

## Weather Alert!



# MeT Predicts 4-Day Wet Spell From Today



## Observer News Service

Srinagar: Although weather conditions showed signs of improvement over the past two days, the Meteorological Department on Friday forecast light to moderate rainfall across the Jammu division from August 30 to September 2, with the possibility of heavy showers in some districts. Kashmir is also expected to experience occasional drizzles.

Director MeT Srinagar, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad said that between August 30 and September 2,

scattered to fairly widespread rainfall is likely over Jammu division.

"There is a possibility of moderate to heavy rain and thundershowers at a few districts of Jammu division during this period," he said.

Dr. Mukhtar further added that "Kashmir parts are expected to witness light drizzling at times."

He added that from September 03 to 07, generally hot & humid weather with brief spell of rain and thundershower is expected at few places.

Meanwhile, the MeT advisory has cautioned | [More on P6](#)

## Jammu Records 37% Excess Rainfall; Kashmir Faces Deficit

After the recent heavy rainfall in Jammu, the region has crossed the mark of normal precipitation during the ongoing season with the data revealing that a total of 37% excess rainfall was recorded in the division since July 01, 2025. However, the Kashmir region has recorded a deficit of over 15 per cent in the last 89 days till August 28, 2025. The data has been compiled by the Meteorological | [More on P6](#)

## JAMMU CITY SURPASSES CENTURY-OLD RECORD WITH ABOVE 300mm rainfall in 24 hours period."

## 2019 JKPCC Case

## Court Discharges Naem Akhtar, Two Others

## KO Correspondent

Srinagar: A court here on Friday discharged senior PDP leader and former works minister Naem Akhtar and two officers in connection with a case registered against them by the Crime Branch Kashmir in 2019.

The case (FIR No.10/2019) under Section 5(1)(d) r/w 5(2) P. C. Act) and erstwhile RPC sections of 420 (cheating), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence), 167 (create or translate an incorrect document etc) and

120B (criminal conspiracy) pertained to alleged irregularity in appointing Vikar Mustafa Shonthu as Managing Director of Jammu & Kashmir Projects Construction Corp (JKPCC).



The government had handed the case to the Crime Branch and the latter filed the chargesheet in 2021.

In his arguments in charge before the court of special judge anti-corruption, Kashmir Srinagar, the Special Public Prosecutor had prayed that the accused trio be | [More on P6](#)

# Vaishno Devi Landslide: LG Orders 3-Member Probe Panel

Panel To Submit Report Within 2 Weeks; Will Examine Causes, Lapses & SOPs

## Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday constituted a three-member high-level committee to inquire into the tragic landslide incident near Adhkuwari on Vaishno Devi track in district Reasi on August 26, 2025.

The committee will be headed by the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, Department of Jal Shakti, J&K, and will include the Divisional Commissioner Jammu and the Inspector General of Police Jammu.

The panel has been tasked to examine in detail the causes and reasons behind the incident, point out any lapses, assess rescue and relief responses, and suggest standard operating



procedures (SOPs) to prevent recurrence of such tragedies in the future.

The committee will submit its report within two weeks to the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (Lieutenant Governor, J&K).

The order stated that the initiative aims to ensure accountability and strengthen safety measures on the

pilgrimage track.

Sinha earlier said that the landslide was the result of a cloudburst and the pilgrimage was already suspended when it occurred.

"This has been a very unfortunate incident. Around noon yesterday, a cloudburst occurred when the yatra was already suspended," he said.

"Due to | [More on P6](#)

## Board Rejects Claims Of Ignoring Warnings

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has refuted allegations of allowing the yatra to proceed in disregard of weather advisories and at the cost of pilgrim safety, saying that the pilgrimage was suspended at noon on August 26 ahead of the cloudburst that triggered a landslide.

However, the Board did not share details about the number of deaths that occurred in the disaster. A landslide triggered by the cloudburst struck the route to the shrine at Adhkuwari in the Trikuta hills of the | [More on P6](#)

## HM To Visit Flood-Hit Jammu Tomorrow

## Observer News Service

Jammu: Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to arrive in Jammu on Sunday to take stock of the situation arising out of recent cloudbursts and floods in parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials said Shah will first visit the Choashoti area of Kishtwar, which was badly hit by a cloudburst, leaving behind a trail of destruction. He will also pay a visit to Katra in Reasi district, where several yatris lost their lives due to a cloudburst in the Adhkuwari area along the Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra route.

During his two-day visit, the Home Minister will chair a high-level review meeting at Raj Bhawan Jammu. The meeting will be attended by top officials of the Union Territory administration, disaster management authorities and security | [More on P6](#)

# Army Restores Traffic On Tawi Bridge In 12 Hrs

## KO Web Desk

Srinagar: In a remarkable display of engineering skill and operational efficiency, the Engineers of the Tiger Division, Indian Army, successfully constructed a 110-foot Bailey bridge over the Tawi River in less than 12 hours, restoring a crucial transport link in Jammu city.

The bridge, designated as Tawi Bridge No. 4, had been rendered impassable after heavy rains on August 26 damaged the eastern span, leaving vehicles stranded on the swollen riverbank. Thousands of commuters rely on this vital link daily, making its swift restoration a priority.

"Despite washed-out approaches and limited workspace, our teams worked tirelessly through the night to ensure connectivity was



restored at the earliest," Major General Mukesh Bhanwala, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Tiger Division, told the media. "This bridge is not just a structure; it is a lifeline for the people of the region and a symbol of the Indian Army's commitment to serving the nation in times of need."

The modular Bailey bridge, a proven engineering solution since World War II, enabled the Tiger Division Engineers to assemble the 110-foot structure swiftly without heavy equipment or cranes, overcoming challenging conditions and limited space. | [More on P6](#)

# Op Sindoor 'Golden Chapter' In Victory Over Terror: Murmu

## Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Describing Operation Sindoor as a "golden chapter" in humanity's fight against terrorism, President Droupadi Murmu on Friday outlined the contribution of PSUs in building the indigenous Akashteer Air Defence Control and Reporting System, which played a crucial role in the military conflict between India and Pakistan.

Addressing the SCOPE Eminence Awards here, she highlighted the crucial role of public sector enterprises in achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat or



developing India by 2047.

The President said that public sector enterprises have performed well on key financial parameters, including revenue

and profitability.

Further, she noted that three-fourths of PSUs are profit-making, and the net profit of public sector enterprises has grown substantially during the last decade.

Describing public sector enterprises as catalysts of growth and pillars of prosperity, the President outlined that they have set benchmarks in good governance and transparency.

"Public sector enterprises are playing an impressive role in the direction of building Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)," Murmu said, pointing out | [More on P6](#)

# Kashmir Book Ban: SC Asks Petitioner To Approach HC

## Agencies

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday declined to directly entertain a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the Jammu and Kashmir administration's decision to ban 25 books on Kashmir, and advised the petitioner to approach the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court instead.

A bench comprising Justices Surya Kant, Joydalya Bagchi, and Vipul M. Pancholi said that since some of the authors of the proscribed books are residents of the Union Territory, the High Court would be better placed to appreciate the matter.

"Recently, there's an attempt to bypass High Courts. Let's have the advantage of the HC opinion. We have seen the list of the books. Some local people are talking about issues. HC would be in a better position," Justice Kant observed during the hearing.

The bench ordered that the matter, once filed, be placed before a three-judge bench led by the Chief Justice of the High Court and requested the High Court to endeavour to decide it at the earliest. The apex court clarified that it had not expressed any opinion on the merits of the case.

The plea was | [More on P6](#)



# Ashok Jaikhan, The Cultural Voice of DDK, Is No More

He spent his career shaping theatre, television, and literature, offering Kashmiri culture a national platform through Doordarshan

## Riyaz Manzoor

Srinagar: On August 29, the news of Ashok Jaikhan's death spread through a single message that carried the weight of a life.

It was Shabir Mujahid, his former colleague at Doordarshan, who broke it: a friend, a boss, an actor, a director, a theorist, above all a perfect gentleman, no more.

Hours earlier, the 72-year-old had eaten breakfast, gone for a nap, and never woken up.

For those who grew up in the age of Kashmiri theatre and early television, Jaikhan's passing felt like the curtain falling on a long and luminous performance.

Born in Aali Kadal in 1953, Jaikhan was drawn to theatre as a teenager. At sixteen he joined Rangmunch Dramatic Club and began acting in plays that carried the scent of a valley in transition.

Within a few years, he co-founded Vasant Theatre, where

the stages of Srinagar were filled with works that lifted Kashmiri audiences into new worlds.

From Baba Dickey's Mangu to Vijay Tendulkar's Giddh and Ali Mohammad Lone's Chinari, Jaikhan's productions turned the austere stage of Tagore Hall into a site of experiment, imagination, and courage.

In an era when such plays were more commonly staged in Delhi or Mumbai, it was remarkable to see Kashmiris watching large-scale | [More on P6](#)

# India, China Can Bring Stability To Economic Order: PM

## Press Trust Of India

Tokyo: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said it is important for India and China to work together to bring stability to the world economic order as he asserted that New Delhi is ready to advance bilateral ties from a strategic and long-term perspective based on mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity.

In an interview with The Yomiuri Shimbun published during his ongoing visit to Japan, Modi also asserted that stable, predictable, and amicable bilateral relations between India and China, as two



neighbours and the two largest nations on earth, can have a positive impact on regional and global peace and prosperity.

Asked about the importance of improving relations with

China at this time, Modi said, "At the invitation of President Xi Jinping, I would be travelling to Tianjin from here to take part in the SCO Summit. Since my meeting with President Xi in Kazan last year, steady and positive progress has been made in our bilateral ties."

Stable, predictable, and amicable bilateral relations between India and China, as two neighbours and the two largest nations on earth, can have a positive impact on regional and global peace and prosperity, he said.

This is also crucial for a multi-polar Asia and a multi-polar world, he added.

"Given the | [More on P6](#)

## SpiceJet Makes Emergency Landing in Srinagar



## Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: An inbound flight from Delhi requested emergency landing at the Srinagar airport on Friday, and landed safely, officials said.

SpiceJet flight SG 385, flying from Delhi to Srinagar with 205 passengers, including four children, and seven crew on board, "reported an emergency due pressurisation problem," the officials said, adding that the aircraft landed safely at the airport at 3:27 pm.

"No medical assistance was requested by passengers or the crew on board the flight," the officials said. The aircraft would undergo | [More on P6](#)

## Jammu-Sgr NH Closed For 4th Day

## KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was closed for traffic for the fourth consecutive day on Friday due to multiple landslides triggered by heavy rains in the Udhampur-Ramban belt, leaving over 2,000 vehicles stranded, officials said.

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 on Tuesday following heavy rains and flash floods, they said.

"Highway is closed for the fourth day. No vehicular movement shall be allowed from Nagrota in | [More on P6](#)

## Apple, Mutton Trade Hit

The prolonged closure of the Srinagar-Jammu Highway has dealt a severe blow to Kashmir's apple and mutton industries, leaving over scores of trucks stranded at different stretches of the route. At Qazigund, scores of fruit-laden trucks are | [More on P6](#)





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KO VIEW

Kashmir’s Pill Problem

The valley has been lately shaken by disturbing revelations about what people consume without thinking twice. The rotten meat scandal, where authorities seized cartons of unsafe meat, and the widespread complaints about unhygienic drinking water, forced a reckoning with the systems that are supposed to protect the public.

People realized that food and water, the very basics of survival, could no longer be trusted. That awakening now extends to healthcare, where the medicine market, vast and largely unchecked, poses dangers of its own.

Over the past decade, Kashmir’s healthcare sector has expanded dramatically. Private hospitals and clinics have multiplied, giving people easier access to doctors and treatment. But this rapid growth has also bred over-reliance on pills.

For many families, medicines have become the first and last response to any health concern. From antibiotics and painkillers to proton pump inhibitors and vitamins, household drawers are crammed with medicines often taken without a prescription and stored carelessly in ways that make them less effective, if not harmful.

The numbers tell a troubling story. Kashmir’s pharmaceutical market is worth around 3,500 crore annually, a staggering figure for a region of its size. Srinagar alone handles trade worth more than 100 crore every month. Much of this consumption reflects real needs, but a large portion is driven by self-medication, unnecessary prescriptions, and the circulation of counterfeit or substandard drugs.

In India overall, a quarter of medicines are estimated to be fake or low-quality, and Kashmir is no exception. When the systems that regulate food could not prevent tonnes of rotten meat from being sold to the public, why should people feel safe about what lies behind pharmacy counters?

The risks go beyond wasted money or spoiled drugs. A culture of pill-dependence has deepened Kashmir’s addiction crisis. The Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences in Srinagar receives about 150 new drug-related cases every single day. Nearly a million people in the region are now believed to be struggling with substance use, with opioids at the center of the epidemic. More than 33,000 syringes are used daily for heroin injections. It is impossible to separate this reality from the easy availability of strong medications and the casual way people consume them.

The Food and Drug Department, tasked with ensuring the quality and safety of medicines, has not kept pace with the size of the market it is meant to regulate. It must strengthen inspections, shut down illegal supply chains, and reassure the public that what they buy over the counter meets even the most basic standards.

Doctors, too, have a role to play. Many have warned against over-prescription, urging people to pursue lifestyle changes instead of reaching automatically for pills. Yet their voices are often drowned out in a market driven by profit and habit.

Kashmir cannot afford another wake-up call like the rotten meat scandal or the water scare, this time with medicines. What is supposed to heal should not end up harming.

Without stronger regulation, honest oversight, and greater public awareness, the valley risks sliding deeper into a health crisis of its own making.

The responsibility lies with everyone to restore trust and ensure that the medicine meant to save lives does not become another source of danger.

Kashmir’s Environment  
Needs Political Will

Activists and NGOs cannot carry the burden alone. Strong laws, accountability, and leadership are essential to avert future calamities.

Athar Parvaiz

This morning, I got a startling message from Dr. Raja Muzaffar, a well-known social and environmental activist.

He said that while Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Surinder Choudhary, had told the assembly in March that a private company, NKC Projects Pvt Ltd, was fined eight million rupees for illegal mining in the Shaliganga stream in Budgam, “[this] penalty money is yet to be recovered & the Mining Department officers told me that penalty amount was not Rs 80 Lakh but Rs 80,000 Only.”

As this seemed to me a classic case of greenwashing, I quickly called the director of Jammu & Kashmir’s Geology and Mining Department, Suraj Prakash Rukwal, to verify the claim and seek more details.

The call, however, went straight to a voice message that said, “your message has been forwarded.”

Repeated attempts to reach him brought no different result.

Hoping to get some clarity, I then called another official in the department. This time the call was answered, but the official politely told me he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Dr. Muzaffar also sent me an audio message on WhatsApp, his frustration unmistakable: “The environmental vandalism which warranted at least eight crore rupees (80 million) in compensation has been trivialized into a laughable fine of 80 thousand. And this paltry amount has also not been delivered yet.”

He called it an insult to both justice and the environment. “This is a disgrace,” said Muzaffar, who has been raising the issue



“Active political engagement would mean enforcing strong land-use and environmental laws, investing in sustainable planning, strengthening disaster preparedness, and holding violators accountable. It would also mean challenging vested interests whose profits depend on ecological plunder. None of this can happen without political leadership willing to stand firmly behind the cause.

of riverbed mining time and again in recent months and years.

He and other activists, along with environmental organizations in Kashmir, have pointed to dozens of cases of riverbed mining, wetland degradation, and faulty land-use practices. Yet, no real course correction is visible on the ground.

This fresh example of accountability reduced to a mockery highlights a larger problem: individual efforts by legislators, such as the local MLA who raised the Shaliganga mining issue, and initiatives led by activists for ecosystem restoration in Kashmir often run into bureaucratic hurdles and receive little attention from political parties or top leaders.

It is worth asking why Mr. Choudhary’s office did

not follow up with the Geology and Mining Department after sharing this information on the floor of the house.

Some may point to the difficulties of working under the current governance model, or what is often described as “hybrid governance” in Jammu & Kashmir.

But such explanations are hardly consoling. Political leaders can no longer afford to look away when Kashmir’s environmental crises have been staring us in the face for far too long.

Environmental activists like Dr. Muzaffar and Faiz Bakhshi, along with NGOs such as the Peoples’ Environmental Council (PEC) and Environmental Policy Group (EPG), have been consistently raising alarms about Kashmir’s neglect of the environment. Yet their reach remains limited.

Despite clear evidence that unchecked “over-development” and over-exploitation of natural resources are worsening the impacts of extreme weather events, environmental concerns are still confined to the efforts of a few activists and NGOs. However sincere, their influence cannot match the scale of the crisis.

The floods of 2014 showed how unplanned growth and neglect of wetlands magnified the scale of destruction.

Since then, repeated flood threats, including one just a couple of days ago, have underlined the same reality. As Chief Minister Omar Abdullah himself admitted, “we can’t live in fear every time it rains.”

Similarly, the landslides and flash floods in Jammu make it clear that ignoring

scientific advice and environmental safeguards leads directly to human tragedy.

To prevent future calamities and secure the region’s ecological future, political parties and leaders must place environmental protection at the very top of their agenda.

CM Abdullah may have acknowledged the urgency on X, but what is needed now is decisive action.

If his team, and the government more broadly, lead corrective measures with determination, much can still be salvaged through the collective efforts of all stakeholders.

The involvement of political parties and senior leaders is both desirable as well as indispensable.

Activists can raise awareness and NGOs can contribute expertise, but the scale of transformation Kashmir needs will only be possible when political leaders take ownership and bring environmental protection into the heart of the political agenda.

Active political engagement would mean enforcing strong land-use and environmental laws, investing in sustainable planning, strengthening disaster preparedness, and holding violators accountable.

It would also mean challenging vested interests whose profits depend on ecological plunder. None of this can happen without political leadership willing to stand firmly behind the cause.

Failure to act will only bring more devastation. The time for bold political engagement is now.

Athar Parvaiz is an environmental journalist and the spokesperson of Peoples’ Environmental Council (PEC).

I spent the last year living in a bubble, cut off from the world, my life orbiting a single goal: clearing the JKSSB JE Electrical exam.

I left a job I tolerated, with low pay and endless work, to chase a promise that felt almost sacred. Friends said I was mad to resign, but I had made a pact with myself: give everything, expect nothing less than success.

My days began before sunrise. I poured over textbooks, scribbled notes, solved problems until my hands cramped, and fell asleep only to wake and repeat the cycle.

Festivals passed outside my door. Family weddings happened without me. Even when my body begged for rest, I reminded myself why I did this: my father, who tills the land from dawn to dusk, and my family, whose struggles I hoped to ease.

Every page, calculation, and sleepless night carried the weight of a dream not just mine, but theirs too.

When the exam notification finally arrived, relief and pride filled me at once. I pictured my parents’ beaming faces, as if saying, “Your sacrifice was worth it.”

I ironed my shirt, packed my admit card, rehearsed formulas in my head until sleep fled. Tomorrow, I told myself, tomorrow I claim what I have worked for.

But the morning of the exam arrived like a thunderclap. The hall buzzed with whispers. Within an hour, it spread: the paper had leaked.

Screenshots of the questions floated on social media, answered before the first pencil touched paper. I felt the floor drop from beneath me.

Every night of study, forsaken joy, and sacrifice suddenly vanished. The ground beneath my dream had collapsed.

I sat through the exam like a ghost, watching the clock tick and every second remind me of betrayal.

Later that evening, I returned home without appetite, without words. My parents tried to comfort me, saying, “It’s the system that failed, not you.”

Yet I could not shake the feeling of failure. A year of my life, surrendered to hope and diligence, had dissolved in a single, unjust moment.

People speak of re-exams. They speak of justice deferred. But they don’t see what it costs. Another year lost to preparation, another year of uncertainty, and another year of waiting.

Aspirants cross age limits, miss opportunities, lose

The Exam That Broke Us

Thousands of young aspirants in Jammu and Kashmir invested years of sacrifice into a promise of fairness. One leaked exam turned hope into heartbreak.

Navaid Runyal



faith, and the cycle repeats. The system allows no accountability, only endurance of the broken.

I think of the others: friends who postponed weddings, sold possessions for coaching, and worked night shifts while revising by dim lights. We all carried sto-

ries of sacrifice. We were 13,000 strong, competing for 292 posts. And one leak erased everything.

It is not just an exam. It is years of planning and effort, hope and expectation, the silent slog of families who trust in fairness. It is youth sacrificed for a prom-

“When I look at my notes now, they do not inspire. They remind me that merit has been traded for manipulation. They whisper of a system where effort counts for nothing, and connections weigh infinitely more. I ask myself if honesty was my mistake, if devotion to work and integrity is punished.

ise that never held.

The betrayal does not fit neatly into words. It lives in the corners of rooms where books lie untouched, in the hands cramping from practice problems, and in eyes that once dreamed of security and dignity.

When I look at my notes now, they do not inspire. They remind me that merit has been traded for manipulation. They whisper of a system where effort counts for nothing, and connections weigh infinitely more.

I ask myself if honesty was my mistake, if devotion to work and integrity is punished.

Yet, there is a stubbornness that remains. For every dream stolen, a resolve is born. The youth of Jammu and Kashmir will rise again. We will demand fairness, justice, dignity. We will remember these broken moments, but we will not let them define us.

Even when the JKSSB JE Electrical exam of 2025 feels like the cruelest joke, it is also a spark, a call that what is unjust today must be challenged tomorrow.

In the end, hope is not extinguished. It endures in our collective insistence that hard work must matter, that dreams cannot be silenced forever.

The author is a young aspirant from Jammu and Kashmir who dedicated a year preparing for the JKSSB JE Electrical exam.



# The Secret Choreography Behind Article 370's Fall

Six years on, a spate of books peels back the secrecy of August 5, 2019, revealing the planning that dismantled Article 370.

Sameer Rather

When retired Lieutenant General K.J.S. Dhillon sat down to write his autobiography, Kitne Ghazi Aaye Kitne Ghazi Gaye, he may not have realized how closely it would peek into one of India's most secretive political operations.

Dhillon, who headed the Army's strategic XV Corps in Kashmir, recounts a June 2019 breakfast meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, a discussion that, at the time, would shape the future of the region.

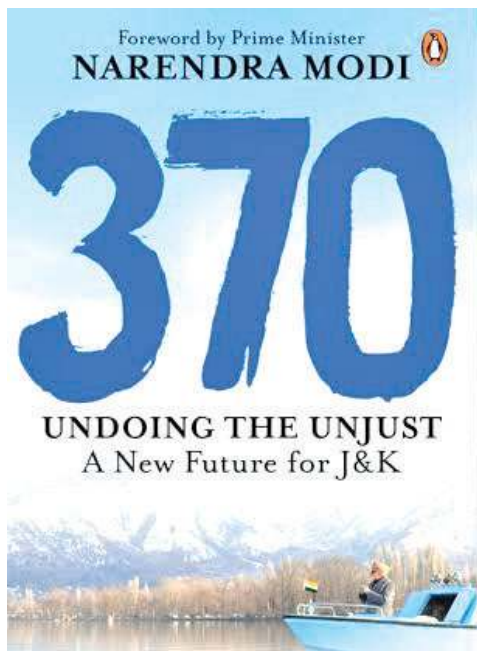
Shah had flown into Srinagar on June 26, 2019, to finalize the government's preparations for what would soon become the abrogation of Article 370, the constitutional provision granting Jammu and Kashmir special status.

The home minister's question was direct: "What is the guarantee that things will remain peaceful?"

Dhillon's reply, according to his memoir, was equally confident: peace would not be disturbed.

The memoir details the hour-long one-on-one meeting in Dhillon's office at Chinar House, an army residence renowned for its strict confidentiality.

Dhillon writes of calls at 2 a.m. arranging the meeting, questions about breakfast, and intense dis-



cussions covering Pakistan's likely response, security risks along the Line of Control, and military contingencies.

"The home minister's knowledge and in-depth assessment of the situation, including the likely fallout, was exceptional," Dhillon observes.

The memoir also captures a more human side of the story: Dhillon hosted a dinner for Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the former cricket captain

and Territorial Army officer, even as the army's strategy team prepared for August 5.

Amid these social duties, security planning continued late into the night, underscoring the logistical complexity of executing such a politically explosive decision.

While Dhillon's account provides a military perspective, the newly released book 370: Undoing the Unjust, A New Future for J&K,



published by the BlueKraft Digital Foundation, adds a political and constitutional lens.

The volume, endorsed with a foreword by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, positions the move as the culmination of decades of careful planning and a bold assertion of national integration: "There was complete clarity in my mind that taking the public in Jammu and Kashmir into confidence was absolutely essential for the execution of the decision. We wanted the decision... to happen with the concurrence of the people rather than imposition."

The book also includes previously unpublished historical documents. Among them is a July 1947 letter from Jawaharlal Nehru to Maharaja Hari Singh, revealing that India's first prime minister declined early offers for Kashmir's accession. This letter challenges long-held

narratives that framed the Maharaja as indecisive, instead suggesting that New Delhi's leadership delayed integration, inadvertently opening the door for the October 1947 Pakistani tribal attack.

Another revelation highlights the political calculations in 2019 itself: the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, widely believed to have driven the abrogation, was kept in the loop only at the last minute.

On August 5, Modi reportedly called RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat before Parliament convened, saying: "Mohanji, Aaj hum kuch kar rahay hain. Dekhtay hain aagay kya hota hai."

For a party that had campaigned against Article 370 since the early 1950s, this sidelining reflects the secrecy and precision with which the Modi government approached the operation.

Experts note that secrecy was crucial to prevent leaks and manage the risk of unrest.

The book also traces the long-term planning behind the constitutional, legal, and logistical steps necessary to execute the abrogation.

From timing orders to coordinating the army and administration, every aspect was addressed to prevent chaos in the valley.

The book also reconstructs the intense internal deliberations.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, and other top officials coordinated the timing of constitutional orders, parliamentary strategy, and ground security measures.

According to the authors, the operation required blending legal rigor, strategic foresight, and political will, a combination rarely documented in India's constitutional history.



**From breakfasts in Srinagar to midnight meetings in Delhi, it captures the stakes, the risks, and the meticulous choreography that led to the abrogation of Article 370.**

For the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the decision has been transformative and controversial.

Supporters argue that the repeal ended decades of discriminatory practices and strengthened national integration. Critics point to political disenfranchisement, lockdowns, and the lingering discord in the region.

Drawn from memoirs and policy accounts, this wave of documentation opens a rare window into the secrecy and strategy of August 5, 2019.

From breakfasts in Srinagar to midnight meetings in Delhi, it captures the stakes, the risks, and the meticulous choreography that led to the abrogation of Article 370.

— The author is a Srinagar-based political science scholar.



**Union Home Minister Amit Shah, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, and other top officials coordinated the timing of constitutional orders, parliamentary strategy, and ground security measures.**

## Digital Shadows

As internet access grows, so does harassment online, leaving victims anxious, socially withdrawn, and unsure where safety begins.

Javid Ahmad Zargar

Hina, a 21-year-old college student in Srinagar, remembers the first time a stranger contacted her on social media.

It seemed harmless at first: an innocent friend request. Soon, messages arrived almost every hour, questions about her life, routines, and friends.

When she blocked him, new accounts appeared, sending doctored photographs, spreading rumours among her peers. Every notification made her heart race. The internet, once a place of connection, had become a cage.

Stories like Hina's are becoming common in Kashmir these days. Cyber stalking, the repeated use of digital platforms to harass, intimidate, or threaten, is rising as rapidly as internet adoption in the valley.

Over 60% of Kashmir's population is under 35, and a growing share of them rely on smartphones and social media for education, work, and social interaction. That makes them particularly vulnerable.

The National Crime Records Bureau recorded over 10,000 cyber stalking cases in India in 2023. Experts believe the real numbers are far higher.

"Most victims do not report because they fear social stigma, family backlash, or reputational damage," said Dr. Saba Shah, a Srinagar-based psychologist. "The harassment is relentless. It follows them home, into classrooms, even workplaces."

Unlike traditional stalking, cyber stalking knows no boundaries.

Offenders can monitor online activity, track locations, and harass victims across time zones.

In one chilling Delhi case in 2022, a 23-year-old woman who rejected a man's advances was bombarded with hundreds of threatening messages



daily. The stalker created multiple fake accounts, morphed her photographs, and spread them online. He was finally traced and arrested after extensive investigation, but the trauma endured.

Similar incidents have been reported in Kashmir, where young women and men face online harassment alongside remote work and digital learning.

Social media platforms, designed to connect communities, have inadvertently become tools for harassment. Fake accounts, anonymous messaging apps, and encrypted platforms give offenders the confidence to harass without immediate consequence.

"The internet offers stalkers invisibility," said Rafia Malik, a digital security expert in Srinagar. "They can threaten, blackmail, and manipulate without facing immediate consequences."

Legal measures exist. Section 354D of the Indian Penal Code and the Information Technology Act, 2000, criminalize online stalking. The Kashmir Police operate cyber cells to investigate complaints, and the central government runs a Cyber Crime Helpline (1930). Enforcement, however, is

complicated by technical loopholes, use of VPNs, and delays in reporting. Victims often face social stigma or fear prolonged legal proceedings.



**Cyber crimes evolve faster than laws," Dr. Shah said. "We need trained officers, faster response systems, and a culture that encourages victims to come forward without fear."**

Cyber stalking's consequences extend beyond anxiety or embarrassment. Students face disrupted studies, professionals lose focus, and reputations can be irreparably damaged.

In some cases, virtual harassment spills into real life, leading to threats, extortion, or physical intimidation.

Experts stress awareness and preventive measures. Limiting personal information online, using strict privacy settings, and reporting suspicious behaviour are crucial.

Schools and colleges in Kashmir are beginning digital literacy campaigns, though experts say systemic change is needed.

"Cyber crimes evolve faster than laws," Dr. Shah said. "We need trained officers, faster response systems, and a culture that encourages victims to come forward without fear."

Hina has learned to handle the internet cautiously. She uses privacy filters, monitors her online interactions, and avoids oversharing.

The fear, however, persists. For her and thousands like her, the digital world, a space of opportunity and connection, also carries a silent, growing threat.

The challenge is no longer whether the internet will connect or divide, but whether it will become a space of safety or surveillance in Kashmir.

— The author holds an LL.B in Cyber Law and works as a Senior Manager at J&K Bank.

## When Essays Become Meditation

Husn-e-Intekhab transforms small moments and careful thought into reflections on life, language, and the human spirit.



**Husn-e-Intekhab grows with the reader. Essays reveal themselves differently depending on time, mood, and season. For Kashmiris, the book echoes the rhythms of the valley itself: its uncertainty, beauty, and need for careful attention.**

Dr. Masrat Ahmad Mir

Arickshaw bumps along a narrow street in Srinagar. Sunlight falls across a courtyard, catching dust in its path. A stranger passes by. Their eyes meet for a moment, and the world seems to hold its breath.

Dr. Falak Fayrooz notices such moments and lets them linger. In Husn-e-Intekhab, a collection of seventeen essays published in 2023 by Kitab-i-Duniya, he transforms the ordinary into something larger, something thoughtful.

The book is small, five hundred copies, priced at ₹370, but its reach is wide. It does not rest after one reading. It stays with you, pulling thought, reflection, and feeling into its orbit.

From the first page, Fayrooz explores the weight of knowledge. Learning can illuminate the mind, but it can also sharpen solitude.

His essays trace the thinker's path, the restless mind that measures, re-measures, and questions every gesture, every word.

His prose moves like careful breathing: simple, deliberate, musical. Insight is never free.



These reflections feel immediate and intimate in Kashmir, where learning and thought exist amid shifting histories and uncertainties.

Wandering becomes a way of life. Fayrooz calls it beautiful vagabondage, a refusal to be tied to certainty, an embrace of thought that drifts, of ideas that stray.

The essays invite readers to step into this wandering. In a place like Kashmir, where borders, memory, and politics shape every street, wandering becomes a way to see, live, and understand.

Each essay is a path, each sentence a step across shifting landscapes of feeling and thought.

Perception and belief thread through every page. Fayrooz reminds us that no gaze is neutral. Every glance carries belief, every vision is shaded by bias.

The observation resonates deeply in a land where rivers, streets, and faces are read through history and politics. Clarity does not mean removing bias. It comes from noticing it, understanding it, and letting it guide reflection.

Language itself sings in these

essays. Fayrooz treats Urdu as a living sound. Words carry weight and music. Sentences rise and fall like soft wind over mountains.

The prose reminds readers that thought can be slow, deliberate, and transforming. Language becomes culture, memory, and resilience.

Across seventeen essays, Fayrooz moves between reflection and observation, lyricism and thought. He turns solitude into meditation, small moments into insight.

Husn-e-Intekhab grows with the reader. Essays reveal themselves differently depending on time, mood, and season. For Kashmiris, the book echoes the rhythms of the valley itself: its uncertainty, beauty, and need for careful attention.

This is not a book to finish and forget. It is a companion for thought, a meditation on wandering, perception, and language. It leaves the mind restless, urging readers to pause, feel, and dwell.

— The author is a lecturer in history at the Government Degree College, Bemina, Srinagar.



MeT Predicts

about the risk of flash floods, landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones at vulnerable locations in Jammu division, particularly from the early morning of August 30 till late night of September 1 or early morning of September 2.

People have been urged to stay away from rivers, nallahs, embankments, and loose structures during this period to avoid any untoward incidents.

Jammu Records

department (MeT) just a few days after the heavy rainfall led to the flood-like situation across Jammu and Kashmir, causing extensive damage across the region.

The highest precipitation was recorded in Reasi with 437.9 mm rainfall in the last one week followed by 391.5 mm in Samba, 369.5 mm in Doda.

Udhampur saw a rainfall of 367.9 mm from August 22 to August 28, the data reveals, adding that Jammu recorded a precipitation of 366 mm rainfall during the period. During the inclement weather conditions, Jammu has surpassed a century-old record, by witnessing 380 mm of rainfall in only 24 hours.

An Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng had said that in just a 24 hour period, Jammu has recorded 380 mm of rainfall. "This is the highest rainfall ever recorded in Jammu in a 24-hour period since 1910, when the observatory was established. The last record was 270.4 mm recorded on 25 September 1988. This has also broken the record of 218.4 mm recorded on 23 August 1996. For comparison, this figure is close to 403.1 mm - Jammu's monthly average for August," he had said.

Kathua and Ramban stations recorded a rainfall of 264.6 mm and 242.2 mm in a week while the lowest precipitation in Jammu division was recorded in Poonch at 40.8 mm, followed by 74.8 and 76.3 in Kishtwar and Rajouri districts respectively.

Overall, Jammu division has recorded a rainfall of 921.18 mm in the last 89 days, which was 37.08 per cent above than normal precipitation. However, Kishtwar is the only station where a deficit rainfall of above 50 per cent has been recorded during the period.

Furthermore, in Kashmir division, a majority of seven stations out of ten have recorded a deficit rainfall since June 01, 2025 till August 28, 2025. The deficiency varies from below 4 per cent in Baramulla to below 65 per cent in Shopian district.

The data further reads that against a normal precipitation of 202.2 mm rainfall, Kashmir Valley has recorded 171.02 mm rainfall in the last 89 days, marking a deficiency of 15.42 per cent during the period.

Above normal precipitation of just 1% to 7% has been recorded in three stations only with Srinagar recording 1% above normal rainfall while 6% and 7% above normal rainfall was recorded in Pulwama and Anantnag stations respectively.

Considering the recent heavy rainfall, Anantnag has topped the list with 403% above normal precipitation in the last one week followed by Pulwama and Budgam with 341% and 332% respectively.

Srinagar has recorded 201% above normal rainfall in the last one week. The lowest precipitation was recorded in Shopian with just 10% above the normal rainfall. (KNO)

Vaishno Devi

the cloudburst, several people were swept away by the waters. Many precious lives have been lost, and several others have been injured," he said.

The LG also announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh will be given to the family of each deceased.

A landslide struck near the Inderprastha Bhojnalaya at Adhkuwari, about halfway along the winding 12-km trek route from Katra to the shrine, on Tuesday, killing 34 pilgrims and injuring 20 others.

There are two routes leading to the shrine. While the Yatra had been suspended on the Himkoti trek route since Tuesday morning, it was going on along the old route till afternoon when authorities decided to suspend it as a precautionary measure, a couple of hours before the tragedy struck.

"A high level three-member committee is hereby constituted to inquire into the reasons behind the tragic landslide incident near Adhkuwari on the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji track, Reasi district, on 26-08-2025," the order said.

The committee would examine in detail the reasons behind the incident and point out any lapses, assess responses in the form of rescue and relief measures undertaken, and suggest appropriate SOPs and measures for preventing recurrence of such incidents, it added.

"The committee will submit its report within two weeks to the chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board," the order said.

A partial strike was observed in Katra on Thursday as a mark of respect and solidarity with the deceased pilgrims, with hundreds of people taking out a march to criticise the Shrine Board over the tragic incident.

"The tragedy shows the incompetence of the Shrine Board, which allowed the Yatra despite weather warnings," former J-K minister Jugal Kishore Sharma said, alleging that the track was developed in a highly-unplanned manner.

Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) general secretary Karan Singh, who was also part of the protest march in Katra, accused the Shrine Board of over-commercialising the pilgrimage, and requested it not to play with the "sanctity of the holy shrine".

On August 27, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah asked why officials of the Shrine Board, which is under the administrative control of the LG, did not stop pilgrims from treading the track when there was a warning of the calamity.

"When we knew about the weather, should we not have taken certain steps to save lives? The weather warning had come to us a few days ago," Abdullah said.

Posing questions to the officials, he added, "Why were these people on the track? Why were they not stopped? Why were they not moved to a safe place? This has to be discussed later. We feel sorrow over the loss of precious

lives."

In a late night statement on Thursday, the Shrine Board refuted allegations of allowing the Yatra to proceed in disregard of weather advisories and at the cost of pilgrim safety, saying the pilgrimage was suspended at noon on August 26 ahead of the cloudburst that triggered the landslide.

However, the Board did not share details about the number of deaths caused by the disaster.

After visiting Katra on August 27, Sinha had said, "This has been a very unfortunate incident. Around noon yesterday, a cloudburst occurred when the Yatra was already suspended. Due to the cloudburst, several people were swept away by the waters. Many precious lives have been lost, and several others have been injured."

Board Rejects

Katra belt, killing 34 pilgrims and injuring 18 others.

"A few media reports have been circulating since yesterday alleging that yatra was allowed to proceed in complete disregard of weather advisories and at the expense of pilgrim safety. The Board expresses deep sorrow and pain at the unfortunate loss of pilgrims' lives in the natural disaster on August 26, and places on record the correct factual position to dispel the impression being created by the insinuating media reports. The Board categorically denies the allegations as false and baseless," the Board said in a statement here on Thursday night.

It said the weather conditions had remained clear and conducive for pilgrimage on the morning of August 26 until around 10 am, during which time the yatra proceeded normally. Even helicopter services were operating seamlessly then.

Asserting that the Board had made elaborate arrangements by positioning its enforcement staff and Disaster Management Task Force along the entire track as per its established standard operating procedure, it said weather updates were closely monitored.

"As soon as the forecast for moderate rains was received, registrations were immediately suspended. The majority of the yatrīs were moving down the track after completing darshan at the Holy Cave Shrine. Thousands of yatrīs en route had smoothly completed their pilgrimage back to Katra by then," it said.

The statement further mentioned that many pilgrims stayed on in the shelter sheds en route at designated halt points on the old track. "These are those points and stretches which have never been susceptible to landslides in the past. These halt points have been specifically created in the safest zones of the track, for pilgrim safety."

The new track between Katra and Adhkuwari (through Tarakote), which is susceptible to landslides and weather-related disruptions, had already been closed since August 24 in the interest of pilgrim safety, it said.

The old track, which is generally secure and not prone to slides and shooting stones, having stabilised over the last many decades, was kept open for pilgrim movement with a close watch on weather conditions. "Even yatra on this track was suspended by 12 noon on August 26 upon issuance of the specific weather advisory," the statement said.

It added that the location where this unfortunate disaster happened was near Inderprastha Bhojanalaya on the old track. "This is one of the safest locations on the track. However, nature's fury struck in the form of a sudden severe cloudburst in this stretch of around 50 metres only, which triggered the massive landslide at 2.40 pm. It was unpredictable and unforeseen from any count. No such event of landslide has ever been recorded in this area in the past. The event was a force majeure," it said.

The Shrine Board's Disaster Management Task Force, which was spread along the track, immediately responded in close coordination with District Administration Reasi, J&K Police, CRPF, Army, NDRF, SDRF and volunteers, launching swift evacuation and relief operations.

"Eighteen pilgrims who had sustained injuries were safely evacuated and shifted for super-specialty care at the Shrine Board's hospital in Kakryal after being given first aid along the track," it added.

The statement said the stranded pilgrims were safely evacuated to Katra through Tarakote Marg by the evening of August 26. "Simultaneously, debris clearance, slope inspection and stabilisation were undertaken on a war footing," it added.

The Board reiterated that every reasonable precaution was taken keeping in view weather forecasts. "The unfortunate cloudburst resulting in the loss of precious lives was not humanly foreseeable and was thus beyond anyone's anticipation or control," it added.

The Board said it has at all times acted strictly in line with official weather forecasts and advisories, with pilgrim safety and well-being as its foremost priority.

The Shrine Board stands firmly with the bereaved families in this hour of grief and every possible assistance will be provided to the NoKs of the deceased devotees. The injured are being provided with the best possible medical treatment and the Shrine Board prays to Mata Vaishno Devi for their quick recovery

Yatra Remains Suspended

Meanwhile, Vaishno Devi Yatra remained suspended for the fourth consecutive day on Friday following a tragic landslide, which claimed over 30 lives.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) announced that the pilgrimage to the revered Vaishno Devi Shrine in the Trikuta Hills of Jammu and Kashmir will remain suspended for the fourth consecutive day due to persistent heavy rainfall and adverse weather conditions.

Heavy rainfall has continued to lash Katra and the Trikuta Hills, rendering the pilgrimage route unsafe. While rescue operations are nearly complete and debris clearance efforts have been finalized, the SMVDSB has decided to extend the suspension until weather conditions stabilize, emphasizing the safety of devotees.

The Katra Hotel Association has stepped forward to support stranded pilgrims, offering free accommodation in hotels across the town.

"We express our heartfelt condolences to the families who lost their loved ones. Pilgrims stranded due to the suspension can avail free

accommodation in Katra," said Rakesh Wazir, president of the Katra Hotel Association.

Families of those receiving treatment at Narayana Hospital have also been provided lodging at the facility.

Financial assistance of Rs 9 lakh per deceased pilgrim has been announced by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, with additional aid of Rs 4 lakh from the J&K Disaster Department and Rs 2 lakh from the Chief Minister's Fund.

Pilgrims are advised to refrain from traveling to Katra until the Yatra resumes and to follow official updates from the SMVDSB.

SpiceJet Makes

necessary inspection, they added.

Jammu-Sgr NH

Jammu towards Reasi, Chenani, Patnitop, Doda, Ramban, Banihal and Srinagar," a traffic police official said.

Authorities have advised commuters belonging to Katra and Udhampur towns to keep their photo ID cards to prove their identity so that their movement can be facilitated smoothly.

Apart from this, nine inter-district roads in Jammu region are shut due to landslides and road erosion. Dozens of villages in Jammu, Samba, Kathua and Udhampur have been cut off due to damage caused by heavy rains, flash floods and landslides, they said.

The men and 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.

Due to the closure of the highway, over 2,000 vehicles are stranded at various places en route, including Lakhampur, Kathua, Jammu, Nagrota, Udhampur.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Udhampur, Saloni Rai, who along with SP Udhampur Sandeep Bhat visited the flood-hit areas of the highway to review the situation, said that efforts are being made to restore connectivity by tomorrow evening.

"The calamity has caused a lot of damage to the highway. Various teams have been deployed. Restoration work is in full swing. This progress is also being monitored by the Lieutenant Governor," she said.

The DC further said they are trying to give access to essential services. "However, we request that the rest of the people refrain from travelling on this highway at this time," she added.

According to the traffic advisory, the Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag highway is open for vehicular movement for LMVs. Traffic is plying on Mughal Road as per the advisory, it said.

Apple, Mutton

stuck, while many more are stranded between Qazigund and Khanbal in Anantnag district. Trucks carrying other essential commodities are also reported to be halted at Kathua, worsening the crisis.

Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, president of the Apple Farmers Federation of Kashmir, said that growers are deeply distressed as high-density apple consignments, which have a shorter shelf life compared to the delicious variety, remain stuck for days. "Fruit growers and traders in Kashmir who harvested their high-density apple crop are worried as trucks are stranded on the highway. The Mughal Road is also uncertain for smooth heavy truckloads. This variety of apple is perishable, and its storage life is also less. We expect the government to restore the highway as early as possible for smooth transportation of the apple," he said.

Apart from fruit, the highway closure has also hampered the supply of mutton to the Valley, leading to concerns among traders over possible shortages if the route remains blocked.

Authorities have assured that efforts are underway to restore traffic, but with continuous landslides and weather disruptions, no clear timeline has been given. (KNT)

Army Restores

Its load-bearing capacity allows for smooth vehicular movement, facilitating the uninterrupted flow of essential supplies and relief materials.

Major Bhannwala highlighted that the operation was carried out under extremely challenging conditions, with washed-out approaches and constrained workspace testing the resolve and teamwork of the engineers. "This operation underscores the Indian Army's capability to execute critical infrastructure projects under pressure, ensuring mobility and support for both our forces and the civilian population," he said.

The Tawi Bridge had suffered damage at the same spot during the 2024 floods and was subsequently repaired, but the recent rains necessitated immediate intervention.

By evening, vehicular traffic on the vital link was fully restored, ensuring smooth movement for both civilian and military transport.

HM To Visit

agencies to assess measures taken to deal with the flood situation and to ensure adequate relief and rehabilitation for affected families.

The visit comes amid heightened concern across Jammu and Kashmir following heavy rains, flash floods and cloudbursts that have caused widespread damage and loss of life.

Kashmir Book Ban

filed by Shakir Shabir, a Kashmir-based lawyer, represented by Senior Advocate Sanjay Hegde. He argued that Section 98 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), which empowers the government to forfeit publications deemed objectionable, was being misused. Hegde contended that an order by an official in one state could have an all-India effect, leading to blanket seizure of literature, which he termed excessive.

However, the bench insisted that the High Court should examine the issue. When Hegde suggested transferring the matter to another court, Justice Kant remarked that sidelining the jurisdictional High Court would be "demoralising", adding, "The High Court is a constitutional court. Let it decide."

The impugned notification, issued earlier this year by the J&K Home Department with the approval of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, claimed that certain publications propagated

false narratives and secessionist ideas. It stated that such literature distorted historical facts, glorified militants, vilified security forces, and promoted alienation and radicalisation among youth.

The list of banned books includes "The Kashmir Dispute 1947–2012" by A.G. Noorani, "Kashmir at the Crossroads" and "Contested Lands" by Sumantra Bose, "In Search of a Future: The Kashmir Story" by David Devadas, "Azadi" by Arundhati Roy, and "A Dismantled State: The Untold Story of Kashmir After Article 370" by journalist Anuradha Bhasin.

Authorities said the books were found to excite secessionism and endanger the sovereignty and integrity of India, thereby attracting provisions of Sections 152, 196 and 197 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023. [KNT]

Op Sindoor ‘Golden

their contribution in the Make in India campaign.

Making a special mention of the country's defence sector, she said, Operation Sindoor is a golden chapter in humanity's victory against terrorism.

"This operation completely destroyed terrorist camps and thwarted attempts to attack India. The indigenous Akashteer Air Defence Control and Reporting System displayed infallible capability. Public sector enterprises contributed to building this system. This is a matter of great pride for them," she said.

The President asserted that PSUs' contribution has been proven in achieving self-reliance on national security via innovation and India's growing technical expertise. Public sector enterprises have played a crucial role in sectors including agriculture, mining and exploration, manufacturing, processing and services, she said.

Murmu further pointed out that women-led development is one of the government's national priorities, asserting that women leaders have to overcome multiple challenges.

Court Discharges

put to trial and prosecution be allowed to prove the case by adducing evidence against them.

On the other hand, the counsel representing Akhtar and two other accused persons—Shonthu and Neeru Chadha—said that charges should not be framed against them.

Akhtar's counsel submitted that no illegality was committed in the giving "look after" charge to Shonthu after superannuation of the ex-MD. The counsel said that Shonthu only drew salary as provided in the grade assigned to him and no extra money was paid to him. He said that duty assigned to Shonthu was not similar to promotion and no loss was caused to the exchequer. After hearing the arguments from parties, the Special Judge Anti-Corruption Surinder Singh discharged the accused persons.

Ashok Jaiolkhani

performances with minimal sets and actors whose intensity filled the gaps left by resources.

By the age of eighteen he had been selected for Doordarshan, trained by BBC experts, and carried back to Kashmir a new sense of what television could be.

He went on to direct and produce nearly two hundred plays, serials, and telefilms, drawing on the narrative tradition of Kashmir while breaking the conventions that weighed down state-run broadcasting.

His shows were remembered for their power. Families would halt their evenings to watch Harud or Shabrang, the way households across India later paused for Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Letters piled up at Doordarshan Srinagar by the thousands. For a brief period, the streets emptied during broadcast hours, as if the valley had agreed to gather in front of its screens to share the same stories.

Jaiolkhani's colleagues remember him less as an administrator and more as a guide who changed the way they thought about art.

He became a mentor whose words carried the steadiness of theatre and the resilience of someone who had weathered Kashmir's upheavals.

"I had the privilege of working alongside Ashok Jaiolkhani at Doordarshan. He was a mentor and a guide whose presence brought warmth and encouragement to everyone around him," said Dr. Rafiq Masoodi, Former Additional Director General, Doordarshan.

His presence lifted young actors, reminded them of their worth, and urged them to keep faith in their craft.

"He treated the artist community as a family and carried their concerns as his own," Dr. Masoodi added. "His guidance, kindness, and cheerful presence left a lasting impression on me and others."

Those who worked alongside him say he understood the theatre as a social force, a way to shift the mindset of an entire generation.

Jaiolkhani's career stretched across mediums. He headed Doordarshan stations in Jalandhar and Chennai, launched the Jammu division, and rose to Additional Director General of Doordarshan, overseeing national channels from sports to Urdu to Kashir.

Yet he remained most alive when immersed in the rhythm of rehearsal halls and the glow of studio lights.

He wrote books that found their way into classrooms, including An Introduction to Theatre, later added to postgraduate courses in Kashmir, and a co-authored work on television production that won the Bharatendu Harischandra Award.

Beyond manuals, his written words were roadmaps for a region where storytelling was instinctive yet training scarce.

Awards followed, but the true measure of his work was in how it shaped memory. A play like Dastar entered Kashmiri conversation so deeply that its dialogue became a slang phrase in everyday speech. A serial like Harud altered weekly schedules, forcing shopkeepers to shutter their stores and families to plan around its telecast. Theatre productions like Evam Inderjeet or Giddh ignited debates across the valley, proving that drama could be both art and argument.

Jaiolkhani also carried a candid view of the changes that weakened the institutions he had served. He saw how the unrest of the 1990s,

coupled with the rise of outsourcing, led to a mushrooming of production houses in Kashmir. For him, most of them diluted the craft, creating work that was motivated more by easy profit than by art.

He lamented how trained artists were sidelined, and how television's rich culture was compromised by mediocrity.

He spoke with equal frankness about the decline of theatre, recalling how many performers abandoned the stage for the sheen of the screen and how the burning of Tagore Hall left artists without a home.

Yet he never surrendered to nostalgia. He urged younger groups to adapt to digital modes, experiment, and find financial strength if they wanted audiences to return.

He believed in the resilience of radio and television, though he acknowledged the challenges posed by cinema and later OTT platforms.

For him, survival depended on fresh formats, younger voices, and sharper policies.

Jaiolkhani argued that every medium had its own relevance, that television could still bring families together at the end of a day, and that radio continued to thrive because it offered intimacy without spectacle. He trusted that these mediums, if reinvented, would endure in Kashmir as elsewhere.

In his later years he began compiling a book of anecdotes from his long career. He admitted the task was daunting, each memory tugging at another, yet he wanted to leave behind a record of the strange blend of art and survival that marked Kashmir's media landscape.

When news of his passing came, it carried the weight of countless evenings when the valley gathered around a stage or a flickering screen, waiting for light.

For more than half a century, Ashok Jaiolkhani lit that light. Now the stage dims, the screen falls silent, and with his passing, an era ends.

India, China Can

current volatility in world economy, it is also important for India and China, as two major economies, to work together to bring stability to the world economic order," Modi said.

India is ready to advance bilateral relations from a strategic and long-term perspective on the basis of mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity, and to enhance strategic communication to address our developmental challenges, he said.

On his views on the Japanese government's concept of a free and open Indo-Pacific, Modi said there is a strong convergence between Japan's vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific and India's own approach encapsulated in our Indo-Pacific vision, in the 'Vision MAHASAGAR' and the Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative.

India and Japan are committed to an Indo-Pacific that is peaceful, prosperous, stable and where the territorial integrity and sovereignty of nations are respected, the prime minister said.

"Both our countries have strong and extensive linkages with countries in the Indo-Pacific region, and we both engage with some of them in plurilateral formats to give expression to our shared objectives," he said.

Talking about his recent conversations with the leaders of Russia and Ukraine, Modi said India has maintained a principled and humanitarian stance on the conflict, which is equally appreciated by both President Vladimir Putin and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"In line with this, both the leaders spoke to me to share their perspectives on the developments related to the conflict. I reiterated India's principled and consistent stand and encouraged dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the conflict. I have already indicated India's willingness to support meaningful efforts aimed at achieving peaceful resolution of the conflict," he told the Japanese newspaper.

"I believe, by virtue of our good relations with both sides, including key stakeholders, we can strengthen efforts dedicated to the restoration of an early and lasting peace in Ukraine," Modi said.

Stressing the importance of the Global South, Modi said the global community has made a commitment to create a more equitable world through achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

"If we have to live up to this commitment, then the Global South must be given priority. In a highly interconnected world, we have seen the debilitating impact of the pandemic, conflicts and supply chain disruptions on the Global South," the prime minister said.

They continue to face myriad challenges involving global governance, climate change, food and energy security, debt and financial stress, all having a significant impact on their development priorities, he said.

"As members of the Global South, we clearly understand these concerns and their effects on people's lives. We have made strenuous efforts to bring these to the forefront of the global agenda," he said.

"All our global initiatives, like Mission LiFE, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, International Solar Alliance, Global Biofuels Alliance, focus on promoting the interests of the Global South. Our G20 Presidency saw the inclusion of the African Union and gave voice to the aspirations of the Global South," Modi pointed out.

Similarly, in BRICS, India is actively engaged in working toward the benefit of the Global South, he added.

India attaches importance to its engagement with BRICS, which has emerged as a valuable forum for consultation, and cooperation and has helped promote mutual understanding, on a specific set of issues of common interest to emerging economies, he said.

Under the rubric of the Quad, he said they have worked for the development and progress of the countries in the Indo-Pacific.

"India has also consistently called for urgent and comprehensive reforms of the global multilateral institutions to make them more effective and reflective of the current geopolitical and economic realities," he said.

He pointed out that in the last 20 years, since its inception in 2004, the Quad has emerged as a force of global good, delivering positive outcomes for the people of the Indo-Pacific region.



## Rana Visits Flood-Affected Villages



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana undertook a comprehensive tour of flood-affected villages in the Jammu region, including Bhammini, Ghura, Sarari, Bathindi, Sunjwan and Chatha, to assess on-ground situation and oversee relief and rehabilitation measures.

Rajya Sabha MP, Gulam Ali Khatana; senior officers of Jal Shakti department and other allied departments also accompanied the Minister during the visit.

During the visit, the Minister emphasized the urgent need to accelerate the pace of restoration efforts and reaffirmed Omar Abdullah Government's commitment to extend timely assistance to all affected families.

"The least we can do as a Government is to respond with speed and compassion to the needs of those affected by this disaster. Our focus remains on immediate relief, rehabilitation, and restoration of essential services," he stated.

Rana visited the relief camp at Dongi Higher Secondary School, where several families displaced from Bhammini village have been temporarily sheltered. He interacted with the affected families to understand their concerns first-hand and reviewed the facilities and arrangements provided at the camp.

Recognizing the urgency of

safe drinking water for affected communities, the Minister directed the immediate restoration of damaged water supply schemes and called for their completion on a war footing.

Meanwhile, he instructed the concerned authorities to deploy water tankers to ensure uninterrupted supply of potable water to all flood-hit areas and relief camps.

Stressing that no affected household should be left without access to basic necessities, Minister Rana also directed officials to ensure an adequate and timely supply of ration and other essential items, including cooked food where required, to all displaced families. "Daily food distribution must be effectively managed to ensure no one is left behind during this critical period," he said.

Rana instructed officers from all relevant departments to conduct regular visits to the affected areas and camps. He emphasized that officials must listen directly to people's concerns, understand their urgent needs, and monitor ongoing efforts on the ground.

The Minister also visited Chatha village, where several houses and public infrastructure has suffered extensive damage due to the floods. He assured the affected population that the Government is duty-bound to ensure timely relief, effective rehabilitation, and complete restoration of all essential services.

## Minister Sharma Visits Flood-Hit Areas Of Khour



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma undertook an extensive tour of flood-affected areas in Khour Sub-Division, covering Dhar Khour, Channi Dawnoo, Thangar, and Block Samwan to assess the damage caused by recent floods and also oversee ongoing relief and rehabilitation measures.

During the visit, the Minister interacted with affected families and local representatives, assuring them that the Government is committed to their welfare. He expressed solidarity with the victims and reiterated that providing timely relief and rehabilitation remains the topmost priority of the Government.

The Minister issued on-spot directions to officials from Food, Civil Supplies, Transport, Rural Development, PHE, PDD, and other line departments. He instructed them to ensure uninterrupted supply of food grains, LPG, and other essentials, restore road connectivity and transport facilities on war footing.

He also directed to deploy health teams and undertake sanitation drives to prevent

water-borne diseases. He also called for complete crop and property damage assessments to facilitate compensation and also providing temporary shelters and community kitchens wherever required.

While interacting with the affected population, the Minister said: "The Government stands shoulder to shoulder with every affected family. Our collective focus is to restore normalcy at the earliest, safeguard public health, and ensure that adequate compensation reaches the victims without delay. No family should feel left behind in this hour of distress."

The Minister appreciated the efforts of the district administration, frontline workers, and volunteers engaged in relief and rescue operations. He directed officers to remain stationed in the affected areas till the situation normalizes and emphasized on close inter-departmental co-ordination for effective response.

Local residents, on the occasion, raised issues related to damaged houses, irrigation channels, and ration supply. The Minister gave immediate instructions for redressal and assured the public that their concerns would be addressed on priority.

## Flood Fury Hits J&K's Horticulture Sector

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The recent devastating flood situation in Jammu & Kashmir has turned into a disaster, wreaking havoc on lives, infrastructure, and the Union Territory's most vital sector—horticulture.

While Jammu region bore the brunt of human casualties and large-scale damage, the Kashmir Valley too has suffered partial devastation, particularly with the closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway (NH44), the only all-weather road that connects the Valley with the rest of the country.

The blockade of NH44 has left hundreds of fruit-laden trucks stranded, sparking panic among fruit growers and dealers.

Bashir Ahmad Basheer, Chairman Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union said these vehicles, carrying fresh consignments of Bagogsha (pear), Galamast, Red Gala apples, and other early-season varieties, have been stuck for days at multiple damaged stretches of the highway.

"Fruit markets across the Valley are overflowing with unsold produce, with growers warning that the delay could turn their crops into waste," he said.

"Every hour of delay means huge financial loss. These are perishable fruits—if they don't reach markets on time, they rot," said Abdul Rashid, a fruit grower from Shopian. "We are staring at a disaster as our produce is lying in orchards and mandis, with no way to send them out."

Although authorities have permitted the movement of six-wheel vehicles on the Mughal Road, growers insist that this measure is inadequate.

Basheer said the perishable fruit consignments require 6/10 tyre heavy trucks for safe and bulk transportation as smaller carriers not only fail to meet the volume requirements but also increase costs and transit risks.

"Allowing small trucks is not a solution. Our produce is in bulk, and only large vehicles can transport them efficiently. Otherwise, the loss will be catastrophic," he said.

This year's bumper fruit harvest in Himachal Pradesh has already driven down fruit prices across Indian markets. With Valley produce stuck in mandis and on highways, growers fear they will be forced to sell at throwaway rates, compounding



FILE PIC

**EVERY HOUR OF DELAY MEANS HUGE FINANCIAL LOSS.** These are perishable fruits—if they don't reach markets on time, they rot,"

## Chicken Prices Skyrocket Amid NH-44 Closure

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Chicken that used to be sold at Rs 125 per kg before the highway disruption is now being pushed on wholesalers' counters at Rs 160-180 per kg, indicating a sharp, "unjustified spike" that has left households, small shopkeepers and the poor reeling.

Residents and market observers say the price jump is not a natural market correction but "open exploitation by suppliers", who are cashing in on the ongoing closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, alleging there is no monitoring by the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) department of Kashmir.

"Before the road was closed, chicken was easily available at Rs 125 per kg. Now, they are selling it for Rs 170-180. This is sheer loot and nobody is questioning them," Bilal Ahmad, a consumer from Rajbagh said.

He added that every disruption is turned into an excuse to exploit people. "Where is the administration's rate enforcement? Is FCS&CA sleeping?" he asked.

Notably, the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) has remained closed after multiple landslides, triggered by heavy rains, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded and severing the main supply route into the Valley. Officials said the closure has now stretched into another day as restoration teams' work on several damaged stretches.

Additionally, traders in Srinagar admitted the hike is not a formally announced revision but a market-driven surge. "The earlier price was fixed at Rs 125; wholesalers are dictating their own rates. There is no formal revision, only profiteering," said a poultry dealer from Srinagar.

Consumers also pointed out that even after some stretches of the highway were cleared, prices continued to remain inflated, suggesting cartel-like behavior rather than genuine supply scarcity—(KNO)

ing their misery. "We are competing with Himachal fruit in the same markets. If our supplies don't reach on time, we will have no buyers left. This is nothing short of an economic tragedy for us," said Ghulam Nabi, a grower from Anantnag.

The horticulture industry is the backbone of J&K's economy, with more than 7 lakh families directly or indirectly dependent on fruit cultivation, trade, and allied services. The valley, often described as the "Fruit Bowl of Northern India",

produces apples, pears, cherries, walnuts, and other varieties that form a major share of its economy.

If immediate measures are not taken, growers warn that the losses will run into hundreds of crores, hitting both the farming community and the UT's revenue.

Unless urgent steps are taken, Kashmir's fruit industry—already under pressure from falling prices and adverse weather in past years—faces a devastating season, Basheer added—(KNO)

## Bhagat Reviews Status Of Essential Commodities Across J&K

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Saurabh Bhagat convened a meeting to discuss and review the availability of Foodgrains, Petroleum products and movement of essential commodities in the aftermath of recent flood situation and prevailing weather conditions across Jammu and Kashmir.

Among others, Deputy Commissioners; Controller Legal Metrology Department J&K; Director, FCS&CA, Jammu; GM FCI J&K; State Level Coordinator J&K and representative of Div Com offices, Traffic, DMRRR J&K, JKRTC, Railways attended the meeting, either in person or virtual mode.

While reviewing the movement of stuck essential vehi-



cles, he directed the concerned officers to take all measures to clear movement of vehicles/trucks so that essential commodities reach every district.

He further asked the officers to chalk out the strategies to overcome all challenges in future.

The Commissioner Secretary also emphasized upon them to work in close coordination with each other so that the stock position of essential commodities could be maintained. He also asked

concerned officers that a daily status report of different activities like distribution to be done by concerned authorities should be submitted in both Divisional Commissioner offices as well as the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs department.

The Commissioner Secretary said that the government has taken every step to improve essential commodities especially in affected areas so that the people cannot face any inconvenience in this regard.

side stakeholders such as BookMyShow, Wizcraft, Saregama, District by Zomato, and Touchwood Entertainment Ltd., attended the deliberations. Rights societies including IPRS, PPL, RMPL, and IMI Trust were also represented.

Key outcomes of the meeting included the decision to integrate live event permissions into the India Cine Hub portal to streamline clearances, launch a Centralised Digital Music Licensing Registry by October 2025, and create a model policy to allow multi-use of stadiums and public spaces for live events. The group also recommended inclusion of live enter-

tainment skills under the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF), as well as exploration of financial incentives through GST rebates, subsidies, blended finance models, and MSME recognition.

Jaju stressed that the government is committed to positioning India among the world's top five live entertainment destinations by 2030, with the potential to generate 15-20 million jobs, build new infrastructure, and strengthen India's global cultural influence. He said the JWG will function in "mission mode" to drive employment, tourism, and soft power through the concert economy.

## “Hospital On Wheels” Provides Healthcare To People At Seripoora

Observer News Service

**RAMBAN:** In continuation to its proactive efforts to take healthcare to the remotest corners of the district, the District Administration Ramban, on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, today organized a Mobile Medical Camp at Village Seripoora in Tehsil Gool under its initiative - "Hospital on Wheels".

The initiative aims at bridging critical healthcare gaps in hard-to-reach areas by providing on-the-spot medical consultations, essential diagnostics, free medicines and vital health awareness to the rural population.

A dedicated team of doctors and paramedical staff attended to over 130 patients, including 115 General OPD cases and 15 Dental consultations. The camp also conducted essential tests such as blood sugar, ane-

mia and malaria. Screenings for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Tuberculosis (under NTEP) were undertaken, ensuring early detection and timely intervention.

Furthering the vision of digital health, 25 ABHA IDs were generated under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). The medical team also sensitized villagers about flagship schemes like JK SEHAT, PMJAY, E-Sanjeevani, NTEP and ABDM, while stressing the importance of preventive healthcare and healthy lifestyle practices.

With the proactive approach of District Administration Ramban, the "Hospital on Wheels" program continues to bridge the healthcare gap in most remote areas of the district. The outreach in Seripoora marks another milestone in a series of interventions aimed at ensuring quality, accessible healthcare for all residents of the

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that the number plate of my motorcycle PULSAR 150CC bearing Registration No. JK05C-6151 has been lost/misplaced. I have applied for issuance of a duplicate/New number plate with the concerned RTO BARAMULLA. If anyone has any objection to the same, they may kindly inform the POLICE STATION KREERI or the concerned RTO within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no claim shall be entertained thereafter.

Name: ARFAT AHMAD SHEIKH  
Father's Name: MOHD RAMZAN  
Address: AUTHOORA  
Mobile No: 7006918843

PKO

### 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/853/2025

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: 29798

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED  
VS  
M/S SHEIKH CAR POINT**

To.

(1) Imtiaz Ahmad Shah son Of Shamas-u-din Shah Resident Of Anwarabad Kupwara (Bank Colony Rawalpura) Jammu And Kashmir

(2) Sheikh Parvaiz Ahmad son Of Sheikh Abdul Ahad Resident Of Custodian Colony Sanat Nagar, Jammu And Kashmir

(3) Abdul Rahim Rather son Of Sh Abdul Majid Rather Resident Of Kralpora Srinagar, Jammu And Kashmir

(4) Smt Masrat Parveen wife Of Sh Abdul Rahim Rather Resident Of Kralpora, Srinagar, Jammu And Kashmir

#### SUMMONS

Whereas, OA/853/2025 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 04.08.2025

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 8576317.57 (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 14.10.2025 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 : 11.08.2025

**Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons**

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

## JWG Brings Govt & Industry Together To Boost Live Entertainment Sector

Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI:** The first meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on promotion of India's live entertainment industry was held at the National Media Centre, New Delhi, under the chairmanship of Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The JWG, constituted in July 2025 under the directions of Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, aims to strengthen India's concert economy by fostering collaboration between government bodies, industry associations, rights soci-



eties, and major event companies.

In his recent addresses, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has underlined the untapped potential of the live entertainment sector, calling it a key driver of employment, tourism, investment, and cultural influence.

The meeting brought together representatives from the Ministries of Information & Broad-

casting, Culture, Youth Affairs & Sports, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Finance, and DPIIT, along with the Sports Authority of India. State government officials from Maharashtra, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka also participated.

Industry associations including EEMA, FICCI, CII, and ILEA, along-



# Aquib Nabi's Duleep Trophy Hat-Trick Gives North Control Over East

Press Trust of India

**BENGALURU:** Kashmir pacer Aquib Nabi bagged a five-wicket haul, including a hat-trick, as North Zone bundled out East Zone for 230 to gain command on the second day of the Duleep Trophy quarterfinals here Friday.

Wicketkeeper batter Kanhaiya Wadhawan (76) made a fluent fifty as North, overnight 308/6, reached 405 all out, and, now, they lead by 183 runs after East's stutter against Nabi (5/28).

The Asia Cup-bound Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana showcased their game readiness with intense spells spread across three sessions on the day.

The East Zone could have been in a better position had they shown a little more restraint. Virat Singh played wonderfully well for a 69 off 102 balls but a



moment of indiscretion cost him his wicket, playing the wrong line to get bowled by Nabi.

It opened the floodgates as the Baramulla-born pacer, who took 44 wickets in the previous Ranji

season for J&K, dismissed Manishi and Mukhtar Hussain in the next two balls to complete the hat-trick in the 53rd over.

Manishi shouldered arms to an incoming delivery to get

caught plumb in front while Hussain was beaten for pace to get bowled.

Nabi soon completed his five-wicket haul dismissing Mohammed Shami in an excellent second spell — 3.1-0-5-5, which included four wickets in as many balls.

In that phase, East Zone lost five wickets for eight runs, sliding from 222 for five 230 all out.

Later Nabi said bowling alongside Arshdeep and Rana was a massive lesson for him.

"They have been giving their all for the country, and I learned to keep a positive mindset (from them). When you get a chance, you have to do well. I am playing with them for the first time.

"I got to learn a lot because they have been playing for India and they have been very helpful," said Nabi after the match.

Arshdeep lauded Nabi saying the J&K bowler has all the fine traits of a good pacer.

"In the beginning, we under-bowled Nabi. I had never seen him before. I saw him for the first time at nets. The ball came out of his hand in a very good way. He bowled his second spell quite late. But he was waiting for his bowling. This is a sign of a good player.

"You saw his hard work in the Ranji Trophy. The discipline in which he bowled, he got 5 wickets in 2 overs. So, a lot of credit goes to him," said Arshdeep.

Aquib Nabi also put his all-round talent on display. North managed to cross the 400-run mark as Wadhawan (76), who copped two painful blows on his gloves and head by Shami, and Nabi (44) milked 66 runs for the eighth wicket.

## Budgam, Anantnag Observe National Sports Day Across Various Zones

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** On the occasion of National Sports Day 2025 on Friday, the District Youth Services and Sports organised a series of sports and fitness activities across multiple districts of the valley. DYSS Office Budgam held events in all 12 Physical Education Zones of the district.

The day commenced with pledge ceremonies conducted simultaneously in Beerwah, Narbal, BK Pora, Magam, Dreygam, Budgam and others.

A variety of sports competitions such as Tug of War, Badminton, Volleyball and other events were held, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students and staff.

Under the guidance of District Youth Services & Sports Officer Budgam, Ghulam Hasaan Lone, the celebrations highlighted the importance of physical fitness, discipline, and team-



work in shaping young lives. Additionally, a special pledge ceremony was also held at the office of DYSSO Budgam, led by Activities Incharge, Ghulam Hasaan Khanday.

Meanwhile in Anantnag, a grand function was organised at Government Middle School Bondailgam, where Additional Deputy Commissioner Anantnag Sandeep Singh Bali (JKAS) was the chief guest. He was accompanied by DYSSO Anantnag Raja Yaqoob, Chief Education Officer Anantnag Kishore Kumar and other officials of DYSS.

On the occasion, several sports events as well as recreational activities were held. An exhibition Tag of War match between officials of Achabal Zone and Anantnag Zone was conducted.

Simultaneously, National Sports Day functions and events were also conducted across the zones and schools of the district. The activities included Pledge (National Sports Day), Yoga Sessions, Chess, Carrom, Badminton, Volleyball, Kho Kho Kabbadi, Tennis Ball Cricket, Table Tennis and Tug of War.

## NIT Srinagar Celebrates National Sports Day, Pays Tribute To Legend

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Friday observed National Sports Day with a pledge ceremony and a series of sporting activities, joining institutions across the country in paying tribute to hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand on his birth anniversary.

The event was organised by the Students Activity and Sports (SAS) Centre and witnessed active participation from students, faculty, and staff. As part of the programme, a fitness pledge was taken to reaffirm commitment towards health, fitness, and sportsmanship.

National Sports Day is celebrated every year on August 29 to honour Major Dhyan Chand, regarded as one of the greatest hockey players of all time. Known as the 'Wizard of Hockey', Dhy-



an Chand's unmatched skill and sportsmanship brought glory to India, including three Olympic gold medals in 1928, 1932, and 1936.

On the occasion, Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, said the observance of National Sports Day at the Institute is reminder of the crucial role sports play in student life.

SAS Officer, Kowsar Ali Mir, said that the strong participation of faculty and staff alongside students reflects the inclusive sporting environment at the Institute.

NSS Coordinator, Dr. Pramod Kumar Yadav, said

the event was a reflection of NIT Srinagar's commitment to holistic student development.

As part of the extended celebrations, NIT Srinagar has planned a series of activities till August 31. These include sports debates, fitness awareness talks, and competitions in both indoor and indigenous games such as Kho Kho, Kabaddi, Pithu, and rope skipping.

The Institute will also host yoga sessions, cycling events, and interactive conclaves on Olympic and Paralympic values.

## 2nd Edition CRPF Football Cup Begins In Srinagar

**O**n National Sports Day 2025 on Friday, the second edition of CRPF Football Cup began at TRC Ground in Srinagar. Inspector General Srinagar Sector CRPF, Pawan Kumar Sharma, said the tournament aimed to provide young footballers a platform to showcase their skills.

Sharma said the week-long tournament's inaugural match on Friday was scheduled to coincide with National Sports Day. A total of 16 teams will compete in the tournament, with eight from Srinagar and four each from Budgam and Ganderbal. The IG CRPF also thanked J&K Sports Council Secretary for supporting the event. (Observer News Service)

## India Submits Proposal To Host 2030 Commonwealth Games

**I**ndia on Friday officially submitted its proposal to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, marking a significant step in its ambition to bring the multi-sport event back to the country after two decades.

The formal bid was submitted to the Commonwealth Sport (the Commonwealth Games Federation) by a delegation with representation from the Commonwealth Games Association of India and the Government of Gujarat.

The bid positions Ahmedabad as the host city for the Centenary edition of the Games, marking 100 years of the Commonwealth Games.

Gujarat Sports Minister Harsh Sanghavi said India's Games will be based on the ancient principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', meaning "the world is one family," offering unity and human connection. Atithi Devo Bhava, or "the guest is divine," will guide the planning for all the stakeholders that will visit India for the Games.

Hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games is aligned with the country's long-term ambition of becoming a leading sporting nation, where mega-events serve as catalysts for wider participation in sport and infrastructure development. (PTI)

## Saka Out For 'Weeks', Odegaard Questionable For Liverpool Game

**A**rsenal winger Bukayo Saka's latest hamstring injury will keep him out for "a few weeks," manager Mikel Arteta said Friday ahead of the Premier League game at Liverpool.

Sunday's match at Anfield is an early clash of title contenders, but the Gunners face the defending champion saddled with injuries to key players, including captain Martin Odegaard.

The midfielder hurt his shoulder during Arsenal's 5-0 victory over Leeds last weekend.

"He hasn't trained yet, and if he does it will be tomorrow," Arteta said. "He's doing everything he can, we're doing everything that we can to make him available, but we'll have to wait and see tomorrow. ... if everything goes well, he can cope with it."

This week, Odegaard was summoned by Norway for upcoming matches.

Saka, who also exited the Leeds game, missed more than three months last season because of a hamstring tear that required surgery. (AP)

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