberpora, Raazi Memorial Public School Krankshivan, New Syed Bahawud-Din Public High School Wagub, Chinar Educational Institute Rinji, Green Land Public High School Delina, Usmania Memorial Public School Hudpora, Public School Duslipora, Mohammadiya Educational Institute Khore Sherabad Pattan, Iqra Educational Institute Kiantra Payeen, Kirmani Memorial Institute Wagoora, Model Public School Nowpora, Public Model School Hail Saloosa, Rustum Memorial Educational Institute Harnow Kawacheck, and Iqra Educational Institute Managam.

**Edu Min Denies**  
the school.  
The minister said she had suggested in her order that these schools be looked after by the principals of the nearby government schools for three months since their management committee had expired.  
She said around 221 schools were given negative verification by the CID, while the management committee of these schools had also expired a long ago. "These schools were facing issues in registration and the future of over 51,000 students was at stake. So, I had mentioned in my order that these school be looked after by the principals of the nearest government schools," she said.

Earlier, the Jammu and Kashmir School Education department ordered the taking over

of 215 Jamaat and FAT affiliated schools, asking deputy commissioners to control the management of these schools. The Centre had last year banned Jamaat-i-Islami, a politico-religious outfit in Jammu and Kashmir, for a period of five years over its alleged terror links.

The minister said she had ordered that until these schools get new registration and managing bodies, principles of the nearest government schools will look after these schools for three months. "I had even approved the list of principals who were supposed to look after these schools," she claimed.

She said she has not directed or ordered Deputy Commissioners (DC's) to take over these schools. "The secretary has wrongly mentioned in the order that these schools be taken over by the deputy commissioners. The order that has been issued is not exactly what I had written," she said.

Meanwhile, People's Conference chairman and MLA Handwara Sajad Gani Lone trained his guns on the Omar Abdullah led government, saying the schools have forcibly taken over by the government and that the elected government is a party to all acts undertaken.

"The elected government has passed the order. Shame and shamelessness have assumed new meanings in this government. They are setting new standards in servility. And just to recall the sermons the edicts that this party passed against their opponents. Be under no illusions. This elected government is a party to all acts undertaken. Be it mailings or termination of employees, they are equal partners. They have been equal partners in the past. And they will be equal partners in the future. This is the A team. This was always the A team," he said in a post on X. (KNO)

J&K Assembly

Javid, who holds the portfolio of Agriculture Production Department, said that their top-most priority is to boost the rural economy.

"The reforms in the agriculture sector are advancing. Our priority is to strengthen the economic well-being of those engaged in agricultural activities by providing them better crop varieties and high-density plants," he said.

Kishtwar Rescue

list reached home. The family confirmed his return on Friday.

In line with the roster issued under the directions of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Principal Secretary Anil Kumar Singh conducted an on-ground review of the ongoing rescue and relief operations in Chisoti.

Accompanied by Inspector General of Police (Traffic) Suleman Choudhary, Singh carried out a detailed assessment of the situation, interacted with the affected residents, and reviewed the response of rescue teams and the district administration.

He also reviewed the status of road from Atholi to Pallali and Pallali to Machail, and issued necessary directions to authorities. Singh further assessed the pressing needs of displaced families and directed to facilitate prompt relief distribution.

Search teams have focused operations at three key locations: the major impact spot near a langar (community kitchen), the area where several houses were washed away, and Bhual Nallah in the Gulabgarh-Paddar belt.

Of the total 136 persons initially reported missing, 67 were rescued alive or injured, while 37 bodies have been recovered so far, officials said.

Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Sharma, who is supervising the large-scale rescue and relief operation, said efforts to trace the remaining 32 missing people are continuing.

Sharma, who had reached the spot within hours of the cloudburst, said the search operation in the last nine days included teams from NDRF, SDRF, Army, CRPF, CISF, Police, GREF, civil administration, locals, and NGOs.

Apart from manpower, 30 machines including JCBs, dumpers, rock cutters and excavators, along with 135 vehicles and sniffer dogs, have been deployed, he said. Heavy vehicles, including monster trucks, have been pressed into service to assist in evacuation and relief operations, officials added.

Flashfloods triggered by the cloudburst left behind massive destruction — flattening a makeshift market and a langar site for the annual Machail Mata yatra, damaging 16 houses, several government buildings, three temples, four water mills, a 30-metre bridge, and over a dozen vehicles.

Army engineers on Sunday constructed a Bailey bridge over Chisoti Nallah, restoring vital connectivity to the village and the Machail Mata shrine. The Army has also inducted all-terrain vehicles to intensify relief efforts.

Rescuers carried out over half a dozen controlled explosions to clear giant boulders blocking search operations.

The annual Machail Mata yatra, which began on July 25 and was scheduled to conclude on September 5, remains suspended for the seventh consecutive day as of Wednesday.

However, authorities said a group of devotees carrying the holy 'Charri' from Jammu will be allowed to proceed, and it is expected to reach the shrine on August 21 or 22. The 8.5-kilometre trek to the 9,500-foot-high shrine begins from Chisoti, located about 90 kilometres from Kishtwar town.

DM, LG To Visit

from the natural calamity that struck Chisoti — the last motorable village en route to the Machail Mata temple — on August 14 has risen to 65, including three CISF personnel and one Special Police Officer (SPO) of J&K Police. Over 100 people were injured, and 32 remain missing.

Singh and Sinha will visit Chisoti village on Sunday, an official told PTI.

"They will be reviewing the search operation carried out by multiple agencies for the past nine days and also interact with the affected people," he said.

Several high-profile leaders have already visited Chisoti to interact with people and oversee the operations.

On August 16, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reached Chisoti village in Kishtwar district to assess the damage caused by flash floods triggered by the cloudburst.

Omar later announced ex gratia to the families of the deceased from the CM's relief fund, in addition to SDRF support.

On the same day, Union Minister Jitendra Singh reviewed the rescue and relief operations in Chisoti and said the priority was to trace the people still missing and believed to be buried under the debris.

Leader of Opposition and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma has been camping in the cloudburst-hit village since August 14, when the incident took place and assisting the relief operations in the area, which falls under his assembly segment Paddar-Nagseni in Kishtwar district.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Sharma, who is supervising the large-scale rescue and relief operation for the ninth day on Friday, said efforts are continuing to trace the remaining 32 missing persons.

Kuthua Rehab May

the long-term permanent rehabilitation may require over Rs 100 to 150 crore.

The Union minister called on civil society to help the administration in curbing illegal encroachments in flood-prone areas.

Singh also assured both financial and material assistance to the affected families. "The initial loss has been estimated at about Rs 25 crore, and the Centre is ready to provide any assistance required by the Union territory administration to deal with the disaster," he told reporters in Kathua.

He further said that the estimate for long-term rehabilitation could go well beyond Rs 100–150 crore. Singh added that houses damaged in the calamity would be rebuilt, and land would be provided to those whose homes were washed away in the flash floods.

Seven members of four families, including five children, were killed and 15 were injured in two separate incidents of cloudburst and landslide in Jodh Ghati village of Rajbagh and Bagra village of Janglote on August 18.

On the occasion, he distributed relief material among the victims.

"Relief camps have been set up in Gati and other places, which are being taken care of by the administration. The Chief Minister has personally reviewed the situation, and a review meeting has also been held where a rough estimate was formulated," he added.

Singh, who visited Ghatti, Janglote, Bhed Blode and Dhol Khad areas, met the affected families and enquired about their well-being. He assured them of all possible help in this difficult time.

Singh, while visiting these areas, directed officials to immediately provide water tankers, solar lights, and medical ambulances to inaccessible areas. He also instructed officials to take measures to prevent the outbreak of any epidemic. He also distributed ration kits from his personal resources.

Singh, who is an MP from Udhampur, announced that a regional centre of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) would be set up in Jammu, serving the region only. He also informed that a National Mission has been launched to study Himalayan ecosystem sustainability.

He also stressed the need to fix accountability for poorly built bridges, stating that contractors and engineers must answer for the quality of material used and flaws in design.

People's Voice

I am proud that as a team, they have worked to serve the people and contribute to nation building," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Sinha described the upliftment of more than 25 crore people from below the poverty line in the past decade as Bharat's greatest achievements.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid a strong foundation, leading to innovative governance initiatives and made the government more sensitive to the needs of the people.

"Prime Minister's mantra of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance' has enhanced the ease of living for citizens and ensured seamless delivery of public services. Today, India is not only the world's fastest-growing economy, but its future is undoubtedly bright among the largest economies. Favourable environment has been created for sustained and rapid economic development across the country.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the officials to work on improving policy performance, managing complex challenges and effectively address disruptive changes that will occur in unpredictable future.

"A file is more than just a piece of paper; it contains the lives and future of thousands of people. The measure of any action is whether it improves the lives of ordinary citizens. We must pay special attention to these two important aspects and make the governance system more responsible and responsive," he said.

"Today, in the age of Artificial Intelligence, Change is the only constant. We will have to make decisions accordingly keeping in mind growth and welfare in every sector," the Lieutenant Governor added.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted transformation in Government-to-Citizen and Government-to-Business services in Jammu Kashmir.

There is no doubt that in the future, new technologies like Artificial Intelligence will lead to better public policies, improved decision-making, enhanced citizen engagement, and a faster, higher-quality delivery of public services, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also congratulated District Administration Ganderbal for its innovative environmental initiatives.

Changemakers like Jairaj Bhattacharya, founder of the EdTech startup ConveGenius, and Shri Swapneel Paul, Deputy Commissioner

of Tinsukia, Assam, through their determination, succeeded in overcoming challenges to bring about tangible changes on the ground, he added.

He further asked the bureaucrats, technocrats to develop new tools, take innovative initiatives to solve the complex challenges and drive change and transformation in the society through technical applications.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor called for adopting the Akshaya Patra Foundation's model to bring a significant improvement to the mid-day meal program in government schools.

He urged the bureaucrats and technocrats to put dedicated focus in agriculture sector through technology transfer from lab to land. We also need to take innovative initiatives to address the problems faced by farmers due to climate change, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor further said that the 29 reformative projects under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) can also be implemented as per the requirement in different states/ UTs of the country.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr. N. Ramesh Kumar, Director General, Administrative Staff College of India; Dr. Valli Manickam, Director, Centre for Innovations in Public Systems (CIPS); M Raju, Commissioner Secretary GAD; Ms Rehana Batul, Director J&K IMPARD; senior administrative officials and domain experts were present at the felicitation ceremony.

Struggle Begins

country," he said.

Omar said the matter was now before the parliamentary committee and he will wait for the outcome.

On the recent sacking of two government employees over alleged terror links, the chief minister said, "This is something you will have to ask the Raj Bhavan about — we have no role in it."

Responding to questions on cabinet deliberations and relief measures to the affected in cloudburst, Omar said, "For now, we are providing as much relief as we can. If, after assessment, more relief is required, we will provide that as well."

The CM also addressed the Centre's proposed bills, alleging that most legal actions so far have been targeted at opposition leaders. "If the aim is to eradicate corruption, then the government must clarify what has been achieved since it assumed office in 2014," he said.

"No law is inherently wrong, but it is often misused. I fear that this law too will be misused. I want to remind my friends in the BJP that they won't remain in power forever. The laws they are enacting today could be used against them tomorrow. Tampering with laws is never in the nation's interest," Omar added.

On the pending legislation, he said the bills are currently with the Parliamentary Standing Committee. "Let's see what they decide," he said.

Asked about the terminations of two more government employees today, Omar said that the elected government has no role in it. "You need to ask the Raj Bhawan about that," he said.

₹1 Million Loan

and withdrawn it overnight, leaving him to shoulder the burden. The teacher, who earns a modest salary, has since been forced to pay monthly EMIs for a loan he never sought.

According to Jalaluddin, hackers withdrew money from his account and even got a loan sanctioned in his name without consent. Despite receiving multiple SMS alerts, the bank did not take immediate action to freeze the account.

"If my account had been frozen immediately after noticing the first unauthorized transaction, this loss could have been prevented. The bank's negligence allowed the hackers to sanction loans and withdraw money from my account," Jalaluddin said:

Shakir Mushtaq, Advocate practicing in District and Sessions Court Baramulla, also said, "The bank has a responsibility to guide and protect its customers. CCTV footage is missing, which indicates an attempt to hide details. Proper records should be maintained, and accounts should be frozen as soon as suspicious transactions are detected."

Despite repeated pleas, cyber police and J&K Bank have reportedly failed to track the hackers or provide relief. Two years on, Jalaludin continues his lonely fight for justice — a grim reminder of how cyber scams are tightening their grip on Kashmir, while accountability remains elusive.

SC Upholds Ban

highest court confirmed it.

The Supreme Court's language was sharp.

A bench of Justice P. S. Narasimha and Justice Atul S. Chandurkar said the J&K Expert Appraisal Committee committed "a serious error" by relying on a faulty District Survey Report.

The report had not been prepared under the mining guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change in 2016 and 2020. Most critically, it lacked replenishment data, information that measures whether mined rivers can naturally restore themselves.

The judges also faulted the J&K State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority for approving the project despite these lapses. "It is unfortunate that regulatory integrity was compromised," the court said, warning that such shortcuts were exactly how "regulatory failure occurs."

For villagers in Budgam, the ruling felt like vindication.

"The water flow was changing," said a local farmer who grows rice along the stream. "We worried our fields would dry up."

Orchard owners had similar fears, pointing to cracks in irrigation channels fed by Shali Ganga.

Environmentalists said mining threatened the broader ecosystem, including wetlands downstream that shelter endangered bird species.

The judgment also speaks to a larger tension in Kashmir. Construction has surged across the valley in the past decade, from new highways to expanding towns. That boom has created an insatiable appetite for sand, gravel, and boulders.

Official records show that more than 200 mineral blocks have been auctioned in Kashmir in recent years. Each has triggered resistance from local communities concerned about rivers and farmland.

"This verdict will force accountability," Dr. Bhat said in Srinagar after the order was announced. "I am thankful to my lawyers, Senior Advocate Anita Shenoy, Advocate-on-Record Srishti Agnothri, and others who argued the case in the Supreme Court."

He said he now plans to file a separate case against the state's appraisal and clearance committees, arguing that their role in granting approvals was riddled with "blunders."

For Panzan, the decision means excavators will not return to the Shali Ganga, at least for now.

The stream, which villagers say has carried their stories for generations, will flow on without machines tearing into its bed.

The ruling, though about one small river in Budgam, carries a broader lesson for Kashmir: development cannot come at the cost of dismantling the very waterways that sustain its

fields, orchards, and wetlands.

CAT Dismisses

(AAG) Monika Kohli, AAG Rajesh Thapa, AAG Sudesh Magotra and Deputy Advocate General Hunar Gupta for the respondents and senior advocate Abhinav Sharma, assisted by Abhimanyu Sharma for the applicants.

Kohli, in her argument, submitted that the Junior Engineer (Electrical) examination is scheduled on August 24 with 13,034 candidates against 292 posts and the Junior Engineer (Civil) examination is scheduled on August 31 with 18,885 candidates against 508 posts.

"In contrast to this, the request for postponement of the said examinations has been received from only four candidates (one from JE Civil and three from JE Electrical)," she said, adding that the preparation for the examinations is already complete and admit cards for the Junior Engineer (Electrical) Examinations have also been issued.

Further, printing of stationery, logistics and infrastructure arrangements have been finalised, she said.

The senior AAG said coordination for venue, security and staff deployment has already taken place, wherein a large amount of manpower and financial resources have been invested.

She averred that at this stage, any postponement of the examination would cause serious administrative problems, financial loss and wastage of resources.

Kohli said the date of JE (Civil/Electrical) examinations were notified on July 1, while the result of UPSC Preliminary Examination was declared on June 11 and despite having sufficient knowledge, the applicants did not raise any representation until August 2, after more than one month, when substantial preparations for the conduct of examinations were already completed.

"Had the petitioners been diligent, they could have raised their grievance immediately or at least within a fortnight of the notification of examination dates. The belated representations, thus, lack bona fides and deserve no consideration," she said, adding it would neither be reasonable nor practical to disturb the entire examination process involving more than 31,000 candidates for just four applicants.

Agreeing with the arguments of the senior AAG, the CAT said the contention of the applicants that the dates of examination conducted by the JKSSB are in clash with the dates of the UPSC Main Examination is not a sufficient ground for rescheduling the exam.

It also said that the applicants' concerns do not outweigh the need to maintain the integrity of the recruitment process and the rights of other candidates, who have made arrangements based on the existing examination schedule.

The bench referred to a judgement of the Supreme Court and said both the examinations (one conducted by J&K SSB and the other by UPSC) are of a different nature and different levels.

2 Govt Employees

distributed arms and narcotics for Pakistan-based handlers. He was arrested earlier this year after arms were seized in Kupwara.

He was tasked by Pakistan-based handlers to procure and distribute arms, ammunition and narcotics among active terrorists in the Valley. He reportedly received several consignments through the LoC in Karnah. The weapons were supplied to terrorists, while proceeds from narcotics sales were used to fund operations, they said.

His role surfaced after intelligence inputs on January 25, 2024, indicated that two Pakistani terrorists, with the help of four associates, including Rather, were smuggling arms in Kupwara.

Khan, appointed in 2004, was caught with an AK-47 and is accused of sheltering and infiltrating terrorists and smuggling arms.

Investigators revealed that he was in touch with a Pakistan-based handler, who used him for smuggling arms and narcotics across the LoC for further distribution to active LeT terrorists.

Officials described their actions as "betrayal of national trust", underscoring the administration's zero-tolerance policy against terror support networks within government ranks.

They said the Lieutenant Governor was satisfied after considering the facts and circumstances of the cases and noted that, on the basis of the information available, the activities of the two are such as to warrant their dismissal from service.

More than 70 government employees have been dismissed in Jammu and Kashmir in recent years over alleged terror links.



## No Female Staff In ECG Rooms Leaves Women Uncomfortable

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The non-availability of female staff in ECG (Electrocardiogram) rooms across many hospitals in Jammu & Kashmir has become a cause of concern for female patients, who say they often feel uncomfortable undergoing the test in the presence of male staff.

Several women patients and attendants said that the absence of female technicians not only causes hesitation but also delays timely diagnosis and treatment in many cases.

Shazia Bano, a patient at a district hospital in south Kashmir, said, "I was asked to undergo an ECG last week, but when I saw a male technician inside, I felt extremely uneasy. I waited for hours, hoping a female staff member would come, but there was none. This hesitation can cost patients their health."

Another patient from north Kashmir shared her experience: "The test requires exposure of the chest area, and for women, it is not easy to go through it in front of male staff. Many of us skip the test altogether. The government must deploy female staff in ECG rooms for female patients."

Doctors also acknowledged the issue, saying that patient comfort is essential in ensuring timely medical intervention. "ECG is a basic and often urgent



diagnostic tool. If patients delay or avoid it due to discomfort, it can seriously affect treatment outcomes. Authorities should take note and address this gap," said a senior physician who wished to remain anonymous.

Health experts suggest that a simple policy intervention could resolve the issue by ensuring at least one trained female staff member is available in ECG rooms in every hospital. They said that J&K's health minister is also a woman, and she can better understand the discomfort in this test.

Patients and their families have now urged the Health and Medical Education Department to take immediate steps. "Just like female staff are made available in gynaecology wards, the same should be done for ECG rooms. It is a matter of dignity and comfort for women," said Ruksana, an attendant at a Pulwama hospital.

They have urged Health Minister Sakina Itoo to look into the matter and take immediate steps in this regard—(KNO)

## J&K Bank Organises Camp On Financial Inclusion At Satwari



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Reinforcing its commitment towards deepening financial inclusion across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, J&K Bank today organised a Mega Awareness Camp on Financial Inclusion and Social Security Schemes at village Hakal in Satwari Jammu.

MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee presided over the function while Regional Director (RBI – Jammu) Chandrashekar Azad was the Chief Guest on the occasion. General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta, RBI DGM Vibha Gupta and Zonal Head (Jammu) Anita Nehru along with other functionaries of RBI and the Bank were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "At J&K Bank, we believe financial inclusion is not just about opening bank accounts, it is about empowering people and enabling communities to participate fully in the growth story of our nation. We are fully committed to contribute towards the national vision of inclusive growth, and through initiatives like this Mega Camp, we aim to deepen our outreach

in unbanked and underbanked areas with financial literacy and access to formal financial channels."

"Further, in a region as diverse and dynamic as Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, our role goes beyond being a financial institution - we are partners in progress, aiming to ensure that every individual, from the remotest village to the bustling towns, has the opportunity to build a secure and prosperous future through formal banking channels. By actively extending the reach of the government's social security schemes to the last mile, we are further strengthening this inclusive mission and safeguarding the financial well-being of the most vulnerable sections of society," he added.

In his address, RBI Regional Director Chandrashekar Azad appreciated the Bank's efforts in reaching out to the grassroots level with financial literacy programs and customized banking solutions. However, he exhorted the Bank, as the premier financial institution of the region with an extensive network of branches and BCs, to further intensify its outreach and extend its coverage to the unreached.

## Over 12.6 Lakh PMUY LPG Connections Distributed In J&K: Centre

Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI, AUG 22:** The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has informed the Lok Sabha that a total of 12,69,306 Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) connections have been distributed under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Of these, 2,87,658 connections were provided to beneficiaries belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said while responding to a question on the scheme's coverage of BPL, SC, and ST families across India, including Bihar. Launched in May 2016, PMUY aims to provide deposit-free LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households, with the broader objective of promoting access to clean cooking fuel among rural and underprivileged communities.

The scheme's initial target

of eight crore connections was achieved in September 2019, after which subsequent phases, including Ujjwala 2.0, expanded its reach further. As of August 2025, more than 10.33 crore connections have been distributed across the country.

The Ministry acknowledged that some beneficiaries face challenges in refilling cylinders due to affordability concerns. To address this, the Government of India has introduced targeted subsidies. As of July 2025, the effective price of a 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinder for PMUY consumers stands at Rs 553, after a direct subsidy of Rs 300 per cylinder.

Officials noted that the scheme has had a multi-dimensional impact—helping reduce indoor air pollution, improving the health of women and children, cutting reliance on traditional biomass fuels, and contributing to better nutrition outcomes. Additionally, it has saved time for women in rural households, enabling them to engage more in economic and social activities.

## Kashmir's Apple Growers Say Modern Grading Technology Profitable

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The introduction of modern apple grading lines across Kashmir is revolutionizing the region's apple packing and marketing processes, resulting in improved quality, increased profits for farmers, and the creation of new employment opportunities.

Horticulture has long been recognised as the backbone of Kashmir's economy, with apples serving as its most vital product. A major portion of the local population depends directly or indirectly on this industry for their livelihood.

For years, apple growers voiced concerns over their inability to secure fair prices despite transporting their produce to various markets across the country. Experts say this challenge is primarily due to the lack of proper grading and quality packaging standards.

Some stakeholders, with government support, have established modern grading lines in different parts of the valley. These facilities sort apples based on size and quality before packaging, ensuring systematic and standardized handling.

The impact of this development is already evident. Not only are farmers benefiting directly, but traders, laborers, and transporters associated with the fruit industry are also reaping the advantages of the



improved system.

Previously, grading facilities were mostly limited to cold storage units. Now, with government assistance, similar technology is being introduced at smaller scales, making quality grading accessible to a broader base of farmers.

"With the introduction of grading lines, apples reach markets in a more refined form and in less time. Fresh, well-packed fruits always attract higher demand, enabling farmers to secure better prices," Mehraj Ahmad, a unit holder in Pulwama said.

Subzar Ahmad, owner of a cold storage unit, explained the difference compared to traditional methods: "Earlier, farmers had to spend extra time and money on packing, yet the quality remained inconsistent. Now, with grading lines, the process is faster and more efficient, allowing farmers to make profits instead of

losses. It also saves their time."

He added, "Kashmir was lagging behind other parts of the country in grading facilities, which often resulted in apples not fetching good prices. Now, that gap is closing, and new employment opportunities are emerging for locals."

A local farmer called for adopting modern technology: "Farmers need to embrace modern techniques to compete with growers from other states. Grading lines are a significant step forward, and we are already witnessing their direct benefits," he said.

Experts believe that beyond individual gains, these grading units will bolster the overall horticulture economy of Kashmir. By ensuring standardised packaging and quality, they can enhance the valley's reputation in national and international markets, ultimately contributing to regional economic stability, they said—(KNO)

**WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF GRADING LINES, apples reach markets in a more refined form and in less time. Fresh, well-packed fruits always attract higher demand, enabling farmers to secure better prices,"**

### JK's Blackboard Crises

## Rajouri's Govt Schools Crippled By Infra Gaps

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The condition of government schools across Rajouri district has reached an alarming low, as efforts at the government level to improve education quality have largely failed to yield results.

Reports and testimonies from residents highlight a grim reality: most schools in the district not only suffer from an acute shortage of teachers but also lack even the most basic facilities, undermining the very purpose of education.

Across various areas and hamlets, government-run schools are plagued by severe infrastructural deficiencies. Students are forced to study without access to essential amenities such as playgrounds, toilets, electricity, and proper sanitation. These shortcomings present significant obstacles to the learning process, especially for young children. In primary and middle schools, the situation is particularly dire, with inadequate infrastructure forcing multiple classes to be



crammed into a single room. This not only hampers the teaching process but also reflects the broader challenges faced by the education department at the grassroots level.

The consequences of these deficiencies are serious and far-reaching. In many remote areas, the absence of sufficient teachers has left local communities deeply concerned about their children's futures. In some schools, a single teacher is left to manage both primary and middle classes, resulting in a compromised learning environment and increased difficulties for students. Alarmingly, several schools have roofs and walls that are on the verge of collapse, while some are functioning without a roof

altogether.

A stark example of the ongoing crisis can be found in the Kotranka subdivision, where the Government Primary School Taran has remained closed for over a decade. Despite being built at a cost of lakhs of rupees, the building has reportedly been locked by a local family due to a long-standing dispute. Local residents claim to have submitted dozens of complaints to the education department, but their appeals have gone unanswered for nearly 15 years. As a result, the school is currently operated out of a rented house, which is grossly inadequate, students attend class and are served meals in the same cramped room.—(KNO)

## PDP Baramulla Urges Realignment of Baramulla–Uri Railway Line

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Baramulla has expressed serious concern over the proposed alignment of the Baramulla–Uri railway line, which, as per the current plan, cuts through densely populated residential areas in Baramulla town and its adjoining posh colonies.

In a statement issued to the media, Party senior leader and District President Baramulla, Mohd Rafique Rather, said it is deeply unfortunate that a vast stretch of residential areas, including well-established colonies, is being put at risk in the name of development.

"Residents from Jetty Khawaja Bagh, Sherwani Colony,

Fatehpura, and other localities have been repeatedly voicing their fears about potential displacement, safety hazards, and environmental as well as noise pollution that this alignment will inevitably bring. Sadly, their appeals seem to have fallen on deaf ears," Rather said.

He emphasized that PDP fully supports the genuine demand of the affected people for a realignment of the railway line to ensure residential areas are spared and disruption to lives and livelihoods is minimized.

"While the railway project is important for connectivity and economic growth, development should never come at the cost of uprooting families or destroying established habitations, especially in prominent colonies like Jetty, Khawajabagh,

Fargepora, and Ushkara. If people are unwilling to dismantle their homes, no democratic government has the right to force them to do so," Rather asserted.

The PDP leader urged the district administration, railway authorities, and the Government of Jammu & Kashmir to immediately review the proposed alignment and explore alternative routes that avoid thickly populated areas.

He also appealed to the Railway Board to hold meaningful consultations with local representatives, civil society members, and affected residents before finalizing the alignment so that the project moves forward smoothly and in harmony with public interests.

"Development and public welfare must go hand in hand. Forcing people to sacrifice their homes when better alternatives exist will only breed public resentment and erode trust," Rather concluded.

## Govt Focused On Education Transformation In J&K: Tanvir

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Reiterating the National Conference government's commitment to transform the education sector in Jammu and Kashmir, MLA Zaidal and JKNC Chief Spokesperson, Tanvir Sadiq, on Friday said that the Omar Abdullah-led administration is working tirelessly to modernise the system and align it with the demands of a rapidly evolving, technology-driven world.

Sadiq was speaking at the inauguration of a state-of-the-art auditorium at the Green Valley Educational Institute (GVEI) in Illahi Bagh, Srinagar. He said the new facility would give students a dedicated space to nurture their creative and performing arts. The event was attended by GVEI Chairman Muhammad Yousuf Wani, Principal R.A. Kathjoo, Srinagar Private Schools Association G.N. War, and several prominent educationists and members of civil society.

Highlighting the budgetary focus, Sadiq pointed out that the Omar-led government allocated ₹1,388.97 crore to education, an increase of ₹242.75 crore from the previous year. He described the move as a reflection of the government's "transformative vision" which encompasses early childhood education, upgraded infrastructure, higher education reforms, and excel-



lence in legal education.

Detailing the government's initiatives, Sadiq said 15,000 pre-primary schools have been established with a target to enrol 1.80 lakh children, alongside the setting up of 600 ICT labs, 2,000 smart classrooms, and 500 tinkering labs to promote digital learning and innovation. He also informed that 46,000 out-of-school children have been identified and mainstreamed, with special emphasis on girl child education and teacher accountability.

Among the government's ambitious projects, Sadiq highlighted the "J&K K-12: One Campus, One Future" scheme, under which 40 government higher secondary schools—one boys' and one girls' school in each district—will be upgraded into fully integrated K-12 campuses. With an allocation of ₹180 crore, these institutions will be equipped with smart classrooms, vocational labs, modern sports infrastructure, and improved sanitation facilities.

## 2 Vehicles Seized In Awantipora: Police

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In continuation of its ongoing drive against illegal mining, Police in Awantipora on Friday said to have seized two vehicles involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals in Khrew area.

A Police party of Police Station Khrew headed by SHO PS Khrew seized two vehicles

(tippers) bearing registration numbers JK13B-4411 and JK01AT-7704, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 62/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Khrew and investigation has been initiated.

## Zamin Foundation & JU Collaborate To Present Dogri Show "Chanchalo"

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** In a significant boost to regional language preservation, Sheikh Idrees Chairman Zamin Foundation, Srinagar, in collaboration with the Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA) at the University of Jammu, proudly presented "Chanchalo," a captivating Visual Dogri show performed by the renowned theatrical group Rangyug.

This innovative event, held at the University of Jammu auditorium, showcased the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir through the medium of Dogri language and visual storytelling, reaffirming Zamin Foundation's unwavering commitment to revitalizing and promoting regional and local languages across the region. This collaboration between Zamin Foundation, an organization dedicated to cultural preservation, Sheikh Idrees

Chairman Zamin Foundation present at the occasion and the Institute of Music and Fine Arts, a leading academic institution in the region, marks a critical step in ongoing efforts to safeguard Jammu and Kashmir's diverse linguistic identity.

The event attracted a diverse audience of students, academics, artists, and cultural enthusiasts, all gathered to appreciate the artistic expression of Dogri culture. Zamin Foundation has established itself as a leading advocate for the preservation and promotion of regional languages in Jammu and Kashmir. Recognizing the urgent need to protect linguistic diversity against the pressures of globalization and language homogenization, the foundation has launched multiple initiatives aimed at documenting, revitalizing, and celebrating local languages such as Dogri, Kashmiri, Gojri, and Pahari.

## DC Budgam Chairs DLIC Meeting, 150 Cases Approved

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) on Mission YUVA was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, at the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

The meeting was convened to evaluate and approve venture project applications submitted through Small Business Development Units (SBDUs). During the proceedings, 150 fresh cases, duly verified by SBDUs, were placed before the committee for consideration and all were approved for financial assistance and handholding support under Mission YUVA. Each application underwent detailed scrutiny to assess eligibility, business viability, and socio-economic background of the applicants.

As per official data, 1939 applications have been submitted in Budgam under Mission YUVA. Out of these, 782 ap-



plications have been verified by SBDUs, while 508 applications stand approved by DLIC. Furthermore, 140 applications have been sanctioned by banks, and 55 applications have already been disbursed.

Speaking on the occasion, DC emphasised that Mission YUVA is not just a financial assistance program but a holistic youth empowerment initiative aimed at creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. He said the district administration is committed to nurturing young entrepreneurs, encouraging innovation, and ensuring that the youth of Budgam contribute meaningfully to the local economy.



# Downtown Heroes Clinch RFYS Kashmir U19 Girls' Football Tournament

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Reliance Foundation Youth Sports Under-19 Girls' Football season in Kashmir concluded on a high note with Downtown Heroes FC crowned champions by dominating the field against Comrade FC. The tournament, part of the Foundation's Season 2024-25, brought together talented young girls from across the region in a pioneering platform for grassroots football.

In the final game, played on Friday at TRC Ground in Srinagar, saw Downtown Heroes defeat Comrade FC 11-0.

Downtown Heroes FC coach and Kashmir's first female football coach, Nadiya Nighat, said: "This victory is a testament to our team's hard work. The girls have learned the true value



of teamwork, discipline, and pushing their limits. The presence of Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Smt. Raksha Khadse, and Ms. Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, was a huge motivation for both teams. Through

RFYS, our players have gained invaluable exposure to game time, competitiveness, and professionalism. We can't wait for the next season."

Team Captain Fadilah added: "This RFYS season was unlike any other, we gave our all in

every match, including the last league game. Lifting the RFYS trophy while maintaining clean sheets throughout the season makes us extremely proud. It truly reflects our dedication and hard work."

Kashmir Arrows FC defeated

Kashmir Harvard 3-1 to finish third.

The season featured thrilling contests and exceptional performances, highlighting Kashmir's vast reservoir of talent and football's rising popularity among young girls.

In addition to the Kashmir leg, RFYS 2025-26 season has kicked off last month.

The RFYS Season 8 featured key football hotspots of Delhi, Punjab, Kashmir, Kochi, Malappuram, Hooghly, North 24 Parganas and Meghalaya.

Games were played across five age categories: U-7 (Boys & Girls), U-9 (Boys & Girls), U-11 (Boys & Girls), U-13 (Girls), and U-13 (Boys).

As many as 40 teams participated across the five categories, with the minimum number of matches per team being 21.

# DYSS Holds National Sports Week Celebrations Across J&K

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K is currently witnessing a surge of sporting enthusiasm as the Department of Youth Services and Sports leads celebrations for National Sports Week 2025. Across all districts, thousands of young athletes are participating in an array of competitions and fitness activities.

In Kupwara, the district level cricket competitions commenced at Galizoo Stadium. Simultaneously, Samba district witnessed the successful commencement of inter-zonal competitions in disciplines including Judo, Kabaddi, Badminton, Volleyball, Chess, and Yoga for Under-19 boys, with 150 players from across five zones participating.

In Rajouri district, all fifteen zones carried out spirited rallies and engaging physical activities.

Baramulla district organised a series of activities including poster rallies, aerobic exercises, recreational activities, fun games, and a specially organized Run for Girls. The main event at High



School Khawaja Bagh saw 145 students participate. The district also successfully concluded the Inter-Zonal District Level Volleyball Championship for Girls across three age categories.

Bandipora district launched its Sports Week Celebrations across all educational zones.

Kishtwar district observed National Sports Week under the Fit India Movement banner with participation across all seven sports zones.

Shopian district organised various sports activities including rallies, Tug of War, and Musical Chair in Zone Vehil, along with an Inter Zonal District Level Badminton competition for Under-14 and Under-17 girls at Degree College Shopian.



Ramban district successfully conducted pre-event activities across six zones, with 1082 participants including 720 boys and 362 girls taking part in various sports competitions such as Cricket, Volleyball, Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, and running events.

In Kathua, students took the National Sports Day pledge and participated in activities promoting sports and fitness. Ganderbal district organized rallies and sporting activities across all zones, with approximately 300 students participating in competitions including Volleyball, Chess, Carrom, Badminton, and Rope Skipping. Zone Hariganiwan also conducted an Inter-School Zonal Level Athletics Meet for Under-14 boys.

# MoS Sports Khadse Oversees Talent Identification Camp In Srinagar

Press Trust of India

**SRINAGAR:** Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Nikhil Khadse oversaw a Grassroots Talent Identification camp for athletics and volleyball at the University of Kashmir during her two-day visit to the city that is hosting the Khelo India Water Sports festival.

On the first day of her visit on Thursday, Khadse had inaugurated the festival at the iconic Dal Lake. The event, which will run until August 23rd, features competitions in rowing, canoeing, and kayaking.

Khadse then oversaw a Grassroots Talent Identification camp at the University of Kashmir, Srinagar. This initiative focused on unearthing promising athletes in athletics and volleyball.



"The event saw a strong turnout of over 150 male and female participants from various districts, including Pulwama, Budgam, and Ganderbal," stated a press release from the sports ministry.

"A team of experts administered a comprehensive battery of tests to assess core physical and athletic attributes. These included the 20m and 30m sprints, standing vertical jump, medicine ball throw, and the Cooper Test." Khadse interacted with the young trainees, assuring them of the government's full support.

Athletes shortlisted from this preliminary assessment will be inducted in Sports Authority of India's initiatives such as the National Centre of Excellence and SAI Training Centres.

# Khelo India Water Sports Festival: Medal Tally After Day 2

MEDAL TALLY AFTER DAY 2					
STATE	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL	
1 Madhya Pradesh	4	1	2	7	
2 Odisha	1	3	0	4	
3 Jammu & Kashmir	1	1	1	3	
4 Uttar Pradesh	1	0	1	2	
5 Kerala	0	1	2	3	
6 Uttarakhand	0	1	1	2	

# National Sports Week Celebrations Begin Across Budgam

The District Youth Services and Sports Office Budgam on Friday launched National Sports Week celebrations across all educational zones of the district, paying tribute to legendary Hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand.

The week-long program, being held under the directions of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam, Ghulam Hassan Lone, aims to promote sports culture and inspire students by remembering the unparalleled contributions of Major Dhyan Chand to Indian Hockey.

As part of the celebrations, a variety of sports competitions, athletic events, fitness activities, and awareness drives are being organised with the objective of ensuring mass participation of students. Schools from different zones will take part in the activities as per the devised schedule, creating an atmosphere of healthy competition and sportsmanship.

The program will continue till August 28, showcasing the sporting talent of Budgam's youth. (Dabirah Hassan)

# Wushu Selection Trials For Asian Games Begin In Srinagar

The three-day Wushu selection trials for the 20th Asian Games, scheduled to be held in Japan from September 19 to October 4, 2026, began Friday at Sher-e-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex, Srinagar.

The event was inaugurated by Raksha Nikhil Khadke, who lauded the efforts of the Wushu Association of India. Khadse also congratulated the Wushu Association of J&K for successfully hosting the trials with the support of the J&K Sports Council.

Nearly 200 athletes from across the country are participating in the Sanda (combat) event of the trials. The Taolu (routine) selection trials will be held at Imphal from 25th to 27th August 2025.

As per the selection policy, the Technical Committee of WAI will shortlist eight athletes across seven categories (5 men + 2 women). Ranking tournaments will then be conducted every two months until June 2026, the deadline for final entries. (Observer News Service)

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