

Schools In Kashmir To Reopen Today

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Schools in Kashmir division are all set to re-open tomorrow following the closure of two days.

An official said, "We have decided to reopen all schools in the Kashmir division on Friday."

In the meantime, the director of school education of Jammu has ordered that all Government and private schools across the division shall remain closed up to 30th August 2025.

DSEJ has said that in view of the continuous and heavy rainfall being experienced across various parts of Jammu Division, the region has witnessed multiple weather-induced disruptions which have significantly impacted day-to-day life and the safe functioning of educational institutions.

Jammu-Sgr Highway Remains Shut

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was closed for traffic for the third consecutive day on Thursday due to multiple landslides triggered by heavy rains in the Udhampur-Ramban belt, officials said.

Due to the closure of the highway, over 500 to 600 vehicles are stranded at various places en route.

The 270-km-long stretch, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was blocked by multiple landslides at several places between Jakheni and Chenani in Udhampur, they said.

"Highway is closed for vehicular movement from Jakheni in Udhampur towards Srinagar due to damage at several places between Jakheni and Chenani. No vehicular movement shall be allowed from Nagrota in Jammu towards Reasi, Chenani, Patnitop, Doda, Ramban, Banihal, Srinagar," a traffic police official said.

He said commuters belonging to Katra and Udhampur towns are requested to keep their photo to ID cards to prove their identity so that their movement can be facilitated smoothly.

The men and | [More on P6](#)

Capital Expenditure In J&K Hits 5-Year Low

Agencies

Srinagar: In a development that raises serious questions, development spending in the first four months of the ongoing financial year is the lowest compared to the corresponding period of the past five fiscal years.

Data reveals that capital expenditure in the first four months of 2025-26 is the lowest when compared to the corresponding period of previous financial years since the conversion of Jammu & Kashmir into a Union Territory.

According to the data, total capital expenditure during the first four months of 2025-26 stands at Rs 705.61 crore, in sharp contrast to Rs 3298.91 crore spent on development during the same period in 2024-25.

As per the figures, capital expenditure in | [More on P6](#)

Lives Swept Away, Roads Cut Off

110 Dead In Jammu Floods Since Aug 14

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Relentless rains over the past week have unleashed death and destruction across Jammu region, with flash floods, landslides and cloudbursts claiming dozens of lives and displacing thousands.

Multiple rescue and relief operations are underway in Jammu, Samba, Reasi, Doda and Kishtwar districts, where rivers and nallahs have swollen beyond danger levels. Officials said more than 12,000 people have been evacuated to safer locations, while connectivity to at least 50 villages remains snapped.

On Thursday, four more people were swept away in flash floods in Jammu, taking



the death toll in the region to at least 110 since August 14. Among the victims were an elderly man in Marh, a youth in Nagrota, and two others whose bodies were recovered from RS Pura and Bari Brahmana.

The worst tragedy struck

on the Vaishno Devi pilgrimage route in Reasi district, where a massive landslide near Ardhkuwari buried scores of devotees on Tuesday afternoon. The toll from the incident has now climbed to 34 deaths, including | [More on P6](#)



Next 15 Days Crucial: Div Com

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Thursday reassured residents that the flood-like situation is under control, but cautioned that the coming

fortnight will be crucial as the monsoon season continues in the Valley.

Addressing a press conference, Div Com Anshul Garg said, "The water levels are receding, | [More on P6](#)

CM: People Can't Live in Yearly Flood Fear Says Will Sit with Officers to Review Post-2014 Flood Measures

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said his government would seek answers from the administration to understand what flood mitigation measures were taken in Jammu and Kashmir after the 2014 deluge.

His remarks came after flash floods triggered by incessant rains wreaked havoc in Jammu and caused water bodies, including the Jhelum river, in Kashmir to swell.

"There were heavy rains in both Jammu as well as in Kashmir. God saved us. Had the rainfall continued for a day or more, we would have faced immense difficulties. But the water has started receding.



It recedes faster in Jammu and takes some time here in Kashmir.

"We are out of danger, but I will have to sit with the officers and understand what we have done after 2014," Omar told reporters here.

He said just two days of rain

brought Kashmir to the brink of floods.

"What will happen if it rains for four days? We will face a situation like 2014. We had then (2014) endured it (rainfall) for seven days and drowned on the eighth day. But now, we | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir Flood Risk Eases As Jhelum Recedes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The flood threat in Kashmir eased on Thursday, with the water levels in the Jhelum river and other water bodies starting to recede as the weather improved.

In the past 12 hours, there has been very little rainfall in the Kashmir Valley, officials here said.

Due to the let-up in the rain, the Jhelum dropped below the flood alert



SCATTERED RAIN WITH POSSIBLE HEAVY SHOWERS predicted in Jammu from Aug 30 to Sept 1; brief rain/thundershowers at a few places from Sept 2 to 6."

level at Sangam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, they | [More on P6](#)



Assembly Pannel Meetings Suspended

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Thursday suspended all its committee meetings till September 5 in view of the inclement weather.

Jammu and Kashmir has been pounded by heavy rain for days, triggering flash floods and landslides at several places.

In an official communique, the Assembly Secretariat said that all meetings of House Committees, including Financial Committees and other committees, stand postponed or cancelled in light of the adverse weather conditions.

Since the administration is fully engaged in tackling the emergent situation, it has been decided to defer all scheduled meetings till September 5, the secretariat said.

After Airtel, Jio Rolls Out Relief

Agencies

Srinagar: Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, which operates Jio, announced relief initiatives for its customers impacted by severe weather conditions and flooding in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh.

A company spokesperson said Jio continues to provide critical connectivity in most of these areas, in the face of these adverse conditions.

"Jio recognizes the vital role of reliable connectivity in enabling access to emergency services, family communication, and critical updates," the spokesperson said in a statement.

To ensure uninterrupted digital access during this period, Jio Prepaid Mobile and JioHome subscribers with expiring plans this week will be granted an automatic 3-day validity extension.

Mobile users will get unlimited voice calling and 2GB of high-speed data per day, at no additional cost or recharge requirement, and JioHome users will get 3 additional days' benefit of their last valid plan at no additional | [More on P6](#)

Wular Management Plan Gets Govt Nod

To Submit Affidavit In HC On Steps Taken To Prevent Garbage Dumping In Lake Area

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has informed the High Court of J&K and Ladakh that Integrated Management Plan Wular lake has been approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

The government also said that it will submit a "specific affidavit" detailing the measures taken to prevent the dumping of garbage from nearby villages into the Wular Lake area.

The submissions were

made by Mohsin Qadiri, senior Additional Advocate General, before a division bench of Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal during the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation.

The statement followed submissions by Nadeem Qadri, Amicus Curiae that there are about 33 villages around Wular Lake and the authorities have apparently failed to take any steps to ensure that no garbage from the adjacent villages is dumped in the Lake area. So much so, Rs. 200 crores were provided | [More on P6](#)



Thousands offer Khoja Digar at Naqshband Sahib (R.A) Shrine in Srinagar. KO photo by Abid Bhat

Pahalgam Attack

Terrorists Chose Meadow for Tourist Isolation: NIA

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Terrorists chose the picturesque Baisaran meadow as the target for the dastardly attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam due to its high tourists presence and relative isolation, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said on Thursday.

"Three terrorists" were directly involved in the brutal terror attack in which 26 people were killed in cold blood on April 22, NIA officials said.

The target was also chosen considering the "response time" from the security agencies, said a spokesman for the NIA, which is probing the case.

The terrorists chose Baisaran as the target due to its "high tourist presence", "relative isolation" and after considering that the "response (from the



security agencies) would take time", he said.

In the targeted attack, terrorists killed male tourists milling around eateries, taking pony rides or just picnicking with their families, including young children and parents, in the meadow near Pahalgam touted as 'Mini Switzerland' for its serene beauty.

The NIA in June arrested two men for | [More on P6](#)

Srinagar Among Least Safe Cities For Women: NARI 2025 Report

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Srinagar has figured among the country's least safe cities for women in the National Annual Report & Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025, released on Thursday.

The nationwide index based on a survey of 12,770 women across 31 cities, replaced the national safety score at 65 per cent, categorising cities as "much above", "above", "below" or "much below" this benchmark. The report ranked Srinagar alongside Patna, Jaipur, Faridabad, Delhi,

Kolkata and Ranchi at the bottom of the nationwide safety index.

Kohima and other top-ranked cities were associated with stronger gender equity, civic participation, policing and women-friendly infrastructure.

At the other end of the spectrum, cities like Srinagar, Delhi and Jaipur fared poorly due to weak institutional responsiveness, patriarchal norms and gaps in urban infrastructure.

"Kohima, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Aizawl, Gangtok, Itanagar, Mumbai lead national safety rankings,



often correlating with higher gender equity, infrastructure, policing, or civic participation while Ranchi, Srinagar, Kolkata,

Delhi, Faridabad, Patna, and Jaipur scored lowest, correlating with poorer infrastructure, patriarchal norms, or weaker

institutional responsiveness," the report said.

Overall, six in ten women surveyed felt "safe" in their city, but 40 per cent still considered themselves "not so safe" or "unsafe." The study revealed sharp drops in perceptions of safety at night, particularly in public transport and recreational spaces. Educational institutions (86 per cent safe) especially in daylight, but safety perceptions fall sharply at night or off-campus.

About 91 per cent of women reported safety, yet about half were unclear if their workplace had a POSH (Prevention

of Sexual Harassment) policy; those with such policies generally rated them as effective.

Only one-fourth of women said they trusted authorities to act effectively on safety complaints. While 69 per cent said current safety efforts were somewhat adequate, over 30 per cent noted significant gaps or failures; only 65 per cent perceived real improvement over the years 2023-2024.

Seven per cent of women said they experienced harassment in public spaces in 2024, with the figure doubling to 14 per cent among those under 24. Neighbourhoods (38 per

cent) and public transport (29 per cent) were most often flagged as harassment hotspots. Yet, only one in three victims came forward to report the incidents.

The report stressed that official crime data alone cannot reflect women's lived reality.

"Two out of three women do not report harassment, meaning NCRB misses the bulk of incidents," the study said, calling for integration of crime data with perception-based surveys like NARI.

Launching the report, National Commission for Women | [More on P6](#)

CM Reviews Preparations For Eid-e-Milad-Un-Nabi (PBUH)

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting at Hazratbal Shrine to review the arrangements being put in place for the forthcoming Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) being celebrated during Rabi al-Awwal, the third month of Islamic lunar calendar.

Describing the occasion as one of the most important events in the Muslim religious calendar, the Chief Minister stressed the

sureties safety, comfort, and it should be available easily and frequently," he stated.

The Chief Minister further underscored the need to regulate the activities of NGOs and voluntary groups providing food, water, and other services. He directed that such camps should be set up in designated areas to avoid congestion and obstruction in movement.

Omar Abdullah also instructed all officers to ensure similar arrangements at other major shrines across Srinagar, including



need to make every possible effort to ensure the celebrations are conducted smoothly and devotees face no inconvenience.

Reviewing the arrangements, the Chief Minister highlighted traffic management and facilitation of devotees as the foremost priorities.

He underlined the need for proper parking arrangements, adherence to designated traffic routes, provision of shuttle services, and strict regulation of fare charges to prevent overcharging of devotees. "People must not face any inconvenience in reaching the holy Hazratbal shrine. Transport should be managed in a manner that en-

Asar-i-Sharief Hazratbal, Jenab Sahib Soura, Asar-i-Sharief Kalashpora, and other prominent religious locations, so that uniform facilities and safety measures are available to devotees everywhere.

The Chief Minister also stressed on making adequate availability of safe and clean drinking water which must be ensured throughout the religious occasion, along with sufficient deployment of public transport. He also directed the Food Safety Department to carry out regular checks to maintain quality and hygiene of food items being distributed and sold during the occasion.

Houseboat Owners Demand Rehabilitation

Agencies

Srinagar: With the Jhelum River swelling after days of heavy rains, houseboat and boat owners in Srinagar have renewed their long-standing demand for rehabilitation, warning that their floating homes are once again on the brink of disaster.

Many boatmen say the situation is reminiscent of the 2014 floods that submerged large parts of Srinagar and destroyed dozens of boats.

"We cannot live in fear every monsoon. The government promised us rehabilitation, but only paperwork has been completed," one of the houseboat owners said.

He said whenever it rains, they are on the brink and struggling to evacuate water from their houseboats.

Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association (HBOA), Manzoor Paktoon, speaking to KNO, said the paperwork and formalities have been finalised and only pending is land allotment.

"We request the authorities to step in and act fast. The CM Omar Abdullah-led administration must look into it," he said.

Boat owners living near the Bund and Chinar Bagh said they have already started evacuating boats to safer banks. "Every hour, we adjust ropes and check water levels. A small breach can sink us within minutes," said Ali Mohammad, a houseboat dweller from Bund Lal Chowk, Srinagar. "The memories of 2014 are still fresh, and we do not want to face the same tragedy again."

Other members of the houseboat community said their rehabilitation issue has been pending for years despite repeated assurances. "We completed all the documentation. We even had several meetings with officials, but nothing moved beyond files. We appeal to the government to act now, before another flood devastates us," said a

Water Level In Jhelum Receding: Chief Engineer I&FC

Agencies

Srinagar: The water level in River Jhelum has started receding, bringing much-needed relief to Kashmir after days of incessant rainfall, the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department said on Thursday.

Chief Engineer, I&FC Kashmir, Er Showkat Hussain said that the water level has dropped by more than seven feet at Sangam and by over 1.5 feet at Ram Munshi Bagh.

"Our embankments are strong, the manpower is fully alert, and all 14 established flood zonal committees are closely monitoring the situation. There is no need for panic as of now," he said, adding that the department is maintaining a strict watch.

It is worth mentioning that Er Hussain was appointed as in-charge Chief Engineer I&FC Kashmir on Wednesday, filling a key post that had been vacant since March this year following the retirement of Braham Jyoti Sharma. (KNO)

member of the community.

The demand is not new. In the past, successive governments proposed the relocation of houseboats from Jhelum and Dal Lake to safer colonies due to rising pollution and frequent floods. However, delays and the lack of financial support have left the heritage in decline.

From nearly 750 houseboats floating over rivers of the Kashmir Valley, many of them are on the Jhelum and at Chinar Park—Tsooni Koul, with those too in poor condition.

Recalling the shift, Rafiq Ahmad, another boatman from Chinar Bagh, Tsooni Koul, said, "In our childhood, floods brought logs and timber. Today, only plastic and garbage flow in the river. This decline shows how our rivers and livelihoods have been neglected." (KNO)



PIC: Abid Bhat/KO

Thousands Offer 'Khoja Digar' At Naqshband Sahib Shrine

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A wave of devotion swept through Shehr-e-Khaas on Thursday afternoon as thousands of devotees converged at the revered Hazrat Naqshband Sahib (RA) Shrine in Nowhatta to participate in the annual 'Khoja Digar' prayer.

From the narrow lanes leading to the shrine to the main chowk, men, women, and children from across the Valley transformed Downtown Srinagar into a sea of faith. Devotees spread prayer mats across every available space and waited patiently to join the centuries-old ritual that has been a hallmark of spiritual life in Kashmir.

The massive congregation saw mothers tightly holding the hands of their children amid the

crowds, while journalists and photographers climbed vehicles and rooftops to capture the sheer scale of the gathering.

For worshippers, the occasion was not only a religious duty but a deeply personal experience. Ghulam Ahmad, a resident of Srinagar who has been attending the prayer for decades, said, "For me, this place is so peaceful that my heart relaxes when I offer prayer here, especially during Khoja Digar."

Elderly devotee Gulzar Ahmad from Budgam recalled how the practice has been passed down generations. "My mother brought me here as a child, and now I bring my grandchildren. This prayer has guided us through life's toughest moments. Today, I prayed for the health of my family and peace in our valley," he said.

Local residents extended hos-

pitality to the visitors by offering food and refreshments. Mukhtar Ahmad of Nowhatta said, "On the occasion of Khoja Digar, we prepare food and tea for devotees to express our love for the shrine. Our doors remain open for everyone."

Authorities had made special arrangements to ensure smooth conduct of the gathering.

The Hazrat Naqshband Sahib shrine carries immense historical and spiritual significance. Following the death of Khawja Khawand Mahmood in 1640 in Lahore, his son Khawaja Moin-Ud-Din Naqshbandi came to Kashmir to oversee the shrine. He passed away in 1674 and was laid to rest at the site. Historical accounts also state that the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) hair was first kept at this shrine in 1699 before being shifted to Hazratbal. (with KNO inputs)

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HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Closed)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Open)



HIJRI
CALENDAR

04 Rabi-ul-Awwal

1447

PRAYERS

FAJR 4: 34

ZUHR 12:32

ASR 5: 12

Magrib 7:05

ISHA 8: 29

This Day In History

- 708 - Copper coins are minted in Japan for the first time (Traditional Japanese date: August 10, 708).
- 1988 - USSR launches 3 cosmonauts (Valery Polyakov, 1 Afghan) to station Mir.
- 1990 - Saddam Hussein declares America can't beat Iraq
- 1991 - USSR suspends Communist Party activities
- 1995 - NATO launches Operation Deliberate Force against Bosnian Serb forces.
- 1997 - At least 98 villagers are killed by the GIA in the Rais massacre, Algeria.
- 2003 - Ayatollah Sayed Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim, the Shia Muslim leader in Iraq, is assassinated in a bombing, along with nearly 100 worshippers as they leave a mosque in Najaf.
- Usher
- 2004 - 28th Olympic Games closes at Athens, Greece
- 2004 - Athens Olympic marathon is run on same route as 1896 Games, start at site of the Battle of Marathon to the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens: Stefano Baldini of Italy wins men's gold in 2:10:55
- 2004 - Future undisputed world light heavyweight boxing champion Andre Ward of the US wins the light heavyweight gold medal at the Athens Olympics beating Magomed Aripgadiev of Belarus on points
- Panhandle. Kills more than 1,836, causes over \$115 billion in damage.

From KO Archives

Congress Unlikely To Extend Mufti's Tenure

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI - As the date draws nearer for Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed to hand over the baton to a leader from alliance partner Congress, the party today sought to put an end to all speculation by indicating that the PDP leader would not be asked to continue.

Virtually putting at rest speculation that Congress might not be willing to take over the reins of the government after three years in November as per an agreement between the two coalition partners, a senior leader said the party would suffer if it did.

"It will not go down well in the party," the leader close to J&K affairs said when asked whether the Congress would let Sayeed continue for remaining three years of six year term as has been suggested by some reports.

When the two parties forged post-poll alliance to form government in November 2002, they had agreed that one party would lead the coalition for three years and the other for rest of the term.

Congress, with 20 MLAs in the 87-member Assembly, had then allowed junior partner PDP, with 17 MLAs, to lead the alliance in the first phase. The Deputy Chief Minister was from Congress for the first three years and from PDP for the remaining tenure.

Although some sections in the Congress are believed to be inclined to allow Sayeed to continue, the state unit of the Congress strongly disfavours any re-unification move.

The state unit feels it was the much-awaited opportunity for the Congress to have its own Chief Minister and it should not be allowed to fizzle away.

On the question of whether the Congress had an appropriate leader to become Chief Minister, the party leader said there would be no problem on this count. The Congress leader, however dismissed possibility of Mohammad Shafi Qureshi or Saifuddin Soz be given the charge as had been reported in some sections of media.

The disadvantage with Soz's candidature is that he has joined the Congress only three years back after being expelled from National Conference. Qureshi also has been out of the party for a long time.

(Kashmir Observer, August 29, 2005)



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
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KO VIEW

Kashmir’s Silent Epidemic

The growing number of suicides, addiction, and trauma among Kashmiri youth is not just a public-health statistic, it is a crisis that cries for the government’s and the civil society’s attention. At a Srinagar conference on Monday, psychiatrist Mushtaq Margoob, who has spent three decades listening to the valley’s pain, reminded his audience that trauma does not go away easily. It deeply affects young minds, leading them toward depression, delinquency, and post-traumatic stress.

The numbers alone are chilling. A Médecins Sans Frontières survey found that one in five Kashmiris suffers from a psychiatric disorder. Suicide rates, once negligible, have climbed from half a case per 100,000 before the 1990s to 13 by 2020. By 2022, 600 people took their own lives across Jammu and Kashmir, 375 in the valley alone, with experts admitting that many cases go unreported. However, behind each figure is a story, a household left in perpetual grief and in many cases deprived of a lone breadwinner.

From Chennai, psychiatrist Lakshmi Vijayakumar offered a sobering national context: India recorded 170,000 suicides in 2022, surpassing China. “Suicide is not instinct,” she said. “It is learned. And what is learned can be unlearned if the signals are seen in time.” As she rightly pointed out, this epidemic is preventable if society develops the will and the systems to act early.

What Kashmir faces today is not merely a medical problem of serotonin or dopamine. It is the human cost of prolonged turmoil, where nearly half of the valley’s children have witnessed violence firsthand, and nine out of ten adults live with suppressed anger and anxiety. As a result, many have taken to addiction, as the rising numbers of drug abuse in the Valley over the past decade would have us believe.

On a positive note, youth are showing resilience. Margoob spoke of children healing through poetry, theatre, prayer, and family. What is required now is not just more psychiatrists, but an entire ecosystem of care: school counselors trained to read distress signals, community programs that make mental health as routine as physical check-ups, and de-stigmatisation campaigns to bring this crisis out of the shadows. Policymakers must fund treatment and prevention with the urgency they reserve for disease outbreaks.

The valley cannot afford to lose another generation, this time to depression. Trauma may leave scars, as Margoob said, but scars are not the end of the story. With timely intervention, they can be addressed. Kashmir’s young people deserve nothing less.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Think Like Investors

Land made fortunes in the past, but the future calls for smarter, diversified choices.

Irshad Mushtaq

For decades, land was Kashmir’s favourite investment. A family that bought a plot worth 2 lakh in the early 1990s could see it valued at nearly 2.5 crore today. That is a 125-fold rise, or roughly 17 percent compounded growth every year. Such appreciation turned ordinary households into sudden landlords of wealth.

Yet the same story is unlikely to repeat. The forces that pushed land to such heights, like urban sprawl, population pressure, and limited supply, cannot be counted on forever. If people here want to secure their future, they will need to look beyond soil and stone.

Globally, wealth distribution tells its own tale. Around 95 percent of people work for salaries or run small shops, but together they hold only 5 percent of total wealth. The remaining 95 percent is concentrated in the hands of those who invest or own businesses. The lesson is clear: in Kashmir too, financial security will come from thinking like investors, not merely earners.

Where can one begin? Stocks and exchange-traded funds promise high growth, though with volatility. Mutual funds allow beginners to pool money under professional management. Gold, a traditional Kashmiri favourite, can shield against inflation. Real estate may still hold long-term value, though without the dramatic surges of the past. For the risk-averse, fixed deposits provide stability, even if returns are modest.

The most powerful habit is consistency. Regular investing, through systematic investment plans, for example, lets small sums grow steadily, compounding into wealth that keeps pace with rising costs of living.

The future of Kashmiri households will depend less on inherited orchards and more on learned financial discipline. With the right choices, even modest earners can join the minority who build lasting wealth.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.



Lessons Still Under Water

When rivers reclaim their paths, they drown arrogance and short-term gain, reminding us nature always remembers its original course.

Mohammad Amin Mir

I watched the Jhelum rise that night in Anantnag, swollen and merciless.

Streets I had walked dozens of times vanished beneath brown water, and the familiar rhythm of life was replaced by the anxious drumming of rain.

Families clung to rooftops, farmers stared helplessly at fields submerged in water, and old embankments crumbled under the river’s weight.

The Tawi in Jammu, once a gentle, sun-kissed stream, had turned into a torrent, sweeping away homes and shops built where they should never have stood.

Floods do not arrive out of nowhere. They are a warning, written in water.

Rising river levels, heavier rains, narrowing channels, and weakened embankments signal the trouble ahead. Yet every time, when the waters rise, we react with shock.

The devastation is a mirror reflecting decades of human neglect, greed, and short-sighted planning.

We have treated rivers like land to be claimed, not life to be preserved. Houses, shops, and colonies now occupy floodplains and riverbeds, while wetlands have been converted to concrete jungles.

The rivers of Jammu and Kashmir have responded as rivers do: by reclaiming their ancient space.

The Tawi tore through illegal settlements as if they never existed, and the Jhelum reminded Srinagar and Anantnag that history cannot be erased with bricks and mortar.

These two rivers are lifelines of the region. They irrigate fields, provide drinking water, sustain ecosystems, support livelihoods, and carry the weight of centuries of culture.

The Jhelum, once called a river of paradise by the Mughals, now meanders through narrowed, encroached stretches of Srinagar, its flood channels blocked and wetlands filled. Tawi, the Suryaputri of Jammu, is squeezed by unauthorized structures along its banks.

These rivers endure our interference patiently until they cannot.

Rivers remember their paths. We may believe we have tamed them for decades, but extreme rainfall will remind us who truly controls the landscape.



When rivers reclaim their space, they remind us of human arrogance and neglect. Encroach them, and they can destroy. Respect them, and they protect us.

Encroachment is a collective failure. It begins with individuals seeking cheap land or commercial gain, continues through political patronage that excuses or regularizes violations, and is reinforced by administrative inaction.

Every ignored report, delayed notice, and selective eviction fuels the cycle.

Society as a whole pretends the problem does not exist, celebrating short-term development while ignoring long-term risk. When floods arrive, the first victims are those who built where they should not have.

The consequences are visible: narrowed riverbeds, weakened embankments, blocked channels, and the devastating floods that follow.

Floods are more than water. They are lives upended. Families lost homes on the Tawi, farmers watched crops drown in

Jhelum’s overflowing fields, and urban areas faced traffic paralysis, power outages, and water contamination. Hospitals were overwhelmed with injuries and water-borne diseases.

Each loss tells the same story: gains from encroachment are temporary, the losses when nature strikes are permanent.

The 2014 floods in Srinagar should have taught us this lesson.

Hokersar wetland, the flood spill channel of Jhelum, and other natural buffers had been compromised by encroachments. Across India, rivers like the Kosi and Ghaghra flood repeatedly for the same reason. Globally, Jakarta and Bangladesh show that strict management of riverbanks and floodplains saves lives.

Floods cannot be eliminated, but their devastation can be minimized if we respect the rivers.

The government must act decisively. Evictions must be comprehensive, selective enforcement cannot continue. Embankments need rebuilding with scientific methods. Flood channels and wetlands must be restored. Transparent, digitized land records can prevent future encroachments. Community awareness campaigns must emphasize that rivers are assets, not wastelands.

Citizens, too, must reflect. Every illegal construction begins with an individual decision. We must refuse to buy or build on floodplains, refuse to tolerate political patronage for encroachment, and support river conservation. Volunteer, report violations, plant trees, and think long-term.

Future solutions could include strict floodplain zoning laws, community river watch committees, relocation incentives for vulnerable families, riverbank green belts, disaster preparedness plans, and technology-driven monitoring of riverbanks.

When rivers reclaim their space, they remind us of human arrogance and neglect. Encroach them, and they can destroy. Respect them, and they protect us.

The choice is clear: resist rivers and face disaster, or live with them and thrive.

The author is a legal researcher and policy columnist who focuses on grassroots governance, land issues, and inheritance laws in Jammu & Kashmir.



Letter to Editor

How Kashmir Can Rebuild Trust in Its Meat Market

After weeks of din, distress, and damage, Kashmir now seeks closure to its meat market controversy, with proper vigilance and regulation.

It began in Zakura, where authorities seized hundreds of kilograms of packaged meat, wrapped in polythene and cartons, unlabelled and unhygienic. Soon after, altered cheese was discovered in Jammu.

The news spread fast, and fear followed. Suspicion soon entered kitchens and dining halls in a place where meat is celebration and identity.

Suddenly, familiar foods felt unsafe. Meatballs, kababs, and even the centerpiece dishes of wazwan lost their appeal. Families turned to veg-

etables, restaurants suffered, and the local butchers known for handling fresh meat with care saw their shops empty out. They, too, became victims of the scandal, though they had done nothing wrong. An old Kashmiri saying puts it well: until truth prevails, the world keeps burning.

Yet the heart of the problem is not panic. It is the absence of proper oversight. How did such unhygienic, unlabelled meat make it to the markets in the first place? Why was it not stopped earlier? These questions demand answers. Without stronger systems, including clear labelling, regular checks, and transparent supply chains, the cycle will repeat.

Still, rebuilding trust cannot rest

with authorities alone. Consumers also play a role. Trust is regained through daily choices: buying fresh meat from trusted butchers, asking for proper labels, and refusing packaged items that look unsafe. Vigilance matters, but collective punishment does not.

The way forward lies in balance. Regulators must enforce strict standards and bring offenders to justice. The public must support honest sellers instead of abandoning the entire trade.

And local butchers, who have kept Kashmiri households supplied for generations, should be given the space to restore their reputation.

Food in Kashmir is culture,

memory, and community. The scandal has shaken that bond, but it need not break it. If accountability is matched with fairness, the valley can turn this crisis into an opportunity.

By combining regulation with responsible consumption, Kashmir can rebuild confidence in its markets and keep alive the traditions that define its kitchens.

Sincerely,

Ayaan Saroori
Columnist

‘Kashmiri Youth Can Build Global Startups’

With thousands of resumes gathering dust, the development expert insists, the future belongs to risk-takers.

Aashiq Hussain Andrabi

Kashmir's job crisis lingers. Thousands of graduates chase scarce government posts while the private sector stalls. Startups, freelancing, and green skills offer hope, but experts warn the valley must urgently rethink work or risk being left behind.

"Kashmir cannot afford to miss the green revolution the way it missed the IT boom," says Arjmand Hussain, a Kashmir-born international development professional who has spent two decades working across 17 countries.

Now based in the Middle East and North Africa, where he leads multi-million-dollar projects on youth employment, education reform and climate resilience, Hussain has become a prominent voice on Kashmir's economic future.

He believes the valley's biggest challenge is not the lack of talent, but the lack of preparedness.

"Our youth are smart, resilient and hungry to succeed," he says. "The problem is that our systems, including education, skilling, and policies, are not aligned with the world of today."

Hussain, who also founded Ziraat Times, a business and agriculture media platform, argues that young Kashmiris need to think beyond government jobs and embrace entrepreneurship, freelancing, and startup culture.

He points to global trends in AI, green energy, and climate-smart farming as areas where Kashmir could carve out a niche if the right skills and support systems are put in place.

"We need to mainstream freelancing as a career choice, create real data on jobs and skills, and encourage startups not just in IT, but in agriculture, climate adaptation and services," Hussain explains. "This is about survival. The world is moving, and we have to move with it."

In an interview with Kashmir Observer, Arjmand Hussain talks about Kashmir's job crisis, the mindset around government employment, the missing startup ecosystem, and what it will take for Kashmiri youth to seize global opportunities in a fast-changing world.

Welcome to Kashmir Observer. Our readers, especially the younger ones, are curious about what lies ahead in the world of work. AI, climate change, digital disruption dominate discussions everywhere. In your view, which three trends are genuinely shaping the future of work?

Thank you for having me. See, from what we observe in our day-to-day management work, the first big one is AI-driven automation. It's redefining traditional roles across sectors. Some jobs are fading, but at the same time, new ones are emerging, roles that demand hybrid human-tech skills.



So AI takes some jobs away, but creates others?

Exactly. We're already seeing it. Certain functions are disappearing, but there are also jobs emerging in areas that blend technical and human skills.

Okay, that's one. What else?

The second is the green transition. Climate commitments and carbon-emission reduction targets are pushing economies towards sustainability. This means demand for green jobs is growing fast. And this is where Kashmir must pay attention.

You're saying we missed the IT revolution and we can't afford to miss this one?

Absolutely. India was at the heart of the IT revolution, but J&K largely missed out. We cannot repeat that mistake. The green transition will generate huge job opportunities and we need to be ready.

And the third trend?

The rise of decentralized and platform-based work. Remote work, freelancing, gig opportunities have gone mainstream. Even in Kashmir, we see solo travellers coming here, renting cheap accommodation, and working remotely for months, as code writers, back-end office professionals, and managers. They prefer cooler climates and flexible lifestyles. This isn't a passing fad. It's here to stay.

Where does that leave Kashmir? Are we ready for this transformation, or are we going to get left behind again?

Kashmir is at a crossroads. On the one hand, we have tech-savvy, educated youth who are very aware. On the other hand, our institutional frameworks and policies are lagging.

And the pace of change globally is so fast that even advanced economies are struggling to adapt.

Which means if they're struggling, we're... limping?

You could put it that way [laughs]. Look, unless we reform education, skilling, infrastructure, quickly, we risk being left out. But if we act now, Kashmir can leapfrog into new opportunity spaces, especially in AI and the green economy.

Let's talk about unemployment. Youth joblessness in Kashmir is among the highest in India. Why does this gap persist?

The reasons are layered. First, there's a disconnect between education and employment. Our institutions are still preparing students for yesterday's jobs. Second, the private sector ecosystem is weak. The government remains the main employer. Third, our population is growing while resources and opportunities are limited.

That sounds like a deadlock. Is there any way out?

Innovation is the way. Green transition, technology, AI can unlock new jobs. But we need a master plan. Annual plans won't cut it anymore.

Wouldn't you say the current education system isn't fully equipping students with the skills employers need?

Absolutely. Our students are bright and ambitious, yet the system isn't keeping up. Curricula are outdated, teachers get little ongoing training, and industry exposure is minimal. Skills like digital literacy, problem-solving, emotional intelligence, and entrepreneurship hardly get attention, while exams still focus mostly on

memorization and certificates.

And the market doesn't care for certificates anymore, right?

Precisely. Companies are increasingly hiring based on skills, not just degrees. Our education system must reposition itself. Even the National Education Policy has to evolve further. J&K can't just rely on NEP. We need to go beyond it.

National programs like Skill India, NAPS - what difference have they made here?

They've made some inroads. Institutions like the Entrepreneurship Development Institute and universities like IUST are doing well-meaning work. But the scale is too small compared to the demand.

What is working at least?

Awareness. More youth now realize the importance of skilling. But apprenticeship adoption is low. Local businesses are themselves struggling, and public sector participation is limited.

So what's missing? Policy-wise, what needs to change?

For starters, credible data. We're still relying on 2001 census figures to frame policies. That's 25 years old. How can you plan for the future with outdated baselines? This is the era of evidence-based planning.

So step one, update the data?

Exactly. Then, design district-level skill development plans aligned with local potential. And support startups with innovation and scale. Those are the real job creators. I'm hopeful about EDI's initiative to crowdsource entrepreneurship ideas from young people. If executed well, it could be transformative.

Let's switch gears. Climate change. What role does the green transition play in Kashmir's development?

A massive one. Agriculture, horticulture, forests, tourism, and green energy are our natural strengths. Climate-smart farming, organic horticulture, sustainable tourism, decentralized renewable energy, if we get policies and skills right, they can create thousands of jobs.

Are we doing enough to equip our youth with green skills?

No, we're just scratching the surface. Very little awareness, few formal training pathways. We need to mainstream green skills into agriculture universities and engineering colleges. Universities should set up demonstration hubs in climate-smart farming and eco-tourism in every district. Partnering with global platforms could speed this up.

Which sectors hold the most promise for jobs in the next decade?

Opportunities lie in agri-tech, value-added horticulture, and dairy. Eco-tourism and experience-based travel have potential too. Digital services and freelancing are growing fast. Renewable energy, energy efficiency, healthcare, and elder care can create jobs as demographics change.

Even crafts and design exports, if combined with technology, can take off. These sectors can really absorb youth, but only if training, funding, and infrastructure are in place.

Freelancing and remote work, do you see that becoming sustainable for Kashmiri youth?

Absolutely. Many already earn from graphic design, coding, consulting, writing. With stronger internet, digital literacy, co-working spaces, and seamless digital payments, this will only grow.

Are our vocational centers and universities ready to train students for these jobs?

Most are not future-ready. You'll notice universities now campaigning hard for admissions. That wasn't the case earlier. Students don't find many courses relevant anymore.

What exactly is missing?

Soft skills, communication, adaptability, problem-solving. We need curriculum modernization, faculty exchange programs, and internships linked to new-economy private sectors.

Partnerships are often talked about between government, universities, industry, but how do we actually get them to succeed?

We must co-create ecosystems, not isolated projects. Government should enable, academia should be a knowledge hub, industry should generate skills and opportunities. But we must



I emphasize global citizenship skills. They're

crucial in today's interconnected world. Learn them, practice them. Create value, explore entrepreneurship, leverage digital platforms. Your location no longer limits you. If you've got the right skills, a passport, and passion, you can achieve anything."

not limit ourselves to J&K. Jobs and businesses must incubate beyond too.

To wrap up, what advice do you have for Kashmiri youth who feel uncertain about their careers in today's fast-changing world?

Well, I would say, this is actually one of the most exciting times to be young. Yes, the pace of change is intimidating, but opportunities are abundant. Be curious, stay flexible, keep learning. Don't wait for perfect government jobs.

I emphasize global citizenship skills. They're crucial in today's interconnected world. Learn them, practice them. Create value, explore entrepreneurship, leverage digital platforms. Your location no longer limits you. If you've got the right skills, a passport, and passion, you can achieve anything.

Be optimistic, the green transition and new technologies will create countless jobs. Read the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs report carefully. Don't despair. You are the generation with the entire world in front of you to explore and build purpose in.

That's a hopeful note to end on. Thank you. Thank you.

— The interviewer is a senior freelance journalist based in Pulkama.

The Vanishing ₹500

When a note disappears, it leaves behind lessons about work, discipline, and life.

Basarat Bashir

I woke on 24 July 2025 with a rush pressing against my chest. Morning light filtered through thin curtains, falling across stacks of files and a half-packed bag. I slipped a ₹500 note into my pocket, careful, deliberate, like tucking a small hope into a hidden corner. I was already late for the High Court. Breakfast was a luxury I could not afford.

Outside, Srinagar was stirring. Sumos rattled over potholes, street chai steamed from small stalls, faint prayers drifted from mosques, shopkeepers called to customers, and rickshaw horns buzzed.

The city moved like a persistent current. I had to swim upstream to keep pace.

From NIT Srinagar, I caught a Sumo to Exchange Road, paying the driver with coins and a twenty-rupee note. Crossing M.A. Road felt like steering through a river of people and parked cars. Every step required attention, every glance measured for safety.

I climbed into an electric auto to reach Jahangir Chowk, the city humming around me in a mix of languages, scents, and hurried footsteps.

Then it happened. As I reached into my pocket to pay, the ₹500 was gone. Every pock-

et I checked offered only air, a fifty-rupee note, a few twenties.

Fifteen minutes, that was all it took for it to slip from my grasp. Somewhere between NIT Srinagar and the court, it had vanished. The loss felt heavier than the sum itself.

It was more than money. That note held the silent and soulful



Every note carries a story of effort and adjustment. ₹500 was small, yes, but it represented a week's

compromises, a month's patience, a daily negotiation between the world and the self.

work of early mornings and long nights, patience tested by endless rules, and both small and large compromises.

Every draft no one would read,



every law I studied to justify decisions no one questioned, and every late hour when leaving would have been easier all lived in that note.

A memory surfaced: my father, decades ago, saying, "When you start earning, I'll be beneath the earth. What's the fun of spending on you?"

I had rolled my eyes then. Now, I understood. Earning is never simply about salary. It is walking when no vehicle comes, carrying files through hallways that smell of dust and ink, answering calls after office hours, saying yes when your body wants to say no.

It is surviving in a system that asks more than it gives, measuring victories in invisible steps.

A government job in Srinagar carries prestige, yet it carries constraints few recognize. Society sees security, perhaps indifference, maybe leisure. The reality is repetition, the weight of rules, and constant responsibility.

Behind every desk sits someone negotiating patience with ambition, compromise with conscience. Each rupee is a story of resilience. Losing one feels like losing a fragment of that story.

I stood on the road, retracing my steps in thought. The market sounds, including the whirring of electric rickshaws, vendors calling prices for apples and vegetables, students hurrying to classes, felt distant.

My mind clung to that note, replaying each moment, hoping it might appear. Nothing worked. It was gone. Along with it, a small piece of mental peace slipped away.

The day felt heavier, slower, weighed by the absence of something I had thought secure.

It might seem absurd to grieve over ₹500. For some, it is trivial. For me, it carried the rhythm of effort. Patience, compromise, resilience folded into a rectangle of paper. Losing it was a reminder that every rupee has a life before it reaches your hand.

Later, I laughed at myself, rueful, exasperated. I cursed loose pockets, absent-mindedness, gravity itself. Beneath the laughter, however, was

truth: every rupee earned comes with sacrifice.

Every note carries a story of effort and adjustment. ₹500 was small, yes, but it represented a week's compromises, a month's patience, a daily negotiation between the world and the self.

I thought of the children in Kashmir receiving money from parents, rarely seeing the effort behind it. I thought of colleagues, fellow government workers, earning modest salaries with honesty and discipline, battling the invisible currents of officialdom.

I thought of myself, a junior legal assistant, walking streets and corridors, bridging laws and people, stacking small victories into the fabric of life.

That ₹500 was a fragment of that fabric, a small safety net in an otherwise demanding world.

Losing it was fleeting. Accepting its absence was instructive. Earning it again will be proof that I can. And there is wisdom there too: the lessons of attention, planning, care, and resilience.

Next time someone says, "It's only 500," I will smile. Only if they knew what it took to make it.

— The author has done M.A. Economics and LL.B from the University of Kashmir and is presently working as Junior Assistant Legal at NIT Srinagar.

States Can't File Writ Petitions In SC Against Prez Or Guv On Bills: Centre

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Centre on Thursday told the Supreme Court that State Governments cannot invoke writ jurisdiction in moving the Apex Court against the actions of the President and the Governor in dealing with the bills passed by assemblies for violation of fundamental rights.

A five-judge bench Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice BR Gavai was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, that the President would like to have an opinion of the apex court on whether states can file writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution for violation of fundamental rights.

He said the President would also like to have an opinion on the scope of Article 361 of the Constitution which says the

President, or the Governor will not be answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of his office or for any act done.

Mehta told the bench also comprising Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, PS Narasimha and AS Chandurkar that they have debated over these questions in the reference but the President is of the opinion that she would like to have the view of the court to know the exact legal position as issue may arise in the future.

He submitted that Article 32 petition on behalf of the state against the action of the Governor and the President cannot be filed as it is not maintainable, no direction can be issued to them and thirdly the action of the governor and the President in dealing with the bills is not justiciable.

"Article 32 lies when there is violation of fundamental rights



and State Government in the constitutional scheme does not in itself have the fundamental right. It is a repository of functions which is to protect fundamental rights of its people," Mehta said.

The solicitor general referred to the April 8 Tamil Nadu verdict in which states were given liberty to approach the apex court directly in case timeline is

not adhered by the governor in clearing the bills passed by the assembly.

CJI Gavai said it will not say any words with regard to the two-judge verdict of April 8 but the Governor would not be justified in sitting over the bill for six months

Mehta submitted that one constitutional organ not discharging his duties, does not entitle the court to direct another constitutional organ.

The CJI said, "Yes. We know what your argument is? If this court does not decide the matter for 10 years, would it be justified for the President to issue an order."

The hearing is underway.

On August 26, the top court wondered whether the court should sit powerless if a Governor delays assent to bills indefinitely and if the constitutional functionary's independent power to withhold a bill would mean that even money bills could be blocked.

The court raised the questions after some BJP-ruled states defended the autonomy of Governors and President in assenting to bills passed by a legislature, submitting that "assent to a law cannot be given by court". The state governments also contended that judiciary cannot be a pill for every disease.

The top court is hearing the Presidential reference on whether the court could impose timelines for governors and President to deal with bills passed by state assemblies.

In May, President Droupadi Murmu exercised powers under Article 143(1) to know from the top court whether judicial orders could impose timelines for the exercise of discretion by the president while dealing with bills passed by state assemblies.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

110 Dead In

14 women, while at least 20 others are undergoing treatment in hospitals. Rescue teams are still clearing debris in the area.

In other incidents triggered by the incessant rains, four people were killed in Doda, while the body of a BSF jawan was recovered from Pragwal. Another unidentified body was found in Akhnoor, and an irrigation department employee was swept away in Lakhampur, near the Punjab border.

The floods also paralyzed transport and communication. Dozens of roads remain blocked by landslides, and Northern Railways was forced to cancel 58 trains on Wednesday. Special trains have since been arranged to ferry over 2,000 stranded passengers from Jammu.

Twin cloudbursts wreaked havoc in the remote Margi village of Warwan in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, sweeping away dozens of homes, farmland, and livestock.

Officials and locals said flash floods and mudslides triggered by the cloudbursts destroyed at least 30 houses, washed away over 300 kanals of irrigated land, swept away dozens of livestock, and damaged a bridge connecting the village with adjoining areas. Around 60 more homes were inundated, forcing residents to flee to nearby hillocks for safety.

The devastation comes close on the heels of the August 14 cloudburst in Kishtwar's Chisoti village, which killed at least 65 people — most of them pilgrims en route to the Machail Mata shrine. Over 100 were injured, and 32 remain missing even as families await closure.

As the water level in major rivers such as the Tawi, Chenab, Basantar, Ravi and Ujh begins to recede, the extent of damage is only now coming into view. Public infrastructure, bridges, houses, and commercial establishments have suffered extensive destruction, leaving authorities scrambling to assess losses.

With men and machinery deployed round the clock, officials say the focus remains on rescuing the stranded, restoring connectivity, and rehabilitating displaced families. But for thousands across Jammu and Kishtwar, the scars of this monsoon tragedy will run deep.

Kashmir Flood Risk

said.According to the officials, water has also started receding in the areas that were inundated on Wednesday. However, monitoring by various departments continues and teams are on alert.

People in Jammu as well as in Kashmir, especially those living close to water bodies, had sleepless nights over the last two days, fearing a 2014-like situation when the whole valley flooded, causing extensive losses across J&K.

According to details, after receiving the highest-ever 380 mm of rainfall in 24 hours until yesterday morning, Jammu has shown improvement in weather conditions, with only 5.6 mm of rainfall recorded till this morning, and no precipitation recorded until the evening today.

Other stations, including Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, also recorded no precipitation since this morning, allowing water levels to recede and thereby eliminating the threat of floods across the region.

An independent weather forecaster, Faizan Airf Keng said that the water level has receded significantly, settling below the alert level. He said that the water level in Jammu is near normal, adding that in Kashmir, it remains above normal.

The water level in the Jhelum at Pampore is still above the flood declaration mark. It was recorded at 1587.674 m, while the flood declaration mark is 1587.184 m.

Similarly, at Ram Munshi Bagh, the water was flowing at 18.21 ft, which is 0.21 ft above the flood declaration mark. However, the water level has been constantly receding at both locations.

Moreover, at other stations, including Sangam and Asham, water levels are well below the flood declaration mark, eliminating the flood threat across the valley.

The meteorological department said the weather in the valley has been mostly dry during the day so far, but a brief spell of rain is likely at a few places towards late afternoon and late night.

A spell of light to moderate rain at scattered to fairly widespread places with a possibility of moderate to heavy rain or thundershowers in a few districts of Jammu is likely from August 30 to September 1, it said.

From September 2 to 6, a brief spell of rain or thundershowers is expected at a few places, it added.

Next 15 Days

the levels at Sangam and Ram Munshibagh are receding and the weather forecast is similar for the next couple of days."

"If there is a rain forecast, our teams will work round the clock. I also hope we will continue to get the same cooperation from the people which we have got so far," he said.

Garg appealed to people to stay alert and follow the advisories issued by the administration and the meteorological department.

"People living near streams and tributaries need to stay alert as the next 10-15 days are important. Our district disaster management teams will be on the ground to monitor the situation round the clock," he said.

"The district emergency control rooms and the union territory-level emergency control room will continue to work round the clock so that people can reach out to the administration," he added.

Garg said while these are short-term measures for the next 15-20 days till the weather improves and the monsoon system recedes, there is a need for taking long-term measures.

He invited suggestions from people on medium and long-term measures needed to be taken to address any such eventuality in the coming years.

"We have directions to work on the long-term measures as well," he said.

The divisional commissioner lauded the departments for their good work.

"We have been able to learn from the past challenges and take measures accordingly," he said.

The waters reached a 10-year high at Sangam and Ram Munshibagh, but there was no loss, Garg said.

"This also tells you about the good restoration works undertaken. There may be challenges, but I assure you that they will be examined and action will be taken," he said.

Asked about the disruptions in mobile connectivity, Garg said there was extensive damage to optical fibre cables in Jammu, but teams are working on restoration.

Hopefully, full restoration will take place in the next few hours, he said.

Jammu-Sgr Highway

machines of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) are working to clear the highway of blockades, which occurred on Tuesday following heavy rains and flash floods, they said.

According to the traffic advisory, the Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag highway is closed for vehicular movement.

It said subject to fair weather and good road condition, and after getting a green signal from the BRO, traffic movement shall be allowed in a regulated manner on the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road.

LMVs followed by HMTVs shall be allowed from Sonamarg towards Kargil between 1130 hours and 1730 hours.

"No vehicle shall be allowed after the cut-off timing. Security forces convoys plying from Srinagar to Kargil and vice versa shall plan their movement in such a manner so that civil traffic is not disturbed," the advisory said.

According to the advisory, movement of LMVs shall be allowed on Mughal Road between Shopian district of Kashmir and Poonch district of Jammu region, subject to fair weather and good road condition, after getting a green signal from road maintenance agencies.

"LMVs and private cars shall be allowed from both sides on Mughal Road, i.e., from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice versa via Poonch. These vehicles shall be allowed from Behramgala in Poonch and Herpora in Shopian between

0700 hours and 1800 hours," it said.

After Airtel, Jio

cost, the spokesperson said.

Postpaid Mobile and JioHome users will receive a 3-day grace period for bill payments, maintaining seamless service continuity without any interruptions.

"Jio's on-ground engineering teams are working diligently to enhance network resilience and further strengthen infrastructure to meet ongoing challenges. As a pioneer in India's digital transformation, Jio is steadfast in its commitment to delivering world-class connectivity and supporting communities through every hurdle, aligning with the vision of a truly connected Digital India," the spokesperson added.

Wular Management

in this regard but the authorities have apparently failed to engage full time officials and officers for conservation/preservation of the Lake, he said.

"A specific affidavit in this regard shall also be filed before the adjoined date (October 6)," the senior AAG submitted.

Meanwhile, the government informed the Division Bench that the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) as regards Wular lake has been approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

As for Surinsar and Mansar Lakes, the Division Bench was informed that the Integrated Management Plan is yet to be received from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Faced with this, Mohsin Qadiri, the Sr. AAG, submitted that the needful shall be done within a week.

With respect to Haigam and Shallbugh WetLand, Conservation Reserve, the Division Bench was informed that IMP is under technical appraisal by Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee.

Deputy Solicitor General of India, TM Shamsi, in response submitted that he would take up the matter with the concerned authorities and ensure that responses by IIT Roorkee were received within a week to enable the authorities to process the matter.

As far as Tso kar and Tso-Morari Lakes, the Division Bench was informed that IMP was yet to be received from the Union Territory of Ladakh. Shamsi submitted that necessary approval and clearance shall be accorded within a week to avert any further delay.

"In the wake of above, for the present, we do not consider it necessary to pass any formal order," the court said, adding, "For, as indicated above, we are assured by learned counsel appearing for the respective parties that by adjourned date, specific affidavit indicating the progress made on ground shall be submitted."

CM: People Can't

endured two days of rains with difficulty," he said.

Omar said the government needs to take corrective measures as people cannot live in

the fear of floods every year.

"After some days, I will sit with the officers and try to understand what we did after 2014. Where was the money spent? How much carrying capacity of the flood channel was increased? How much did we succeed in increasing the carrying capacity by undertaking dredging in the Jhelum?"

"We have to take corrective measures wherever we are lagging..." he said.

Earlier, Omar visited the revered Hazratbal shrine on the banks of the Dal Lake here and reviewed the arrangements for the upcoming Eid-Milad-Un-Nabi -- the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad.

He directed several departments to make proper arrangements for the devotees.

Terrorists Chose

harbouring the three Pakistan-based terrorists, who were killed by the armed forces late last month.

The arrested duo -- Parvaiz Ahmad Jothar from Batkote and Bashir Ahmad Jothar from Pahalgalam -- disclosed the identities of the three assailants as Pakistani nationals affiliated to the proscribed outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The two men provided food, shelter and logistical support to the terrorists, NIA officials had said.

The three LeT terrorists, who were killed in the July 28 encounter code-named Operation Mahadev on the outskirts of Srinagar, had been hiding in the Dachigam-Harwan forest belt since the attack, they said.

In response to the Pahalgalam attack, the Indian armed forces on May 7 carried out precision strikes at terrorist hideouts in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) under Operation Sindoor.

The operation targeted nine sites, including the headquarters and training centres of LeT and Jaish-e-Mohammed, from where terror attacks against India were planned and directed.

Capital Expenditure

the first four months of 2023-24, 2022-23, 2021-22, and 2020-21 was Rs 1501.56 crore, Rs 1160.23 crore, Rs 1048.62 crore and Rs 719.81 crore, respectively.

In the 2025-26 budget presented by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the Assembly, Rs 17680 crore was earmarked for Union Territory sector capital expenditure, district sector capital expenditure, and the Prime Minister's Development Plan. Additionally, Rs 8487 crore is to be spent under centrally sponsored schemes in 2025-26.

Officials admitted that expenditure is low this year and attributed it primarily to delays in the finalisation of district sector capital expenditure plans.

"As of now, the expenditure in the district sector is almost negligible," an official admitted.

Another official said that expenditure under the district sector is expected to pick up pace in the coming months, and they are hopeful of utilizing 100% of the allocated funds.

Former Minister of State for Finance and

MLA, Udhampur West, Pawan Gupta, said that the low expenditure is a matter of serious concern and raises questions about the government's spending capacity.

"The Finance Department is under the direct control of the UT's elected government. The Chief Minister, who holds the Finance portfolio, should explain why funds have not been released and spent so far," he said.

MLA Kupwara, Mir Muhammad Fayaz, said that the low expenditure reflects the incompetence and inefficiency of the elected government.

"There has been an inordinate delay in the finalisation of development plans," he said. (KNO)

Srinagar Among

(NCW) chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar said safety cannot be seen merely as a law-and-order issue but as one that affects "every aspect of a woman's life whether it is her education, health, work opportunities and freedom of movement".

She added that when women feel unsafe, "they limit themselves, and women limiting themselves is not only for their own development, but also for the development of the country".

She emphasised that a safe environment was crucial for building a "developed and inclusive India," pointing to four dimensions of women's security of physical, psychological, financial and digital nature.

"Cybercrime and misuse of personal data threaten women every day, and we must strengthen protections in this space. It is our responsibility to protect women not just from crimes on the streets but also from cyber-crimes, economic discrimination and mental harassment," Rahatkar noted.

Highlighting positive measures, she praised the growing presence of women police officers and female drivers in public transport as effective confidence-building steps.

"In many union territories, 33 per cent of police personnel are now women, and this has made a decisive difference in building trust," she said.

She also lauded initiatives such as women's helplines, CCTV coverage in smart cities, and improved safety networks at railway stations and bus depots.

At the same time, Rahatkar urged society at large to share responsibility.

"We often blame the system, but we must also ask what we have done. Whether it is using helplines, supporting awareness drives, or simply keeping public toilets clean, society's role is equally important," she said.

Noting that women's safety is not just about protection from harassment and violence, Rahatkar said it is also about ensuring equal opportunities, equal wages and a dignified environment at work.

The NARI index has been conceived by Pvalue Analytics, The NorthCap University and Jindal Global Law School and is published by the Group of Intellectuals and Academicians (GIA).



28th year OF PUBLICATION

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CS Reviews Availability Of Petroleum Products In Far-Flung Areas

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level meeting on Thursday to review the availability and distribution of petroleum products in the remote and far-flung areas of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs, Saurabh Bhat, Deputy Commissioners of Ramban, Udhampur, Rajouri, Poonch, Kishtwar, Controller of Legal Metrology, Director FCS&CA Kashmir/ Jammu, Director Finance FCS&CA, Special Secretary FCS&CA, SSP Traffic, State Level Coordinator for Oil companies, representatives from Hindustan Petroleum, Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum.

The meeting focused on addressing the challenges posed by geographical barriers, difficult terrain, and logistical difficulties in ensuring the timely and uninterrupted supply of petroleum products to remote regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

During this meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized on the need to streamline the fuel supply chain to ensure timely

delivery to remote areas. He stressed on the importance of inter-departmental coordination to create a more efficient delivery system capable of meeting the demands of far-flung areas.

While reviewing logistics and infrastructure improvements, the Chief Secretary stressed on strengthening fuel distribution networks, including the possibility of establishing additional supply points in regions with high demand for petroleum products. He also called upon the officers to explore alternative solutions for remote areas like introducing mobile fuel supply units, to address the challenges of reaching areas that are difficult to access due to harsh weather or geographical limitations.

The Chief Secretary also asked the officers to launch a public awareness campaign to ensure residents are well-informed about fuel availability, distribution schedules and emergency requirements. He further directed the officers to engage with oil marketing companies to explore opportunities for enhancing storage capacities and expanding infrastructure at strategic locations.

Div Com Jammu Reviews Restoration Of Essential Services



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, reviewed the status of restoration of essential services including Power supply, water supply, road connectivity, mobile network and movement of traffic affected by recent incessant rains.

The meeting was attended by Managing Director JPDCL, IGP traffic, Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs, Chief engineers of PDD, PWD, PHE, Director Food and Civil Supplies, Heads and officials of BRO, NHAI, NHIDCL, Indian Oil Corporation and mobile service providers.

The Divisional Commissioner took stock of the areas that suffered damages to infrastructure and disruption of essential services in each district.

The Regional Officer NHAI apprised the Div Com that restoration work of the severely affected portion of NH44 at Samroli in Udhampur shall be completed by tomorrow evening. The Div

Com directed him to augment the men and machinery.

The officials of PWD, PDD and PHE were also directed to closely monitor the restoration works of their respective departments for speedy resumption of services.

He asked the PHE department to take sampling of water in the waterlogged and flood affected water supply schemes before declaring these safe for use.

The Deputy Commissioners were directed to facilitate and support the men and field staff on the ground, especially designated to restore essential services in Towns and remote and hilly areas.

The SSP traffic rural apprised the Divisional Commissioner about the regulation plan for movement of traffic and trucks carrying essential supplies from Lakhampur to Kashmir via Mughal road.

Directions were also issued for immediate distribution of adequate relief material to people of all affected areas.

OSAT Pilot Line Facility Launched In Sanand

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Union IT and Electronics Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Thursday inaugurated one of India's first end-to-end Semiconductor OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test) Pilot Line Facilities of CG Power at Sanand, Gujarat. The project is being seen as a landmark step in India's semiconductor journey.

Vaishnaw said the pilot line will play a decisive role in developing design, manufacturing, and downstream capabilities, with Gujarat emerging as a hub. Chips manufactured at the facility will be used for customer qualification, paving the way for full-scale commercial production. He called it one of the most significant milestones under the India Semiconductor Mission, which has cleared ten projects so far.

The minister highlighted that by 2032, the world will face a shortage of one million semicon-

ductor professionals, and India is well-positioned to bridge the gap. The government has tied up with 270 universities, giving students access to advanced semiconductor design tools. In 2025 alone, these tools were used 1.2 crore times, resulting in 20 chip designs from 17 institutions being fabricated at the Semi-Conductor Laboratory, Mohali.

Backed by an investment of over ₹7,600 crore, CG Semi is developing two state-of-the-art facilities. The G1 unit inaugurated today has a peak capacity of 0.5 million units per day, while G2—under construction—will handle 14.5 million units per day by 2026. Together, they are expected to generate over 5,000 jobs.

CG Power Chairman Vellayan Subbiah termed the project a "national milestone," stressing its role in advancing technological sovereignty. Industry veterans with over 1,000 years of combined experience, along with trained Indian engineers, will drive the project toward commercial production by 2026.

Amid Devastating Floods, Doda Remains Cut Off



Agencies

JAMMU: Continuous rains and flash floods have wreaked havoc in Doda, cutting the district off territorially and digitally from the rest of the country.

After six days of relentless downpour, weather improved Thursday, but cloudbursts and landslides left behind a trail of destruction. Several people have died, and dozens of residential houses were damaged or collapsed. In Chiralla, multiple homes caved in, while in Amritpura Chanyas heavy floods inundated houses. A woman and her daughter were trapped under debris when their home collapsed but were rescued by locals.

Many residents evacuated to safer areas, with the administration shifting families to the Doda community

ROADS, WOODEN BRIDGES, ORCHARDS, AND FARMLAND HAVE BEEN EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED. Major roads including Thathi Janglowal, Palra Kat, Asar Goha, Marmat, Kasti Garh, Bagwa Desa, and Ganna Ladna were either washed away or destroyed."

hall. Roads, wooden bridges, orchards, and farmland have been extensively damaged. Major roads including Thathi Janglowal, Palra Kat, Asar Goha, Marmat, Kasti Garh, Bagwa Desa, and Ganna Ladna were either washed away or destroyed.

Flood threats persist in Badrawa, Thanala Nala, Goha, Khelini, Bagwa Desa, Gandna Latna, Dara Nala, and other areas, where alerts remain in place. Landslides continue at Kalah, Haneel, Gandna, and Ban Gam. All wooden bridges have been swept away, while PSP water lines suffered severe

damage, forcing people to fetch water from distant sources.

For three days, electricity and water supplies have remained disrupted. Residents complain of prolonged outages after even minor rains, while JPDCL has failed to restore services. Underground cable damage has also crippled phone and internet connectivity for four days, adding to the crisis. Public representatives have urged immediate restoration of power, water, and communications to ease the plight of residents, including students preparing for competitive exams. (KNO)

Tarigami Urges Govt To Provide Relief To Flood-Hit People

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam, Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami on Thursday expressed deep concern over the devastation caused by the unprecedented floods in Jammu and Kashmir, the worst after nearly 90 years, which have wreaked havoc on bridges, roads, infrastructure, agriculture, and left thousands of residents in distress.

"The horticulture and agriculture sector has suffered massive losses both in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in Jammu, south Kashmir and Warwan areas. Farmers and orchardists have been hit hard. Even small vendors in Jammu, who depend solely

on daily earnings, have suffered damages. The government must immediately reach out to them and extend all possible assistance," Tarigami said in a statement issued Kashmir Observer.

Tarigami said the tribal communities, including Gujjar-Bakerwals, suffered heavy losses due to the floods. "They lost a large number of animals, which are their livelihood," he said, urging the government to provide immediate relief.

MLA Kulgam said that the catastrophe should serve as a wake-up call. "Natural calamities may be unpredictable, but measures of prepared-

ness are always possible. Unfortunately, successive governments and even society at large have ignored the fragile Himalayan ecology.

We have seen it in Kishtwar, Kathua, Vaishno Devi, and now in these unprecedented floods. Despite forecasts and warnings, there was little effort at prevention. This shows how deep the administration remains in slumber until disaster strikes," he said.

He added that it has become a "routine bad habit" for the administration to wake up only in the aftermath of calamities, while much of the preparedness remains confined to "photo-ops."



‘We May Have To Shift Businesses’

Rotten Meat Scandal Empties Street Food Markets

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The recent rotten meat scandal in Jammu & Kashmir has cast a long shadow over the valley's vibrant street food culture, forcing evening markets to go quiet and leaving vendors struggling to survive.

From Srinagar to Sopore, stalls that once bustled with customers craving traditional delicacies like rista and tujji now stand largely deserted.

In Sopore, the usually lively Chankhan Market, considered a hub of street food and famous for staying open late into the night, wears a deserted look. At Main Chowk too, where dozens of food carts once competed for space and customers, only a handful of vendors are seen waiting anxiously for buyers.

"I managed to sell just four seekh tujji in four hours," said a well-known cart vendor in Sopore. "We don't know what our fault is. A few people made mistakes; now everyone is paying the price."

The scandal, which broke earlier this month after Food Safety Department raids led to the seizure of large quantities of rotten and unfit-for-consumption meat, has triggered widespread mistrust among consumers.



Authorities vowed strict action against those involved, but for many small vendors, the damage is already done.

"We are on the verge of shutting down or shifting our businesses," said another vendor in Chankhan. "People are too scared to eat from outside now. Trust, once broken, takes years to return."

"We don't know which outlet is safe anymore," said Faisal War, a young foodie from Sopore. "Until the government gives clear assurance and strict checks are seen on the ground, we will avoid eating meat outside."

Meanwhile, officials said the crackdown was essential

to protect public health and restore confidence.

Smita Sethi, Commissioner, Food & Drugs Administration, J&K, earlier assured that strict enforcement will continue to safeguard consumers across Jammu and Kashmir, with strict compliance with FSSAI rules for the sale of frozen meat and chicken products.

Vendors now hope that stricter checks and government assurances will gradually bring their customers back. "Street food is our culture, our livelihood," said Omar, a young vendor. "We just hope people don't give up on us forever."—(KNO)

Special Trains Operated From Jammu To Aid Stranded Passengers

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a coordinated effort to assist stranded passengers and tourists, the Jammu Railway Division of Northern Railway on Wednesday operated two special trains from Jammu, working closely with the Government Railway Police (GRP) and district administration.

The first special train, 02238 (Jammu-Banaras), departed at 3:45 pm carrying between 1,200 and 1,400 passengers. Later, at 5:30 pm, the second special train, 04680 (Jammu-New Delhi), left Jammu with around 1,200 passengers on board. Both trains were ar-

ranged after regular rail services had to be suspended owing to heavy rainfall that caused disruption and raised safety concerns across the region.

According to railway officials, the initiative was taken under the guidance of Divisional Railway Manager Vivek Kumar and Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal, who coordinated with multiple departments to ensure smooth operations. Dedicated railway teams worked on short notice to handle the logistics, while GRP and Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel played a crucial role in settling passengers safely into the trains.



Form No 3
[See Regulation -13(1)(a)]
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT I)
2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35
Sector-17 A, Chandigarh
Case No. OA/1905/2024
Summons under Sub Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

Exh. No: 28405
JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
VS
LATE GHULAM NABI SULTANI

To.
(1) LATE GHULAM NABI SULTANI S/o: GHULAM AHMAD SULTANI R/O Manzgam BREIN NISHAT Srinagar JAMMU AND KASHMIR-191121

Legal Heirs: 1
AIJAZ AHMAD SULTANI (AKA AJAZ AHMAD SULTANI) S/o: LATE GHULAM NABI SULTANI RO MANZGAM BREIN NISHAT, SRINAGAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR 191121

Legal Heirs: 2
MRS. SHAHZADA W/o: LATE GHULAM NABI SULTANI R/O MANZGAM BREIN, SRINAGAR JAMMU AND KASHMIR-191121

Legal Heirs: 3
MS. FEROZA NABI D/o: LATE GHULAM NABI SULTANI, R/o: MANZGAM BREIN, SRINAGAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR-191121

Legal Heirs: 4
MS. SAIMA SULTANI D/o: LATE GHULAM NABI SULTANI, R/O MANZGAM BREIN, SRINAGAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR-191121

(2) ABDUL MAJEED KULOO S/o: MOHAMMAD ISMAIL KULOO R/O MANZGAM BREIN NISHAT SRINAGAR JAMMU AND KASHMIR-191121

(3) MOHAMMAD RAFIQ KULOO S/o: ABDUL GAFFAR KULOO, RO ABI KARPORA, NEHRU PARK .DAL LAKE SRINAGAR JAMMU AND KASHMIR-190003

SUMMONS
Whereas , OA/1905/2024 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on 23.05.2025

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 2056175.88 (application along with copies of documents etc, annexed).

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

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

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

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

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

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

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 04.09.2025 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 27.05.2025

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

ABS

Indian Players To Assemble In Dubai On Sept 4 Ahead Of Asia Cup

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The 15-member Indian squad led by Suryakumar Yadav will assemble in Dubai on September 4 for the Asia Cup, which begins on September 9.

In a departure from the usually laid out convention, players will reach Dubai in a staggered manner from their respective locations unlike on other occasions when the team would first assemble in Mumbai before departure.

The decision was taken keeping logistics in mind and also the travelling convenience of the players.

"All the players will arrive in Dubai by September 4 evening and the first nets session will be held on September 5 at the ICC Academy. Factoring in the logistical convenience, the players will be allowed to fly in to Dubai



from their respective cities," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"Obviously, a few will travel from Mumbai but to ask some of the others to first come to Mumbai and then fly to Dubai doesn't make

sense. In any case, Dubai is a short duration flight compared to other international flights," he added.

India will take on the UAE in their tournament-opener on September 10 before facing arch rivals Pakistan at Dubai on Sep-

tember 14. Their third group match will be against Oman on September 19 before the Super Four stage.

Among the Asia Cup bound cricketers, Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana are playing for

North Zone against East Zone in Duleep Trophy quarterfinal which got underway on Thursday, while Kuldeep Yadav is playing for Central Zone against North East Zone.

The official replied in negative when asked whether Prasidh Krishna or Washington Sundar, who are among standbys, would travel with the main squad as net bowlers.

India's 15-member Asia Cup squad:

Suryakumar Yadav (c), Shubman Gill, Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Jitesh Sharma, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Varun Chakravarthy, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Sanju Samson, Harshit Rana, Rinku Singh

Reserves: Prasidh Krishna, Washington Sundar, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel, Yashasvi Jaiswal

Hasaranga Returns As SL Announce Asia Cup Squad

Leg spinner Wanindu Hasaranga was on Thursday included in Sri Lanka's 16-member squad for the Asia Cup to be played in the UAE from September 9.

Hasaranga is not a part of the Sri Lanka squad for their tour of Zimbabwe which begins with the first ODI in Harare on Friday, with the island nation playing one more ODI and three T20Is after the tour-opener. Hasaranga had suffered a hamstring injury during their series against Bangladesh which Sri Lanka lost at home.

Before the Super Four stage, Sri Lanka will face Bangladesh on September 13, Hong Kong on September 15 and Afghanistan on September 18.

Squad: Charith Asalanka (c), Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis (wk), Kusal Perera (wk), Nuwanidu Fernando, Kamindu Mendis, Kamil Mishara, Dasun Shanaka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dunith Wellalage, Chamika Karunaratne, Maheesh Theekshana, Dushmantha Chameera, Binura Fernando, Nuwan Thushara, Matheesha Pathirana. (PTI)

ISL Likely In December

The logjam in Indian football could be headed for a resolution with the AIFF and FSDL agreeing to a "transparent tender" process for the selection of a commercial partner to conduct the Indian Super League in December in a proposal submitted to the Supreme Court here on Thursday.

The resolution was submitted to the Supreme Court after the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) held discussions on the matter on Monday as per an earlier directive of the apex court.

The top court is also seized of a case relating to the constitution of the AIFF.

The AIFF and FSDL said that they have come to a "consensual resolution" in the larger public interest and for the promotion of the game in India.

The agreement between the two parties came a couple of days after the world football governing body FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation threatened an international ban on India over a new constitution. (PTI)

DYSS Hosts Provincial Level Girls Kabaddi Championship In Anantnag

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services and Sports' Inter-District Provincial Level Kabaddi Tournament for All Age Groups Girls concluded on Thursday in Pahalgam, Anantnag.

The eight-day event witnessed a spirited display of grit, stamina and sporting excellence, bringing together the best kabaddi talent from across the Valley. Tveams battled it out with great passion in the U-14, U-17 and U-19 categories amidst the breathtaking backdrop of Pahalgam. Despite intermittent rains, the event was conducted flawlessly, a testament to the tireless efforts of the dedicated field staff.

In the U-14 Girls category, the team from Anantnag district emerged victorious, clinching the title, while Bandipora secured the runners-up position. The third place was secured by Budgam.

The U-17 Girls category also saw a dominant performance by Anantnag, who secured back-to-



back glory by winning the title, with Bandipora finishing as the runners-up and Kupwara securing the third position.

The U-19 category witnessed a commanding performance by Bandipora, who lifted the title with a powerful display, while Pulwama finished as the runners-up and Srinagar secured the third place. The overall tournament highlighted the growing dominance of districts like Anantnag and Bandipora in the sport, with Bandipora qualifying for all three finals.

The District Youth Services & Sports Officer of Anantnag congratulated all the participating teams and emphasized that such tournaments are instrumental in

instilling sportsmanship, discipline, and confidence among the youth while promoting Kabaddi as a premier competitive sport.

Meanwhile, DYSS also organised a District Level U-19 Cricket Competition for Boys in Kupwara under its annual activity calendar. Kupwara and Handwara zones have secured their places in the grand finale after a series of thrilling matches. The final showdown is set to be a thrilling contest between these two cricketing powerhouses at the Galizoo Cricket Stadium. The players are not only battling for district-level glory but also aiming to secure a place in the final squad that will represent Kupwara in the upcoming Provincial Level competitions.

'Minerva's European Treble New Beginning For Indian Football'

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Minerva Academy FC's feat of winning three titles in Europe on their recent tour was described as a "new beginning for Indian football" by sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who felicitated the players from the academy here on Thursday.

The Under-14/15 squad of 22 players toured Europe in July-August and won three trophies including the Gothia Cup in Sweden, the Dana Cup in Denmark and the Norway Cup in Norway.

"This is a new beginning for Indian football in our quest to achieve more glory in the international arena," Mandaviya stated in a release.

"More emphasis has to be given towards sports science, nutrition and

mental resilience of these youngsters through psychologists. This will keep India on the winning path. These youngsters have to maintain their high confidence level and their passion towards the sport," he added.

These tournaments are considered among the most prestigious youth football competitions around the world and Minerva Academy FC's team, which remained unbeaten in 26 matches, scored as many as 295 goals while conceding a very few.

Konthoujam Yohenba Singh (Best Player, Gothia Cup) and Huidrom Tony (Best Player, Dana Cup) also earned individual honours. The team played against various youth clubs including those from South America and Europe



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