

Weather Chaos Continues In J&K

Heavy Rain, Cloudburst Risk Till Sept 2

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A fresh spell of moderate to heavy rain is expected on Sunday morning, which could trigger landslides and flash floods in the Jammu region, the Srinagar meteorology centre said.

"A spell of moderate to heavy rain with brief intense showers is most likely at many places over Jammu, Kathua, Rajouri, Reasi, Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar, Samba and Udhampur towards early morning between 4 am and 11 am of August 31," the Met centre said on X.

The weatherman has issued yellow and orange warnings for the next three days.

Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Director Meteorological

department (MeT) said during the period, a few places of South Kashmir and central Kashmir may also experience light rain with brief intense showers with thunder and lightning.

From September 03 to September 08, he said that generally hot & humid weather is expected with brief spell of rain and thundershower at a few places.

The weather office asked people to stay away from rivers, nallas and loose structures while remaining updated and alert.

The region has been reeling under a series of heavy rains, cloudbursts and landslides since August 14. So far, at least 130 people have lost their lives and 140 were injured in | [More on P6](#)

'Fragile Himalayas, Rising Monsoon Tragedies' Experts Call For Early Warning Systems

Agencies

As natural disasters grip Jammu and Kashmir, claiming more than 150 lives this month, meteorologists say the impact of cloudbursts can be reduced through high-resolution weather monitoring, strengthened early warning systems, advanced forecasting models, sustainable land management, regulated construction. | [More on P6](#)

MBBS Admission Scam

Kashmir Crime Branch Raids 6 Locations

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The crime branch in Kashmir conducted searches at six locations in the Valley on Saturday in connection with the MBBS admission scam, an official said.

The Economic Offences Wing of the crime branch was acting on a case registered against four individuals, who allegedly offered several people fake MBBS admissions in Bangladesh.

A probe had revealed that a huge amount of money was collected by these individuals on the pretext of offering medical admissions, but no money was ever transferred to any medical college, a crime branch spokesperson said.

Preliminary investigation

substantiated the allegations of fraud, the spokesperson said, adding that accordingly, a case pertaining to cheating and criminal conspiracy, punishable under Sections 420 and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, was registered.

The accused have been identified as Peerzada Aabid from Bijbehara and Syed Wasim from Pulwama's Kareemabad, both currently living at Azad Basti in Natipora; Syed Suhail Aijaz, a resident of Takiya Magam in Kokernag, currently living in Muslimabad opposite NR Colony in Bemina, and Zaigam Khan, a resident of Bemina.

Aabid was the proprietor of an educational consultancy named Europe Consultancy Centre, while | [More on P6](#)

5th Cloudburst In A Fortnight

Observer News Service

Srinagar: At least 11 people, including seven of a family, died in two incidents of cloudburst and landslide triggered by heavy rains in remote villages of Reasi and Ramban districts, as Jammu and Kashmir, beset by a series of natural calamities in the past fortnight, labours to bring life back on track.

J&K has been reeling under a series of cloudbursts and landslides since August 14. With the latest incidents, 130 people have lost their lives and 140 were injured in Jammu, while 32 pilgrims are still missing.

The pilgrimage to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district remained suspended for the fifth day on Saturday. As many as 34 pilgrims died when a landslide struck about halfway along the winding 12-km trek

CM Orders Timely Evacuation From Risk-Prone Zones

Assembly Session Likely In October

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The fourth session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly is expected to be held in the first week of October at the Assembly complex in Srinagar.

The sitting follows three previous sessions, including a one-day special session convened in response to the Pahalgam terror attack in April.

Sources said that preparations are under way and that the government is likely to issue the formal notification after Cabinet approval.

The government is expected to allot several days for the House to conduct legislative business ahead of the winter recess.

Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather said that while the final decision on the dates rests with the government, he is hopeful the session will take place in October. "The final decision has | [More on P6](#)

11 Dead In Reasi, Ramban; Death Toll Rises To 130



route from Katra to the shrine on Tuesday.

The twin incidents were the fifth major incidents in Jammu region in the last fortnight triggered by the heavy rainfall.

In yet another incident, a family of seven died after a landslide, triggered by heavy rainfall, struck a residential house in Bhadder village of

Mahore tehsil in Reasi district.

Officials said the incident occurred early this morning when a massive landslide hit the house, located on a steep slope, burying the structure under debris. The house was occupied by multiple family members at the time of the incident.

"Seven people were trapped under the | [More on P6](#)

Amid inclement weather prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday directed officials to ensure round-the-clock monitoring and carry out timely evacuation of residents from

risk-prone zones.

The statement comes in the aftermath of two fresh incidents of cloudburst and landslide in Ramban and Reasi districts that left 11 persons, including seven members | [More on P6](#)

All eyes on his talks with President Xi On Sunday PM Modi Lands in China After 7 Years

Press Trust Of India

After a gap of over seven years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi landed in China on Saturday on a keenly watched visit that assumed greater significance in view of sudden downturn in India-US ties triggered by Washington's policies on tariff.

Modi is in China primarily to attend the annual summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on August 31 and



September 1.

However, his scheduled meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday has assumed greater significance in the face of

Washington's tariff tussle that has impacted almost all leading economies across the world.

In the talks, Modi and Xi are expected | [More on P6](#)

Gifts Kashmiri Shawl To Japan's First Lady

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday presented a hand-crafted Kashmiri Pashmina shawl to Japan's first lady during his visit to the East Asian country. According to a statement, made from the fine wool of the Changthangi goat from Ladakh, is renowned globally for its lightness, warmth, and softness. "Handwoven by skilled Kashmiri artisans, | [More on P6](#)

HC Asks Judge, Staff To Contribute For Relief Fund

KO Correspondent

Srinagar: In response to the devastating cloudbursts and flash floods that have wreaked havoc across Jammu & Kashmir, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has issued an official order urging all judicial officers and staff to contribute towards the relief fund of the Government of J&K

According to an order by Rajeev Gupta (Officiating Registrar General), in order to extend helping hand to the sufferer in this time of crisis, all the Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh may

contribute Rs 20000each; All the District Judges of the UTs of J&K and Ladakh shall contribute Rs. 10000 each; All the Civil Judges (Senior Division) shall contribute Rs. 7000 each; All the Civil Judges (Junior Division) shall contribute Rs. 5000 each; All the Gazetted Officers of the High Court as well as the District Judiciary shall contribute Rs. 5000 each and all the Non-Gazetted Officials of the High Court and District Judiciary shall contribute Rs. 1000 each.

"Registrar Judicial(s) of both the wings of the High Court, after collecting | [More on P6](#)

Fire Ravages Gurez Village Dozens Injured, Over 27 Structures Guttled

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A fire ripped through a village in Jammu and Kashmir's frontier Gurez sector on Saturday, leaving over 20 people injured and more than two dozen structures damaged, officials said.

The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained, they said.

The fire broke out in a house in Kashpot village in Bandipora district's Tulail area and engulfed nearby structures. A total of 27 structures, including houses, cowsheds and an Anganwadi centre, mostly made of wood, were damaged, the officials said.



Fire and Emergency Services personnel and police brought the fire under control. During the firefighting operation, 23 people, including the Tulail station house officer (SHO), were injured, they said.

The injured were taken to a hospital in Dawar for

treatment. The SHO was referred to the Bandipora district hospital for further treatment, they added.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the incident.

"Chief Minister expressed grief over the fire incident at Kashpot, Tulail in which various houses have been gutted. He spoke to Mr. Nazir Ahmad Khan, MLA Gurez and assured him of full support from the Government," the CM's office said in a post on X.

Ruling National Conference president Farooq Abdullah expressed deep anguish over the loss | [More on P6](#)

Greatest Art Of Living Includes Welfare Of Others: LG

Felicitates Awardees; Calls For Peace, Harmony & Nation-Building

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha felicitated the Awardees of International Buddha Peace Awards and Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Awards, organised by Buddhanjali Research Foundation, at Srinagar.

The event was also graced by Ramdas Athawale, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment. In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his heartiest congratulations to all the award



winners and lauded their significant contributions to the society. "The contribution of each one

of the Awardees is an inspiration for all. They are embodiment of | [More on P6](#)

23 Encroachers Of Historic Shah Kul Face HC Notice

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has issued notice to 23 alleged encroachers of 'Shah Kul', a historical canal and a national monument which had been the main source of supplying water to Nishat Gardens since the time of Mughal Emperor Jahangir.

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation, a division bench of Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal passed the directions following an application in this regard.

While seeking reply by these 23 persons by September 3, the

court directed that the notices be served through the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar.

At this point, government advocate Jehangir Ahmad Dar undertook to facilitate the process to ensure that all of them are served before September 3.

"In the meanwhile, the respondent authorities shall also furnish the complete details/particulars of even other encroachers, named in annexure-III appended to the supplementary compliance report furnished by the respondents within two days". The court ordered that interim direction, if any, passed | [More on P6](#)

J&K To Get Back Statehood Soon: Union Minister

Says Post-370, J&K Heading Towards Rapid Development

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Union Minister of State (MoS) Ramdas Athawale on Saturday said Jammu and Kashmir will get back its statehood soon.

Although the Union minister did not give a time-frame, he said, "I believe it will happen soon."

Talking to reporters, Athawale said, "I think J&K should get back its statehood

as soon as possible, and there is a demand for that also."

He said that when the Assembly elections took place in J&K last year, more than 60 per cent voting was recorded - which was more than many other states in the country.

"I thank the people of J&K for that, for not succumbing to fear. When (Union Home Minister) Amit Shah abrogated Article 370, he stated that J&K will soon get its statehood back and I think the Government of India can take that decision soon in the future," he said.

When asked how much more time it | [More on P6](#)



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Srinagar | Sunday | 31-08-2025

2

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHESILDAR KALANTRA/KREERI

Sub-Application of Bashir Ahmad Gojer Bokad S/O Drya Mohd Gojer Bokad 2 Ramiz ahmad ,3 Waseem ahmad, 4 Naveed ahmad 5..Rizwana Bano R/O Bandi Bala
for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujjar and Bakerwal) in Favour of Self.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the Subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST. In this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village Bandri Bala and belongs to the Gojer Community, the details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

S. No	Name of Individual	Relation with Applicant	Age	Occupation	Annual Income
1	Bashir ahmad	Self	54	Labour	11000/-
2	Saleema Begum	W/o	45	H. wife	-
3	Ramiz Ahmad	S/o	26	Labour	-
4	Waseem Ahmad	S/o	24	--	-
5	Rubeena begum	D/o	24	H. wife	-
6	Nadeem ahmad	S/o	22	Student	-
7	Naveed ahmad	S/o	20	---	-
8	Rizwana	D/o	17	--	-

Therefore, through this Public Notice objections are being sought from general public, if any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) positively from the date the notice has been published.

No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.
fko

Naib Tehsildar Kalantra/Kreeri

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 691797439163 the name is entered as AYANA ALI D/O ALI MOHAMMAD PARA while actual name is AYEENA ALI D/O ALI MOHAMAD PARA. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

AYEENA ALI
D/O ALI MOHAMAD PARA
R/o TALAPORA BUDGAM CELL. 9797105673

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Aijaz Ahmad Baba, son of Mohammad Syed Baba, resident of Arampora Sopore, do hereby inform the general public that the name of my minor son has been recorded as Peer Sauleh Aijaz Baba in the Date of Birth Certificate issued by the office of the Registrar (Birth & Death), Municipal Committee Kupwara.

The said Birth Certificate has also shown the address of the parents at the time of the child's birth as Kupwara, whereas the correct and permanent address was and continues to be Arampora Sopore.

Now, I have changed his name from Peer Sauleh Aijaz Baba to Peer Sauleh Ibni Aijaz. Also I want rectification of my address shown at the time of birth of the child. I shall henceforth apply for issuance of a fresh Date of Birth Certificate in his new name. If anyone has any objection, he/she may kindly file the same in the office of the Registrar (Births & Deaths), Municipal Committee Kupwara within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/-
Aijaz Ahmad Baba
S/o : Mohammad Syed Baba
R/o : Arampora Sopore.
30-08-2025

AJKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost all the documents of my vehicle Swift bearing regd no; JK04J 3185. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the ARTO Budgam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Syed Muzaffar Hussain Rizvi
S/o Syed Hussain Rizvi
R/o Nassu Skinderpora Beerwah

fko

اڙنيابت پهلان

عنوان :- درخواست مخائب غلام نبی کھورولمبعلصھورساکھاتپهلانجھنصلپنبراد
اڙنيابتپنکلمڈپينڈنٹسرفنکشن

اشتهار ہرخاص وعام

معاملمندرجهعنوانالصدرمیںسائلنکد درخواستنغرض ائگڈپينڈنٹسرفنکشنپيشکي
هےجوکذيراکردائي هے اسبارمیںهےپواريعلقهسےرپورٹطلبکي گئي هےجسعهيماں
هےکه سائل کائکيد15افرادپرمشتمل هےاوسائلکھاتپهلانکاسکوتدارهےسائلغلامنبی
کھورخودمزدوري کرتا هے گھريکلکامورادئي 6000روپهنک هےسائلگھراکيلاکمانهے
والا هےاورا هےپنهےبيعتاشنيدبانو دخترغلامنبیکھوريشاديکرنهےکاخواں هےسائلحکملهيرمیں
مزدورزينبر Regd no 16188 هےسائلکائکيدذيل افرادپرمشتمل هے هے
فريدديگيمزوجهغلامنبیکھور 50سال گھريلوکام
شائيدبانودخترغلامنبیکھور 19سال غيرشادي شده
نصيراحمدهکورولد۔۔ 14سال زيرتعيلم
داشدهنجي دختر۔۔ 10سال ۔۔

اسکعلادهادوکئي افرادکيدنيش هے سرفنکشنکيذيربحثاڙواکرنهےمیںاگر کسیخيشکو
کوي غوريا اعراضههؤودهيشتملغرضاشنيدان کاندرا دهرانهےندرياعراضعدالتحدذاوقترکي
اوقاتکسدوانپيشکريں۔بعدگزرسهيعواکوي غوريااعراضقابل قبولنيش هوگا۔

تابعهصليدار

FKO

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1: Reliance Foundation Postgraduate Scholarships 2025-26

Description: The Reliance Foundation Postgraduate Scholarships aim to enable and propel India's future leaders who can think big, think green, and think digital for the benefit of society.

Eligibility: Be a resident Indian citizen.

First-year PG students who secured a score of 550 - 1,000 in the GATE Examination.

OR
Students who have scored 7.5 or above in their Undergraduate CGPA (or % normalised to CGPA)

Eligible degree programmes – Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Mathematics & Computing, Electrical/or Electronics Engg., Chemical Engg., Mechanical Engg., Renewable & New Energy, Material, Science & Engg. and Life Sciences.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 6,00,000 over the duration of the degree

Last Date to Apply: 04-10-2025

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/RFS12

QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/reliance-foundation-postgraduate-scholarships-2025-261756116104.png>

Scholarship Name 2: Reliance Foundation Undergraduate Scholarships 2025-26

Description: The Reliance Foundation Undergraduate Scholarships aim to support meritorious students from all corners of the country in pursuing their undergraduate education. This empowers them to continue their studies, become successful professionals, and realize their dreams, unlocking their potential to uplift themselves and their communities and contribute towards India's future socio-economic development.

Eligibility: An applicant must: Be a resident Indian citizen

Passed Standard 12th with minimum 60% Currently enrolled in the 1st year (academic year 2025-26) in a regular full-time degree course in any stream

Students having household income < Rs. 15 Lakhs (preference given to < Rs. 2.5 Lakhs)

Aptitude Test is mandatory

The following students are not eligible:

Students who are in the 2nd year or higher (have started their courses from academic year 2024-25 or before)

Students pursuing their degree through online, hybrid, remote, distance or any other



students enrolled in government or private schools across India.

Eligibility: Students who are currently enrolled in Class 11 in any government or private school in India are eligible.

non-regular modes
Students who have passed their diploma after std. 10th

Students pursuing 2-year & 6 years undergraduate degree courses

Students who do not answer the mandatory aptitude test or are found cheating during the test

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 2,00,000 over the duration of the degree

Last Date to Apply: 04-10-2025

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/RFS13

QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/reliance-foundation-undergraduate-scholarships-2025-261756116016.png>

Scholarship Name 3: NextGen Edu Scholarship Program 2025- 26

Description: A social impact initiative by the EY Global Delivery Services that offers financial assistance to Class 11

Must have scored a minimum of 60% marks in Class 10.

The total family income from all sources should not exceed INR 3 lakh per annum
Students from Karnataka, Delhi NCR, Maharashtra, Telangana, West Bengal, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu will be given preference.
Children of employees of Buddy4Study and EY Global Delivery Services are not eligible to participate in the scholarship.

Note: Girls, children of a single parent, transgender individuals, orphans, and persons with disability are encouraged to apply.

Prizes & Rewards: Financial aid of 15,000 to help students continue their education after Class 10.

Last Date to Apply: 10-09-2025

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/EYGD511

QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/nextgen-edu-scholarship-program-2025-261754974389.png>

NOTICE

It is hereby informed that I, **Fareed Ahmad Chauhan**, R/o **Sofi Mohalla, Pandach, Nagbal**, have applied for correction in the Birth Certificate of my child **Ayesha Fareed Ahmad Chauhan**, D.O.B 23/12/2021, Registration No. 29552, issued by Jammu Municipal Corporation. The mother's name has been **wrongly** entered as **Shakeela Akhter Fareed Ahmad Chauhan**. The correct name is **Shakeela Akhter** as per Aadhar. The **permanent address** has also been **wrongly** mentioned as **Devak Sunderbani Rajouri**. The correct address is **Sofi Mohalla, Pandach, Nagbal**, as per Aadhar. If any person has objection to the above corrections, they may inform the concerned authorities within 7 days of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

Media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in the RC of my vehicle bearing regd no: JK01AR 3884 as Arbaan Khan while my correct name as per adhaar card is Arban Khan. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the RTO Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Arban Khan
S/O Ashiq Hussain Khan
R/O House No 39 Rehmatnabad Colony Hyderpora Srinagar

RKT

From Office of the Advocate Javid Ahmad Navoo And Associates

In the case of

1. Bashir Ahmad Ganie
2. Fayaz Ahmad Ganie
3. Ghulam Hassan Ganie
4. Showkat Ahmad Ganie

All Sons of Late Mohammad Ramzan Ganie
All Residents of Ganie Pora Buran Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla Kashmir

Caveators

V/s

1. Abdul Rehman Ganie
2. Abdul Majeed Ganie
Sons of Abdul Khaliq Ganie
Both Residents of Ganie Pora Buran Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla Kashmir

And Public At Large

Non-Caveators

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

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

Sd/advocate

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Chinar Dev. Officer/ Floriculture Officer District Ganderbal/Bandipora

Department of Floriculture Kashmir.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE: 01. Of 2025-26

DATED: 26 / 08/2025

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K, sealed tenders affixed with Rs.6/- (Rupees six only) revenue stamps are invited in person or through Registered/speed post/ Courier from Government approved /eligible suppliers/Contractors on the prescribed tender form for the following job.

S. No	Description
1	"Supply and installation of the transparent UV stablized poly film (200 microns) , allied items for the tubular structure at Qamaria Park , Duderhama Ganderbal".

Tender documents along with terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of the undersigned against cash payment of Rs: 100/- (Non-refundable) as per schedule of dates given below: -

1	Date of issue of tender document	29/08/2025
2	Last date of issue of tender document	05/09/2025
3	Tender document submission date	30/08/2025
4	Last date and time of tender submission	06/09/2025 (upto 2p.m)
5	Date and time of opening of short-term Tender	08/09/2025 (11.30 a.m.)

The sealed tenders in one envelop marked as "A" consisting of financial bid and Copy of Registration, Renewal, GST Registration, GST Return, PAN Card along with CDR for an amount of 2000/- (Rupees two thousand only) pledged to Chinar Dev. Officer/Floriculture Officer Ganderbal sealed in second envelop marked as "B" consisting of technical bid. Both the sealed Envelope "A" & Envelope "B" must be put together in properly sealed large envelope duly marked ""Supply/installation of the transparent UV stabilized poly film (200 microns) , allied items for the tubular structure at Qamaria Park , Duderhama Ganderbal" should reach the office of undersigned by or before the last date/time of tender submission cited above in the schedule.

The tenders will be opened as per the scheduled date /time or next working day convenient to tender opening committee. However, in case of any eventuality, the tender issue, receipt and opening date will be considered the next working day without any change of fixed time and venue.

Terms and conditions:

- The tenderers are required to furnish the documentary evidence of their being registered contractor/supplier. The tenders received after the expiry of the due date and time shall not be accepted/entertained. The department will not be responsible for any postal delay.
- Erosion, overwriting, cutting if any, should be properly attested and transparent tape should be pasted over quoted rates.
- The tenders must be accompanied by Earned Money /Security Deposit in the shape of CDR amounting Rs. 2000 only (Rupees two Thousand only) pledged to Chinar Dev. Officer/Floriculture Officer Ganderbal from any Recognized Bank.
- The successful tenderer shall have to draw Agreement with the Department within three days from the issuance of the Contract.
- Conditional tender(s) will not be accepted or entertained.
- The tender opening committee/Officers are not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason therfore.
- The tenderer should quote rate in Rupees (Rs.) on prescribed tender document inclusive of all applicable taxes, GST, Income tax, carriage charges, service charges, etc FOR QAMARIA PARK GANDERBAL.
- The lowest tender shall be declared on the basis of the cumulative/total Amount of all the items rather than the single rates of the items offered on individual items.
- Tenderers should put in full name, signature on each page of the price bid in token of having accepted all terms and conditions of the NIT as well as to authenticate the quoted rates.
- The order shall have to be completed within stipulated time from the date of placement of supply order and supply not conforming to the tendered specifications shall be out rightly rejected.
- The successful contractor shall pursue and seek the material carriage permission himself from the concerned competent authority after obtaining the permission letter from the undersigned office.
- Payment shall be released on completion of supply as per the terms and conditions of the supply order subject to verification in respect of time, quantity and quality.
- Condition(s), if any, arises necessary at the time of opening of tender/bid, the same will be reflected in supply order.
- Dispute arising, if any, during the currency of contract, the decision of the Director Floriculture, Kashmir will be final and binding.

NO: CDO/FO/GBL/768-776

DIPK-5712/25

Dated: 30/ 08/2025

District Ganderbal/Bandipora
Department of Floriculture Kmr.

Ashok Koul Chairs BJP Meet In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, on Saturday held an organizational meeting at Church Lane, Srinagar, under the leadership of General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul.

The meeting focused on strengthening the party's organizational structure, streamlining coordination, and formulating strategies to expand the BJP's footprint across Kashmir.

Chairing the session, Ashok Koul highlighted the importance of a robust and

ence to party principles.

Senior leaders, including State General Secretary Anwar Khan, Secretaries Mudasir Wani and Arif Raja, and All Cells Co-Incharge Bilal Parray, participated in the deliberations. Discussions centered on expanding the party base, mobilizing cadre strength, and ensuring a united approach in implementing upcoming initiatives.

Koul lauded party workers for spreading the BJP's message across the Valley and urged them to continue working with "renewed zeal and dedica-



BJP leader Ashok Koul visited Guzarbal Noorbagh on Saturday to offer condolences to senior BJP leader Ghulam Nabi Palpori on the demise of his father-in-law.

disciplined organizational framework, stressing that the BJP's growth in the Union Territory rests on grassroots empowerment, regular public engagement, and adher-

tion." He reiterated that the party's ultimate goal is to serve the people selflessly and uphold democratic governance in Jammu & Kashmir.

Shaadi.com's Anupam Mittal Visits Bayaan Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Bayaan, the renowned South Asian brand that recently opened its store in Kashmir, welcomed a special guest on Saturday. Anupam Mittal, founder of Shaadi.com, along with his wife, model and actress Anchal Kumar. Close friends of Bayaan's owner Faheem Raja, the couple graced the new store and joined in celebrating the brand's latest milestone. Anupam had also visited Kashmir in order to show support for the tourism industry.

Speaking at the event, Anupam Mittal shared a lighthearted remark that drew warm applause: "Be-

fore marriage comes Shaadi.com, and after the marriage is fixed comes Bayaan."

During his visit, Anupam also interacted with a group of Kashmiri entrepreneurs who had traveled to meet him. He encouraged them to pursue their ideas with persistence and adaptability, stressing that passion coupled with resilience is the key to building businesses that last.

The presence of Anupam Mittal and Anchal Kumar added a remarkable highlight to Bayaan's Kashmir journey, reinforcing its vision of combining tradition with contemporary relevance and inspiring the Kashmir's growing entrepreneurial community.

Before marriage comes Shaadi.com, and after the marriage is fixed comes Bayaan

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

Sub... Application of Abdul Ahad Bhat S/o Abdul Gaffar Bhat R/o Trikolbal Hanjiwera for issuance of legal hair certificate..

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT is inform to general public that applicants son's legal hair certificate is under process in this office in this matter report Was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants son namely Ashaq Hussain Bhat s/o Abdul Ahad Bhat R/o Trikolbal Hanjiwera died on 25/12/2006 and left following legal hairs..

1 Abdul Ahad Bhat	Father of deceased.
2 Zaina Begum	Mother of deceased.
3 Showkat Ahmad Bhat	Brother of deceased.
4 Sanjeeda Begum	sister of deceased..

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

SD
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan



DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Mr Mehraj Din Bhat S/o Late Abdul Aziz Bhat R/o Gupkar Road, Srinagar, who left for heavenly abode on 30th August 2025 (Saturday). May Almighty Allah grant Jannat-ul-Firdous to the departed soul.

Fateha Khawani will be held on 1st September 2025 (Monday) at Gupkar Road near Nursing Home at 9:00 AM.

BEREAVED BHAT FAMILY



LG Manoj Sinha felicitated the Awardees of International Buddha Peace Awards & Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Awards on Saturday.

Sakeena Inaugurates 1st Annual MMFDIACON25 Endocrinology Conference

Speakers Lay Emphasis On Addressing diabetes, Its Complications In Elderly Population

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo emphasized on the need to strengthen preventive and curative healthcare systems for the elderly population as diabetes has emerged as a silent yet pressing health challenge among our elders.

The Health Minister made these remarks while delivering the keynote address after inaugurating 1st Annual MMFDIACON25 International Endocrinology Conference at Government Medical College (GMC) here.

The conference was organised by GMC Srinagar in collaboration with the Department of Endocrinology of Super Speciality hospital, MMF Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies on Ageing and Moul Mouj Foundation.

The conference, themed "Elders Deserve Better: Diabetes and its Complications in the Elderly - An Interdisciplinary Approach," brought together experts and professionals from various fields to discuss the latest developments and challenges in managing diabetes and its complications in the elderly.

In her keynote address, the Minister emphasized on the importance of addressing diabetes and its complications in the elderly population, highlighting the government's commitment to improving healthcare outcomes. She stressed on the urgent need to strengthen preventive and curative healthcare systems for the elderly population, particularly those grappling with chronic conditions like diabetes.

“Diabetes in the elderly is not just a medical issue but also a social challenge. Our elders deserve compassion, timely diagnosis, and collaborative treatment strategies that address the full spectrum of complications. This conference is a significant step toward building that holistic model of care,”

“Diabetes in the elderly is not just a medical issue but also a social challenge. Our elders deserve compassion, timely diagnosis, and collaborative treatment strategies that address the full spectrum of complications. This conference is a significant step toward building that holistic model of care,” she said.

The Minister congratulated GMC Srinagar for holding such academic event on a topic of immense public health importance. She emphasized on the crucial role of healthy ageing in ensuring the well-being of society and noted that while diabetes is rapidly increasing among the elderly, its rising prevalence in

the young population is equally alarming. She stressed that combating diabetes requires a multi-pronged approach, ranging from lifestyle modification and diet to sustained physical activity.

Commending the efforts of the organizing committee and GMC Srinagar, Minister Sakeena emphasized on the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in tackling diabetes-related complications. She assured that the government is committed to advancing specialized healthcare facilities, strengthening preventive programs, and ensuring wider access to diagnostic and treatment services in both urban and rural areas of Jammu & Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal/Dean, GMC Srinagar and Patron of the conference, Dr. Iffat Hassan Shah highlighted that GMC Srinagar and its associated hospitals remain at the forefront of healthcare delivery in Kashmir, with a special focus on the needs of the elderly population.

HoD Endocrinology, Dr. M. Hayat, in his address underlined the urgency of the conference theme, noting the multiple and complex complications of diabetes witnessed among elderly patients, which necessitate interdisciplinary discussion and intervention, while as Senior Consultant Geriatrics and Academic Convenor, CISA, Dr. Zubair Saleem reaffirmed that CISA and MMF are committed not only to the treatment of ageing parents in Kashmir but also to advancing academic research and policy dialogue in geriatrics.

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
06 Rabi-ul-Awwal
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 36
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5: 10
Magrib	7:03
ISHA	8: 27

This Day In History

- 1310- German king Heinrich VII makes his son Johan king of Bohemia
- 1422- Henry VI becomes King of England at the age of 9 months
- 1837- Ralph Waldo Emerson gives his famous "The American Scholar" speech to Phi Beta Kappa Society at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, declares American literary independence from Europe
- 1842- American blacksmith Micah Rugg patents a nuts & bolts machine
- 1843- Liberty Party nominates James Birney as presidential candidate
- 1854- Major outbreak of cholera occurs in Soho, London; Physician John Snow goes on to call it "the most terrible outbreak of cholera which ever occurred in this kingdom."
- 1864- Atlanta Campaign: Battle of Jonesboro, Georgia, 1900 casualties
- 1876- Ottoman sultan Murat V is deposed and succeeded by his brother Abd-ul-Hamid II
- 1889- Second International Electrical Congress adopts the joule as unit of energy (after James Prescott Joule), the watt as unit of power (after James Watt) and the quadrant as unit of electrical inductance (later renamed henry)
- 1894- The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act passed by Richard Seddon's Liberal government, making New Zealand the first country in the world to outlaw strikes in favour of compulsory arbitration
- 1897- British General Kitchener's army occupies Berber, North of Khartoum
- 1897- Thomas Edison patents the Kinetoscope [kinetographic camera], a device which produces moving pictures
- 1900 - British troops over run Johannesburg
- 1907 - Britain & Russia sign treaty with Afghanistan, Persia & Tibet
- 1907 - Britain, Russia & France form Triple Entente
- 1914 - German troops reconquer Soldau/Neidenburg East-Prussia
- 1915 - Brazil becomes a signatory to the Buenos Aires copyright treaty.
- 1917 - In China, Sun Yat-sen and his supporters' 'rump' parliament establishes a military government and elects Sun Yat-sen as commander-in-Chief
- 1923 - Mussolini orders the Greek Government to apologize for the deaths of an Italian general and his staff on the Greco-Albanian border
- 1929 - Committee chaired by Owen D. Young finalizes the "Young Plan" to reduce German reparations from World War I to 112 billion Gold Marks (\$US8 billion) paid over 59 years
- 1942 - Battle at Alam Halfa: German & Italians assault
- 1943 - Japanese occupiers intern Jewish Congregation of Sorabaja
- 1944 - Allied offensive at "Gothen-line" Italy
- 1944 - French provisional government moves from Algiers to Paris
- 1944 - French troops liberate Bordeaux
- 1944 - Soviet & Romanian troops march into Bucharest
- 1957 - Federation of Malaya gains independence from Great Britain
- 1962 - Trinidad & Tobago gain independence from Britain (National Day)
- 1966 - "The Battle of Algiers", directed by Gillo Pontecorvo, starring Jean Martin, Saadi Yacef, premieres at the Vienna International Film Festival
- 1968 - 12,000 die in 7.8 quake destroys 60,000 buildings in NE Iran
- 1968 - Garfield Sobers becomes the first cricketer to hit 6 sixes in one over.
- 1976 - Trinidad & Tobago adopts constitution
- 1978 - Constitution adopted by Sri Lanka
- 1979 - Comet Howard-Koomur-Michels collides with Sun
- 1982 - USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1990 - East & West Germany sign a treaty to join legal & political systems
- 1994 - Last Russian soldiers leave Estonia & Latvia
- 1994 - Pentium computer beats world chess champ Garry Kasparov

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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KO VIEW

Srinagar’s Green Deserts

On a late summer afternoon, in the fading shade of Naseem Bagh, a retired schoolteacher sits on a wooden bench, eyes fixed on some chinars that still stand. He remembers when the bagh stretched like a sea of copper leaves, when children ran under canopies so dense that sunlight had to fight its way through.

Today, the trees look lonely, boxed in by encroachments and ringed by traffic, their branches reaching into a sky thick with smoke. “We thought these trees would outlive us,” he says. “It looks like we will outlive them.”

Srinagar was once called a city of gardens and lakes, a jewel of water and shade. That reputation now survives mostly in tourist brochures. On the ground, the city is choking under concrete, shopping complexes, and half-planned colonies that devour wetlands and orchards.

According to official data, Srinagar has lost nearly half its green cover in the past three decades. Forest Department surveys show how expanding roads and new real estate cut through orchards and grazing land. The loss is visible in neighbourhood parks turned into parking lots, playgrounds sold to developers, and wetlands filled for housing schemes.

This is not modernization. It is erasure. The green belts that gave Srinagar its lungs are shrinking to ornamental patches: manicured lawns outside offices, hedges along VIP roads, and “beautification drives” that prize cement walkways over living trees.

The social cost is deep. Parks that once held picnics and wedding feasts are either fenced for entry fees or too neglected for children. Dal Lake, which sustained families through its floating gardens, has become a dumping ground, dressed up in the language of tourism upgrades. Here, beautification means tiled pavements and LED lights, not lotus blooms or willow belts.

The environmental toll is harsher. With fewer trees, Srinagar is heating up. Summers are hotter, air quality is worsening, and doctors report rising cases of asthma and bronchitis, especially during tourist months when traffic smog hangs low over the city. With open grounds vanishing, children play cricket in cramped lanes or on cracked concrete lots.

There is another loss too: memory. Older residents recall the scent of almond blossoms in Badamwari and the rush of wind through chestnut groves. Today’s children will inherit a different Srinagar, where the word “garden” means a wedding hall lawn or a park fenced with wiring.

Cities, like people, need space to breathe. Srinagar is being built as if air and shade were options. Urban planning can still protect wetlands, revive commons, and plant chinars as seriously as it lays roads. What it requires is imagination, and the refusal to mistake ornamental grass for a living city.

Back in Naseem Bagh, the teacher rises. Behind him, two boys kick a plastic bottle like a football, their laughter echoing through the rustle of dying leaves. They are playing in what space remains, unaware they are growing up in a city where gardens are fading into memory.

Waiting for AIIMS

Planned at the same time as AIIMS Jammu, the unfinished Awantipora hospital faces delays again, likely to miss its November 2025 deadline, leaving South Kashmir families to travel hours for critical care.

Faizaan Bashir

Noor Ahmad, 58, of Kulgam, arrived at the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences in Srinagar on a frigid November morning, carrying his wife, Shabana, who had been diagnosed with advanced breast cancer.

The roads from his village were icy and treacherous. By the time they reached the hospital, before sunrise, the corridors were already crowded.

IV poles teetered in narrow passageways. Patients leaned against walls. Families whispered in anxious tones. Every available seat was taken.

“This is the only place where serious treatment is available,” Noor said. “Every time we come, it feels like we are fighting for a spot, not for care.”

Residents of South Kashmir routinely make long journeys to SKIMS for serious medical conditions. Patients from Awantipora, Anantnag, Kulgam, and surrounding areas face two- to four-hour drives over snow-laden roads, clutching prescriptions and referral letters from local clinics.

In many cases, the trips end without treatment due to overcrowding.

In 2019, the government sanctioned two All India Institutes of Medical Sciences, one in Jammu and one in Awantipora. Both had been conceived in 2015, as part of a push to expand specialty healthcare across the region.

AIIMS Jammu, inaugurated in 2024, now operates with 750 beds, advanced oncology and trauma care, and robust programs in medical education and research. Recruitment of faculty and staff has eased patient burden and shortened travel times for many Jammu residents.

AIIMS Awantipora, however, has lagged. After six years, construction is 61 percent complete across 57 blocks. Delays have been attributed to labour shortages, land acquisition disputes, lingering complications from the revocation of Article 370, and the proximity of an army base.

Meanwhile, the population of Kashmir, approximately six million, continues to rely heavily on SKIMS.

Sahil Bhat, a 32-year-old teacher from Anantnag with a chronic cardiac condition, said he travelled nearly 60 kilometers over icy roads to reach SKIMS in early 2025 after his condition worsened.

By the time he arrived, the cardiology wing was overwhelmed. “I waited four hours before seeing a specialist,” he said. “It is exhausting and stressful, especially when your life is at risk.”

Health officials report rising health concerns in South Kashmir. Critical cases are increasing in the region. Combined with frequent emergencies from fires, waterborne diseases, and accidents, these conditions are straining hospitals designed decades ago.



AIIMS Jammu continues to function fully, offering timely specialty care and relieving patients in that region. The contrast is clear: South Kashmir families endure punishing travel and overcrowded wards, while similar care is accessible just across the mountains in Jammu.

Crowding is common, patients share beds, departments move between rooms, and waiting times stretch into hours.

The strain extends to hospital staff. Nurses and doctors rotate through wards packed with patients, while administrative staff struggle to maintain records amid continuous patient influx.

Every delay in completing AIIMS Awantipora stretches this system further.

Fatima, a mother from Pulwama, described the difficulty of securing care for her seven-year-old son, Ayaan, diagnosed with a rare kidney disorder.

Local hospitals could stabilize him, but he required advanced pediatric nephrology care.

Early one morning, the family set out for SKIMS, enduring a two-hour journey over icy roads. “If AIIMS Awantipora were open, we could have left on our own schedule,” she said. “Here, we wait like everyone else, hoping for the best.”

There is some movement on the project. In June 2025, Sakeena Itoo, the Minister for Health and Medical Education, visited the site in Awantipora. She met engineers and officials overseeing construction and expressed concern over delays.

“This is not just a building, it is a beacon of hope for advanced healthcare in Kashmir and beyond,” Itoo said. “Any delay in executing this vital project is a delay in delivering essential services to our people.”

She instructed officials to remove bottlenecks, maintain round-the-clock work, and submit regular progress reports to ensure

timely completion without compromising quality or safety.

The minister was accompanied by Pampore MLA Justice (retd) Hasnain Masoodi, Rajpora MLA Ghulam Mohi Uddin Mir, directors of health, Ayush and family welfare, district officers, and executing agency staff.

The visit underscored the political and administrative recognition of Awantipora’s importance.

Meanwhile, AIIMS Jammu continues to function fully, offering timely specialty care and relieving patients in that region. The contrast is clear: South Kashmir families endure punishing travel and overcrowded wards, while similar care is accessible just across the mountains in Jammu.

For Noor, Shabana, Sahil, Fatima, and thousands of others, the wait continues. Each postponed surgery, crowded corridor, and long drive over snow is a reminder of the cost of delay.

AIIMS Awantipora, when completed, promises to bring critical care closer to home, reducing risk, stress, and the human cost of delayed treatment.

Until then, families endure the journeys and the crowded wards, hoping each winter brings them closer to care at last.

The author holds PG in History and hails from Srinagar.

Each morning, before the city stirs fully, Yumna, a twenty-three-year-old student in Srinagar, reaches for her phone. She bypasses WhatsApp, Instagram, the endless chatter of social media, and opens an app tucked in a folder named simply “tools.”

To anyone else, it is unremarkable. To Yumna, it is a map of her body, a small rebellion against a silence that has been layered over her life for as long as she can remember.

There, she marks the restless nights, the subtle aches, and the days when her body signals its rhythm in whispers.

Menstruation is rarely discussed in Kashmir. Mothers lean close and whisper advice. Sisters exchange silent warnings. Schools pass over the subject as if it were invisible. Conversations in families are brief, hushed, and polite in their avoidance.

In this cultural fix, the simple act of opening an app, noting a symptom, and predicting the ebb and flow of her own cycle, feels revolutionary.

Yumna is not alone. Across the valley, women are finding ways to track their health, to understand patterns that once eluded them.

A recent study in Women’s Reproductive Health noted that Kashmiri women use these apps to chart cycles, anticipate premenstrual moods, or plan daily life around periods.

The digital space, private and discreet, offers knowledge where public discussion falters, where shame and cultural expectation have long drawn boundaries around the female body.

Healthcare in the valley is stretched thin. There are only 3.8 doctors for every 10,000 people, less than half the national average. For women in rural villages, specialists are few and far between.

Polycystic ovary syndrome, PCOS, affects one in four women here, twice the global average. Yet an app, simple in its design, can provide insight.

It can prompt a visit to a doctor, reveal patterns, and in some cases, offer the courage to speak aloud what has long been unspoken.

Take Ayesha, a twenty-nine-year-old teacher from Anantnag. Two years ago, she noticed her cycles had become irregular. She began using an app.

“I didn’t know what was normal,” she said. “The app helped me see patterns and gave me the courage to

Apps Against Shame

What was once whispered in secret can now be managed digitally, giving women knowledge, confidence, and control.

Arbeena



talk to a doctor.”

The diagnosis: PCOS. Untreated, it could have led to infertility.

The app had given her understanding, a subtle form of agency in a system that often overlooks women’s reproductive health.

The significance of these digital tools extends beyond convenience.

For decades, menstruation in Kashmir has carried a weight of secrecy and shame. Women recall hiding sanitary pads, avoiding religious spaces, deferring to a world that treats their biology as taboo. Schools, where sixty percent of girls in rural areas lack proper menstrual hygiene facilities, rarely mention the subject.

Within this context, an app that allows a woman to track ovulation or anticipate a period becomes radical, a private reclaiming of knowledge and control.

Rifat, twenty-six, a homemaker in Sopore, speaks of her experience with joy. “It’s like having a doctor in my pocket,” she said.

For her, the ovulation tracker was a way to plan a pregnancy, a conversation she would have felt too shy to initiate with a male doctor at her local clinic.

Yet these digital tools are not infallible. They depend on user input. They cannot replace trained physicians. Only thirty percent of public health facilities in the region have gynecologists. Privacy is precarious. Health data, intimate and revealing, can be exposed.

The valley allocates just 4.2 percent of its budget to healthcare, compared with six percent nationally. Vulnerabilities abound, and risks remain real.

Still, the rise of these apps signals a larger movement.

Experts urge education reform, training for healthcare workers, and local-language accessibility in apps to reach the forty percent of women with limited English proficiency. They call for schools to weave comprehensive menstrual education into curriculums, reaching over a million girls.

“Menstruation, a fact of life for half the population, deserves recognition and care, not secrecy,” says Saima Ali, a Srinagar-based banker using one health-monitoring app.

“These apps may not erase stigma, or fix the healthcare system. But they offer a space of understanding, where women can battle barriers and chart their own paths.”

As Yumna closes her app and rises to leave for class, she carries a courage, a personal and collective reclamation of what has long been silenced.

The author is a scribe cum scholar from Srinagar.

Conversations That Carry Kashmir

By bringing together artists, influencers, and journalists, the YouTube-driven platform hopes to protect the sanctity of self-expression in Kashmir.

Fiza Masoodi

On a summer afternoon, the camera opens to a hillside resort in Srinagar. Captain Tanvi Raina, the once youngest pilot from Kashmir, leans forward in conversation. Across from her sit Arsalan Nizami and Fahim Abdullah, the singing sensation whose latest Bollywood ballad has become a big chartbuster.

The talk does not sound like a podcast. It sounds like friends in a living room, unhurried, playful. Laughter tumbles into silence, and silence into reflection. They tease each other, drift into stories of music, and then, almost without noticing, they arrive at something deeper: what it means to sing of home, what it means to belong.

For Kashmir, this kind of conversation feels new. Public talks have often been solemn, politicized, burdened. But here the air is light, the heart unguarded. "It shouldn't feel like an interview," Tanvi says. "It should feel natural. A talk where you forget the camera is even there."

The seed of this project lies in her own childhood. In her father's home, Kashmiri music was always blaring from music systems. Old musical maestros were remembered with affection.

Her father, Captain Kapil Raina, was deeply fond of those sounds. For young Tanvi, it was background then, but background has a way of becoming foundation.



Later, as she met Kashmiri musicians and craftspeople, she saw how fragile that foundation had become.

Talent was abundant, but support was scarce. Many artists could not count on their own people to stand by them. The realization stung. "If

not us, then who?" she asked herself.

And in that question, a responsibility was born.

Tanvi laughs when she calls herself a hoarder, an old-school, and a little stubborn. She is drawn to the vintage things that hold memory. Art, for her, is one of those things:

fragile, eternal, something that carries the soul of a people. Preserving it does not feel like a project. It feels like duty.

So when she sits across from a guest, she is not looking for quick answers. She is listening for what lies beneath: the philosophy in a song, the resilience in a story, and the way a craft keeps history alive.

The podcast is only one strand of her work. Another takes shape in Kasb aur Kalam, where she steps into the workshops and courtyards of Kashmiri artisans. "It isn't a Q&A," Tanvi insists. "It's about letting them tell their journey."

And the journeys are often heavy.

Crafts that once traveled the world now fetch barely a fraction of their worth for the makers. Young

people hesitate to learn what cannot sustain them. Entire traditions hang by a thread.

The captain's vision is to shift how these crafts are seen. Unlike souvenirs and curios, she wants to restore them as heirlooms and heritage.

"Tilla work should be treated the way we treat family treasures," she says. Visibility matters, but so does dignity.

Tanvi's life feels like two stories braided into one. Born in Delhi in 1997 to a family displaced from Kashmir in the early '90s, she grew up with the valley as both memory and absence.

At eighteen, she became the youngest woman from J&K to earn a commercial pilot license. Flying with IndiGo, she found herself in



The captain's vision is to shift how these crafts are seen.

Unlike souvenirs and curios, she wants to restore them as heirlooms and heritage.

the cockpit of Airbus aircraft, carrying the weight of discipline and dream in equal measure.

But even as she rose through the skies, another calling began to whisper. A need to return, create, and hold the fragile threads of her homeland.

In recent years, she has also been shaping Bharat & Tanvi, a design house inspired by her grandfather's Bharat Transport Company, where his generation moved people and goods. She hopes to move culture and memory.

What ties it all together is her belief in self-expression. For her, artists and artisans belong to the same circle as influencers and journalists. Anyone who speaks from the self deserves a platform. "This isn't just passion," she says. "It's responsibility."

Once, Tanvi was the wonder girl from Kashmir who lifted an Airbus into the sky. Today, she is the young woman sitting in Srinagar's workshops, asking weavers to share their stories.

The flight path has shifted, but perhaps not the direction.

— The author is a Srinagar-based storyteller. She can be reached at fizamasoodi2001@gmail.com



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Gifts and Grief

Once a gesture of solidarity, the centuries-old custom of Guli Myiuth now pressures families into debt and social expectation, raising urgent questions about the cost of cultural obligation.



The goal is to return to the simplicity that once defined Kashmiri social life: sharing meals, offering help, and standing with one another without expectation or judgment.

Dr Yousif Ahmad Sheikh
Rufadha Akhter

Last spring, in a small Srinagar locality, Parveen Ahmed opened her door to a neighbour carrying a crate of juice, a box of sweets, and a small bag of candies for her son's exam success.

Parveen smiled and thanked her, but the warmth of the visit was overshadowed by worry.

The previous month, she had borrowed money to keep up with Wartav obligations at her cousin's wedding.

Now, another visit meant another expected gift, another financial squeeze.

Kashmir has long been known for its spirit of community. Neighbours stand together in floods, illnesses, and celebrations. Wartav, also called Guli Myiuth, grew from this ethos.

Families share in each other's joys and sorrows with visits and offerings. Historically, it reinforced bonds. A tray of eggs, a bag of candies or almonds, a box of fruit, or a small token of money symbolized care and attention, not wealth or status.

Today, the tradition has evolved into something heavier, almost transactional.

Gifts are measured, compared, and



often monetized. Families with limited income feel compelled to match the generosity of wealthier relatives.

A ₹500 gift today can create the expectation of ₹5,000 in years to come. A gold chain given at a wedding is expected to be reciprocated, sometimes years later, at an inflated price. Those unable to comply risk social criticism or distance.

For families like Parveen's, the pressure is relentless.

Research and interviews across Srinagar and Anantnag suggest that modest households spend between 10 and 30 percent of their monthly income just to meet Wartav expectations.

Some borrow from friends, take short-term loans, or rely on credit from local shops. Parents delay school fees or ration groceries to make ends meet.

The financial burden is immediate. The psychological toll lingers. Anxiety, frustration, and the sense of failing the community seep into homes. Instead of reinforcing bonds, the custom can erode them.

The irony is sharp: a practice intended to strengthen relationships has become a mechanism of social enforcement.

Community leaders, religious authorities, and civil society groups in Kashmir have started calling for moderation. "The essence of Wartav

is care, presence, and emotional support," said a local social worker who requested anonymity. "It is not the price of the gift that matters. It is the intention behind it."

Reform does not require abandoning tradition. Families can set boundaries without shame, elders can discourage competitive gift-giving, and communities can honour sincerity over showmanship.

The goal is to return to the simplicity that once defined Kashmiri social life: sharing meals, offering help, and standing with one another without expectation or judgment.

Weeks later, Parveen received another visit.

Her neighbour brought a small packet of sweets to celebrate her daughter's recital. This time, Parveen smiled with ease. There was warmth, companionship, and solidarity, without the financial strain.

For the first time in months, Wartav felt like it was meant to feel: a bond of humanity, not a ledger of obligation.

— Dr. Yousif Ahmad Sheikh and his wife, Rufadha Akhter, focus on social and cultural issues. Their work reflects a deep concern for community well-being and the challenges faced by ordinary families in contemporary Kashmiri society.

The Simplicity We Forgot

In a culture once defined by modesty, the hunger for display has begun to reshape memory, kinship, and the rhythm of everyday life.

Umair ul Umar

Kashmir once moved with placid patience.

Winters drew us close to the glow of kangris, to smoke curling from mud stoves, to Noon chai spilling its pink fragrance through narrow alleys. Neighbours drifted in and out of each other's courtyards as if walls never existed, voices mingling like wind over deodar branches.

Weddings arrived as simple tents in backyards, with a few dishes shared by many hands. Laughter climbed higher than any music. A home measured its worth by the warmth it offered, by the softness of its welcome, not by the plaster on its walls.

Today, the air tastes different. Family conversations twist toward what can be seen and counted. Men in offices trace the labels on their shoes while the weight of their work fades into silence.

Drones circle weddings like restless insects, capturing moments meant for screens rather than hearts. Even grief wears a costume of display. I have sat in mourning gatherings where the conversation lingered on crockery and silverware, leaving memory and loss to echo silently, almost unheard.

What once carried the dignity of simplicity now carries the weight of deficiency. A daughter's wedding measures itself in the bulk of her dowry, while blessings from elders drift unheard. Schools earn praise for polished accents and humming air conditioners, while patience and care pass in silence.

Parents sell orchards and ancestral land to secure a place in the parade of names. Education turns into a badge, marriages into transactions, and life itself becomes a stage for display.

This hunger demands more than money. Debt trails those who try to keep pace, while shame lingers over those who fall behind. Relatives skip invitations, afraid of feeling small beneath chandeliers, of being measured against walls dressed in marble.

Children who once gathered chestnuts or played cricket on open streets now speak in the language of phones and shoes, counting status instead of joy.

It is not only culture that shifts, but the mind itself. Contentment has been eclipsed by anxiety, kinship by rivalry.



Photo Courtesy: Bilal Ahmad



We have mistaken extravagance for advancement, glitter for refinement. The true sophistication of Kashmir never needed banquet halls or designer pherans. It was carried in courtesy, elegance of thought, and refinement of character.

Love, too, seems to hide behind invisible walls, obscured by the urge to display.

Morning no longer begins with the call of the muezzin threading through deodar rafters, but with the buzz of notifications. Evenings that once belonged to stories by the fire sink instead into the blue light of serials and endless scrolls.

Progress, of course, is not the villain. To want comfort, seek learning, and dream of better lives for our children are natural. What has gone astray is meaning itself.

We have mistaken extravagance for

advancement, glitter for refinement. The true sophistication of Kashmir never needed banquet halls or designer pherans. It was carried in courtesy, elegance of thought, and refinement of character.

If balance is possible, it begins there. Weddings need not be burdens to be joyous. Schools can carry humility alongside knowledge. Technology can connect rather than isolate. Culture can hold its carpets and papier-mâché close even as it opens its hands to the new.

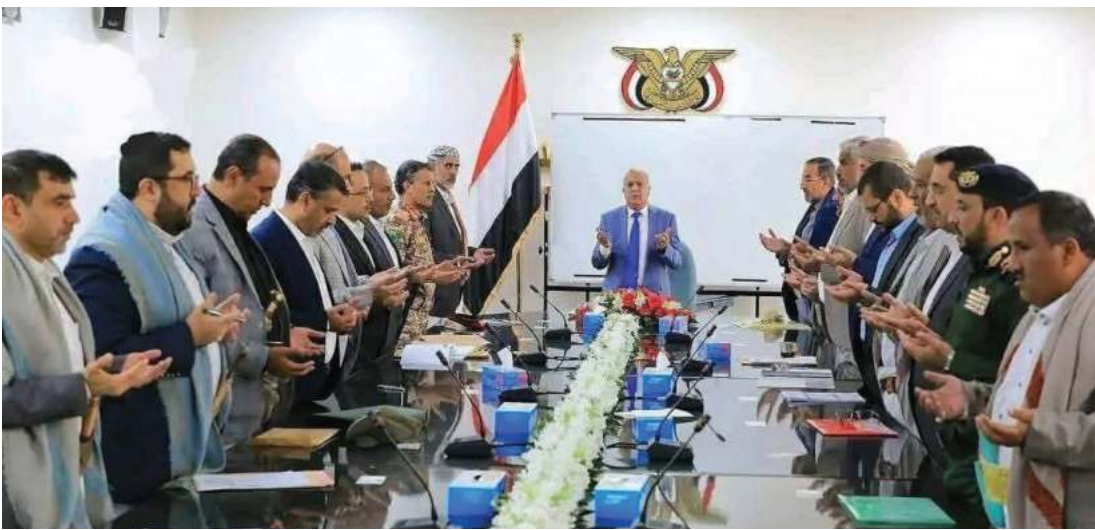
The mountains have never asked for embellishment. The Dal does not require ornament to mirror the sky. The fall of a chinar leaf in autumn is as profound as any spectacle wealth can buy.

Kashmir always knew this. Simplicity was philosophy, a way of living deeply with less. To lose it would be to lose the very poetry of everyday life, the silent soul that has carried this valley through centuries of storms.

Perhaps sophistication and simplicity are not enemies. Perhaps they can walk together, if only we remember to redefine them.

Civilizations endure in humility, kindness, and wisdom. These were once our wealth. They can be so again.

— The author writes on society, culture, science, ethics, AI, and education with a gaze fixed on Kashmir's contemporary dilemmas. He can be reached at umairulumar77@gmail.com.



Yemeni PM, Several Ministers Assassinated In Israeli Strikes On Sana'a
The last picture taken of the Yemeni Prime Minister Ahmed Al-Rahawi and a number of ministers before they were assassinated in an Israeli airstrike on Sana'a.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Heavy Rain,

Jammu, while 32 pilgrims are still missing. The pilgrimage to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district remained suspended for the fifth day on Saturday. As many as 34 pilgrims died when a landslide struck about halfway along the winding 12-km trek route from Katra to the shrine on Tuesday.

Experts Call For

and community preparedness. The government, researchers and other experts say structural engineering for hill construction and public awareness campaigns are needed to ensure a timely response to sudden rainfall events. This August, more than 25 cloudbursts and nine landslides have been recorded in Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in 150 deaths, over 300 injuries, and many missing persons. The study, 'Assessment and Review of Hydrometeorological Aspects for Cloudburst and Flash Flood Events in the Third Pole Region (Indian Himalaya)', examines the growing vulnerability of Himalayan states, including Jammu and Kashmir, to extreme weather events.

The region's fragile mountains, steep slopes, and variable climate make it prone to cloudbursts, flash floods, and rainfall-induced landslides. Past events, such as the 2010 Leh cloudburst and 2014 Udhampur floods, caused significant fatalities and property damage.

The study identifies several contributing factors. Climate change increases atmospheric moisture and rainfall intensity, while the interaction of monsoon currents with western disturbances triggers sudden downpours. Orographic lifting due to high mountains amplifies rainfall, and unplanned construction, deforestation, and land-use changes destabilise slopes. Limited meteorological data and sparse weather stations further restrict prediction and early warning capabilities.

To reduce risks, the study notes that advanced forecasting models such as WRF (Weather Research and Forecasting model) and HYSPLIT (Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory model) are used to predict and analyse cloudbursts in the region. The WRF model simulates weather patterns at high resolution, helping forecast rainfall, cloud formation, winds, and temperature over specific areas.

HYSPLIT tracks the movement of air parcels and moisture, showing how winds carry moisture toward the Himalayas, which can trigger sudden heavy rainfall. Together, these models provide meteorologists with detailed information on where and how intense a cloudburst might be, supporting early warning and disaster preparedness.

It also calls for sustainable land management, regulated urban growth, and integration of scientific research into policy. Without these measures, Jammu and Kashmir could see an increasing frequency and intensity of cloudbursts and related disasters in the future.

"The active monsoon, moisture carried by easterly winds, and interaction with western disturbances trigger cloudbursts," said Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Director of the Meteorological Department (MeT).

He said that rising temperatures and increased moisture flow towards the Himalayas increase the likelihood of such events. The MeT forecasts heavy rainfall and potential cloudbursts in Jammu, Reasi, Udhampur, and the Chenab Valley until September 3.

Meteorologist Sonam Lotus said the Western Himalayas, including Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, are prone to flash floods and landslides during the southwest monsoon, which lasts from mid-June to mid-September.

He added that early warning systems are critical but cannot fully prevent loss, and public awareness remains central to minimising casualties.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif said that India has early-warning systems for heavy rainfall and flash floods, but there is no precise 'cloudburst alarm' for individual villages.

The India Meteorological Department's Doppler radars, satellite nowcasts, and the South Asia Flash Flood Guidance System can identify dangerous cells 30–180 minutes in advance and issue district- or block-level alerts.

On minimising damage, Arif said that while a cloudburst cannot be prevented, its impact can be reduced.

"Measures include mapping high-risk gullies above settlements, building and maintaining overflow channels and debris barriers, installing dense networks of rain gauges and river sensors linked to automatic sirens, enforcing no-build zones on fans and streambeds, and conducting drills for five-minute evacuations to higher ground, particularly at night and along pilgrim routes. In areas with extreme risk, relocation may be necessary," he said. These steps, Arif said, can help reduce

casualties during sudden rainfall events. (KNO)

11 Dead In Reasi

debris. Rescue teams, including personnel from the police, SDRF and local administration were dispatched immediately and all the bodies were recovered," an official told KNO.

Meanwhile, the district administration appealed to residents living in hilly and landslide-prone areas to remain alert and avoid staying in vulnerable structures during periods of heavy rain.

An official said in another incident four people died after a cloudburst struck Rajgarh tehsil of Ramban district, while one person remains missing and according to the officials, the rescue operation was launched immediately to trace the missing person.

He said the rescue teams have recovered four bodies from the affected area and efforts are ongoing to trace the remaining missing person. "The cloudburst triggered flash floods, damaging property and affecting normal life in the region. One person is still unaccounted for," the official said.

Notably, J&K is presently witnessing intermittent rains for the last over one week, which also led to the flood-like situation across both the regions as the water level in all the major rivers and streams crossed the alert mark.

The record rainfall across the Jammu region earlier this week left a trail of devastation, with hundreds of properties damaged and dozens of roads and bridges washed away, forcing the suspension of traffic on key highways, besides virtually paralysing the rail traffic.

LG Anguished

Mohammad Aiyaz Khan, regarding the incident.

"A cloudburst in the Rajgarh area has resulted in the unfortunate loss of four lives. One person is still missing, and search operations are underway. Fortunately, there are no injuries reported. Rescue efforts are in progress, and all possible assistance is being provided. I am in constant touch with the district administration," he said.

CM Orders Timely

of a family, dead and one person missing. The chief minister expressed sorrow over the tragic deaths. While four people of a family lost their lives and one person went missing at Rajgarh in Ramban, a couple and their five children were buried alive in a landslide at Badder village in Mahore area of Reasi district.

Taking note of the continuous heavy rains, the chief minister appealed to people to remain alert, avoid vulnerable areas, and strictly adhere to safety advisories.

"He has directed the district administration and disaster management authorities to remain on the ground, ensure round-the-clock monitoring, carry out timely evacuation of residents from risk-prone zones, and provide immediate relief and all possible assistance to the affected families," the chief minister's office said in a post on X.

Omar has further instructed the concerned departments to remain vigilant, coordinate closely, and take every precautionary measure to safeguard lives in the inclement weather.

On the Ramban incident, the chief minister has directed the administration to carry out immediate rescue and relief operations.

Jmu-Sgr NH Reopens

the August 26 rainfall, which flooded low-lying areas and left a trail of death and destruction in the Jammu region.

Udhampur received the highest recorded rainfall of 630 mm for the same 24-hour period ending 8.30 am on August 27, surpassing the earlier highest of 342 mm on July 31, 2019, while Jammu logged 380 mm of rainfall during the same period, the highest ever recorded in the city since 1910 when the observatory was set up.

"The rest of the highway was already cleared of landslide debris and stones at various places in the Ramban sector. The main problem was the Udhampur-Chenani stretch, and 90 per cent of the work is almost complete.

"If weather permits and there is no damage, we are likely to open the highway on Sunday for normal traffic after clearing all stranded vehicles," the NHAI official said.

A traffic department official said the vehicles are playing on the Mughal Road that links Poonch and Rajouri districts in the Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian, and the Sinthan Top road that links Kishtwar district in Jammu and south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

There was a mudslide near Parna-Chingam along the Sinthan Top road, but it was cleared by the officials and made motorable this morning, the official said.

He said traffic is also plying on the Jammu-Pathankot national highway, though one tube each of Sahar Khad and Lakhampur-Madhopur bridges remained closed and traffic was diverted to the second tube.

CM Directs Swift

promptly to public needs.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Home, Principal Secretary Public Works (R&B), Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir, several Deputy Commissioners, and senior officers from BRO, NHIDCL, NHAI, J&K Police and other concerned departments.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo briefed the meeting about the condition of NH-44, describing its restoration as the top priority since it is the lifeline connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country. He stressed the importance of facilitating movement of perishable commodities like fruit from the Valley and highlighted the grim situation in areas such as Kishtwar and Udhampur, which are facing outages of power, drinking water, road connectivity and mobile networks.

He further underlined the need for temporary restoration of highways such as Dhar-Mahanpur, Ramban-Gool, and Reasi-Mahore to reconnect affected districts.

The Chief Minister enquired about the stock position of ration, fuel and medicines in cut-off places like Bani, Kishtwar, Reasi and Udhampur. He directed officers to replenish supplies through alternate routes — including via Anantnag for Kishtwar and through Bhaderwah for Bani — until full restoration of roads is achieved.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu informed the meeting about the ongoing restoration works on NH-44, resumption of supplies into the Valley, and special trains being run to facilitate passengers and tourists. He assured that there is no shortage of ration, fuel or other essentials in Jammu and efforts are being made to keep cut-off areas adequately stocked.

Similarly, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir informed that the Valley has sufficient supplies of fuel and ration.

The Chief Minister also directed that all roads under BRO, NHAI, NHIDCL and other agencies that remain disconnected be monitored closely, with status reports shared with his office twice daily — morning and evening.

PM Modi Lands

to take stock of India-China economic ties and deliberate on steps to further normalise relations that came under severe strain following the eastern Ladakh border row.

The Prime Minister arrived in this Chinese city from Japan in the second and final leg of his two-nation.

Modi is also expected to hold bilateral talks Russian President Vladimir Putin and a number of other leaders on the margins of the summit.

Ahead of his trip to Tianjin, Modi said it is important for India and China to work together to bring stability to the world economic order.

In an interview with Japan's The Yomiuri Shimbun, Modi said a stable, predictable, and amicable bilateral relations between India and China can have a positive impact on regional and global peace and prosperity.

"Given the 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 in the interview published on Friday. Modi's trip to China comes less than a fortnight after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India.

Following Wang's wide-ranging talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, the two sides unveiled a series of measures for a "stable, cooperative and forward-looking" relationship between the two sides.

The measures included joint maintenance of peace along the contested frontier, reopening border trade and resuming direct flight services at the earliest.

In the last few months, both sides have initiated a series of measures to reset their ties that came under severe strain following the deadly clashes between Indian and Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in June 2020.

The prime minister last visited China in June, 2018, to attend the SCO summit. Chinese President Xi visited India in October 2019 for the second "informal summit".

The eastern Ladakh face-off effectively ended following completion of the disengagement process from the last two friction points of Demchok and Depsang under an agreement finalised on October 21 last year.

Gifts Kashmiri

it carries a centuries-old tradition once cherished by royalty. Featuring an ivory base adorned with delicate floral and paisley motifs in rust, pink, and red, the shawl reflects the classic elegance of Kashmiri craftsmanship," reads the statement.

Special Trains To Ferry Stranded Passengers From Jammu, 46 Trains Cancelled

Press Trust Of India

Jammu:The Northern Railways will run two special trains from the Jammu station for onward destinations on Saturday to ferry stranded passengers, while 46 incoming and outgoing trains from Jammu, Katra and Udhampur railway stations stand cancelled, officials said.

The Railway Police and civil administration have established a dedicated help desk at the Jammu railway station to assist stranded

passengers.

"To facilitate the movement of stranded passengers, the railways have decided to run two reserved special trains from Jammu today," PRO Railways, Jammu division, said.

He informed that the first train, Jammu Tawi-Dr Ambedkar Nagar reserved special, will depart at 3 pm, while another train, Jammu Tawi-Chhapra reserved special, will depart at 5 pm.

The first train has 700 reserved seats vacant, while the second has 900 reserved

seats vacant.

On Thursday, Northern Railways operated two special unreserved trains from Jammu station, carrying around 3,000 stranded passengers to their destinations following unprecedented monsoon havoc in the Union Territory.

Referring to multiple queries about the status of Katra-Srinagar-Katra Vande Bharat trains, the PRO said that services are normal on this route.

"Passengers stranded due to landslides and cloudbursts can use these services between Katra-Srinagar-Katra,"

he said.

Scores of people, especially pilgrims, were stranded as heavy rains lashed the Jammu region since August 26, severely disrupting rail and road traffic. A landslide that struck near the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra claimed 34 lives. The Jammu region recorded its heaviest rainfall since 1910, at 380 mm by Wednesday.

The Northern Railways has cancelled 46 incoming and outgoing trains from Jammu, Katra and Udhampur railway stations on Saturday.

mission was the destruction of terrorists and their infrastructure, which was achieved through Operation Sindoor.

"Our aim was not to target Pakistan, but we wanted to destroy terrorists and we achieved our aim. It is not that the war was stopped because of Trump. We achieved our objective of destroying terror network and it was not called off because Trump said so. PM Modi's mission was to destroy the terrorists," Athawale said.

After the abrogation of Article 370, development is taking place at a rapid pace, and Prime Minister Modi has promised to support J&K with more so that there is immense development, employment opportunities are created and industries are established here, he said.

The minister said the government has urged industrialists to set up industries in J&K, which will provide employment opportunities to the youth.

"This is our dream as J&K is our own. The Government of India is duty bound to provide justice to &K. Modi is a very active PM and will surely provide social, and economic justice to J&K. I believe all the people of J&K will get justice," he added.

23 Encroachers Of

in the PIL shall continue till the next date. The PIL was filed in 2023 and seeks the court's intervention for the removal of all illegal encroachments and restoration of the original status of the historical canal.

It also seeks directions for the restoration of adjoining roads allegedly encroached upon by the two private persons.

The PIL also seeks directions for constituting a high-level committee comprising of an officer of ACB and other investigation wings to investigate the gross mismanagement of the official respondents (authorities). It also seeks an investigation by CBI to inquire into the conduct of the officials in the matter.

In support of his contention, the petitioner—Mohammad Shafi—has also referred to a communication by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir to Directorate Land Records way back in 2004 that Shah Kaul has been encroached upon, resulting into loss of lakhs of rupees "because the water required for Nishat Garden is being now lifted through mechanical pumps".

The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, had sought the removal of all types of encroachments on the canal and directed appropriate action against the "culprits". "However, no action has been taken," says the petitioner.

Greatest Art Of

courage, harmony, peace, selfless-service, nationalism and they represent the idea of India," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the youth to reaffirm their commitment to the noble values and ideals of Mahatma Buddha and Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, and make their valuable contribution to nation-building, while serving humanity with dedication and devotion and spreading the values of peace and harmony.

"The greatest art of living is one that includes the welfare of others. We have to give the message to the society that social values, such as selfless service, can only be preserved by adhering to the path of morality.

It is also our collective responsibility to inspire the society to be proud of its rich cultural heritage," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, an aspiring India is moving towards becoming a Viksit Bharat.

"Along with self-reliance, a new self-confidence has also been awakened in our country and we remain focused on our goal of a developed India. India is the hope for the world and it can show humanity the path to a prosperous and happy future," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor paid homage to the citizens who have lost their lives in the recent natural calamities in Jammu Kashmir. He reiterated the commitment of the Government of India and UT Administration for the rehabilitation of the affected families.

He also said that the upliftment and respect of everyone from weaker and deprived sections of the society is our aim and it is our commitment to ensure youth and women are empowered to move forward on the path of development.

Neelam Sonker, former Member of Parliament; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Kailash Masoom, Chairman, Buddhanjali Research Foundation; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Basharat Qayoom, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama; Dr.G.V.Sundeeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Dasbabu Jayswal, Yuvraj Kumar, Film Actor, senior officials, and people from different walks of life were present at the felicitation ceremony.

J&K Has Always Stood As Original Symbol Of Natural Beauty: CM Omar



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has always stood as the original symbol of natural beauty and tourism while many regions now market themselves with catchy slogans, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has said.

Addressing the annual function of HDFC Bank at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre in Srinagar on Friday evening, Abdullah lauded the institution's growth, resilience and long-term commitment to the Union Territory, a spokesperson said on Saturday.

Highlighting the Union Territory's legacy of tourism, Abdullah recalled the historic description of Kashmir as the "Heaven on Earth" inscribed on the walls of Red Fort centuries ago.

The chief minister urged visitors to explore places beyond Srinagar, assuring that their experience would encourage them to return with families and friends.

Inviting the delegates to explore Kashmir's beauty, he added that repeated visits are

the true measure of the UT's tourism efforts. "Our success will not be measured by bringing you here once, but by ensuring that you return," he said, emphasising the importance of sustainable tourism.

Referring to the bank, the chief minister said it has become an important partner in Jammu and Kashmir's economic progress.

With 124 branches and a wide network of ATMs across urban and remote areas, the bank has extended its services to deposits, lending, priority sector financing and customer-driven initiatives, reflecting its deep-rooted commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

Abdullah expressed gratitude to the HDFC Bank for choosing Jammu and Kashmir for its prestigious annual function, remarking that such events reinforce the UT's growing partnership with the banking sector.

"The HDFC Bank's presence here today is a reaffirmation of faith in Jammu and Kashmir's potential and its future," he added.

DIPR Bids Adieu To Ajeet Singh



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) accorded a warm farewell to Ajeet Singh, In-charge Information Assistant on his superannuation at a function, held here on Saturday.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey (JKAS); Deputy Director (HQ/PR), Ashu Kumari (JKAS);

Youth Information Officer, Monika Sambyal (JKAS); Field Publicity Officer, Mukesh Kumar (JKAS); besides officials of the department.

Speaking on the occasion, the officers lauded the dedication and sincerity with which Ajeet Singh served the department during his tenure spanning over three decades. They extended their best wishes for his good health and a prosperous post-retirement life.

80% Services Restored In Doda, Say Officials



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Nearly 80 percent of services, including road access, electricity, and communication networks, have been restored in Doda district where cloudbursts and landslides wreaked havoc earlier this week.

An official said, "The administration is continuously working to restore connectivity in the affected areas. Teams have been mobilized across Doda to assess damage and repair essential infrastructure."

"Efforts are ongoing around the clock, and we are pleased to report that nearly 80 percent of services, including road access, electricity, and communication networks, have already been restored. The government remains committed to ensuring full restoration and providing relief to all impacted families," he added.

According to reports received by KNO the worst-affected areas in Gandoh Doda include Kaharah, Charawa, Kharangal, and several other localities.

Pertinently, a cloudburst struck Tanta Wanipora earlier this week, claiming several lives. Among the deceased were Noor Mohammad and Moham-

mad Iqbal from Wanipora.

In a separate incident, Rubina Begum, wife of Imtiaz Ahmad, was swept away by powerful floodwaters. Several other residents have sustained injuries at various locations throughout the region.

Residents said that a youth sports stadium, constructed by the Department of Rural Development in 2022-23, suffered severe damage. "The stadium's walls, built close to the Neeru tributary of the Chenab River, were swept away by strong floodwaters. Once the region's largest and only sports facility, hosting a variety of local competitions, the stadium now lies in ruins," residents said.

In Kaharah Charawa, a tourism building and several homes collapsed and were completely destroyed. In Wanipora, ten residential houses remained under constant threat due to unstable conditions. The bridge at Thathri, already in a weakened state, and its accompanying roadside culverts were damaged.

Locals reported that torrential rains and flash floods have devastated water channels, footbridges, wooden temporary structures, standing crops, and orchards, further deepening the crisis.

Jmu-Sgr Highway Reopens, Fruit Growers Breathe Easy

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The reopening of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway for stranded vehicles after a four-day gap has brought relief for the fruit growers of Kashmir, who were staring at huge losses given the low shelf-life of their produce.

They are now hoping for a quick resumption of normal traffic on the 250-km road, the lifeline of their livelihood. The all-weather road links Kashmir with the rest of the country.

The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was reopened only for stranded vehicles on Saturday after being closed for four days owing to multiple landslides and caving-in of a 60-metre stretch in Udhampur district following record rainfall earlier this week.

According to officials, more than 2,000 vehicles had been stranded at multiple places on either end of the highway after the August 26 rainfall, which flooded low-lying areas and left a trail of death and destruction in the Jammu region.

After taking some time to allow the boulder base to settle down, the stranded vehicles, especially those carrying perishable items, including fruit-laden trucks, oil tankers and light motor vehicles were allowed to move on from both ends in a regulated manner.

National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) Project Director, Ramban, Shubam said efforts are on to ensure early reopening of the highway for normal traffic.

"We had almost completed the restoration work at 6 pm on Friday and were hopeful of allowing traffic on the strategic highway this (Saturday) morning. But fresh overnight rains hampered our ef-



6

WE HAD ALMOST COMPLETED THE RESTORATION WORK AT 6 PM on Friday and were hopeful of allowing traffic on the strategic highway this (Saturday) morning. But fresh overnight rains hampered our efforts,"

orts," he told PTI.

The news has been a reason to cheer for the fruit growers of Kashmir.

Fruit-laden trucks from Kashmir had been stranded for days due to the closure of the critical highway following heavy rains and flash floods, with growers expressing apprehensions of losses.

Chairman of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers-cum-Dealers Union, Bashir Ahmad Basheer, said 700 to 800 fruit trucks were stranded on the highway with each carrying items worth Rs 5-9 lakh.

These were loaded with fruits like Bagodosha pears, Galamast apples, and Red Ghala apples, which perish within days if the temperature is not regulated, he told PTI.

The prices were already down, and the closure of the highway had added to our worries, Basheer said.

"The harvest season for ear-

ly fruit varieties is on, and the trucks with perishable produce were waiting for transportation. It could have been a disaster for us with losses running into crores had the trucks not moved," he added.

Explaining why the reopening of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was so critical for them, Basheer said that while the authorities had allowed fruit movement on the Mughal Road, that route can be travelled by six-tyre trucks, which carry less load.

"Most of the fruit, almost 90 per cent, is transported in heavy trucks having 10-16 tyres. We want the government to allow at least 10-tyre trucks on the Mughal Road round-the-clock," he said.

Basheer said 10-tyre trucks transport fruit to Delhi and not beyond. "To transport our produce beyond Delhi, the movement of the heavy trucks is essential," he explained.

Div Com Reviews Arrangements For Eid-e-Milad-Un-Nabi (PBUH)

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In view of the forthcoming religious occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH), Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg Saturday convened a meeting of officers to ensure elaborate arrangements at prominent religious places including major mosques & shrines.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Kashmir division, Commissioner SMC, SSPs, SSP Traffic Rural, senior officers of all the civil departments including KPDCI, PHE, FCS&CA, PWD, Food Safety, Legal Metrology, LCMA, Wakf Board, Health department, Police and religious leaders of various Shrines.

Div Com reviewed the availability of basic civil amenities at major shrines across Kashmir division including Hazratbal shrine, Jenab Sahib Saura, Aasar-i-Sharief Kalashpora, Aham-i-Sharief Bandipora, Kabamarg Anantnag, Pethmak-hama Budgam, Dargah e Aliya, Baramulla and at all other mosques and shrines where large numbers of devotees gather for night prayers.

On the occasion, Div Com took a detailed review of arrangements for the congregational & night prayers at Hazratbal shrine, where over one lakh devotees are expected to observe Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH).

Div Com directed CE KPDCI



to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity at Hazratbal Shrine with a backup plan for DG set so that the shrine management may not face any inconvenience. Besides, he instructed postponement of any scheduled power shutdown on the occasion of Milad.

Further, he instructed PHE for the installation of an adequate number of drinking water posts with a standby plan of water tankers in the proximity of the shrine.

Regarding hassle-free transportation of devotees to & fro Hazratbal shrine, Div Com directed SSCL, RTC & ARTO for the deployment of enough buses and e-autos for transportation of people till late night of the Eid Milad-un-Nabi & Friday following. Also, he enjoined Traffic Police Srinagar for framing route plans for the visitors of different districts for smooth transportation.

Meanwhile, SSP Rural was directed to ensure deployment of traffic personnel on the routes leading to shrines and share deployment orders with concerned Deputy Commissioners.

While laying strong emphasis on the installation of tents in the premises of prominent places, Garg directed Wakf officers to make advance arrangements for tents at all the designated locations before September 04.

Garg directed Commissioner SMC for carrying out a comprehensive sanitation and cleanliness drive at Hazratbal Shrine.

Moreover, he instructed for the constitution of joint market checking teams to ensure food hygiene & quality in the market and near religious places and emphasized on deterrent action against erring traders for violation of quality parameters and over-charging.

Rana Reviews Restoration Of Water Supply In Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a proactive effort to restore essential services in flood-affected areas of Jammu, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, chaired a high-level review meeting with key officials, legislators and district heads.

The primary focus of the meeting was to assess and expedite the restoration of disrupted water supply services in the wake of the recent floods.

The meeting was attended by DDC Chairperson Bharat Bhusan, legislators Ch. Vikram Randhawa, Arvind Gupta, Sham



Lal Sharma, Dr. Narinder Singh, along with senior officers including Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Chief

Engineers of I&FC, Jal Shakti, and UEED Jammu, as well as Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers.

During the session, the Min-

ACT Brings Social Media Literacy To Srinagar's Classrooms

At SP School, students learned how to rethink their relationship with digital platforms in a workshop that blended caution with curiosity.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

On a late August morning in Srinagar, rows of students at SP Model Higher Secondary School leaned forward in their chairs as the conversation shifted from likes and shares to attention spans and lost hours.

The session, titled "Resetting Our Relationship with Social Media," was an attempt to bring digital wellness into the lives of Kashmiri teenagers who

scrolling can chip away at concentration, disrupt studies, and blur priorities. Students nodded as scenes of wasted hours and missed deadlines played out on screen.

The message was direct: technology is powerful, but so is the choice of how to use it.

Mustaque Ali Ahmed Khan, Director of ACT, said the workshop was designed to give Kashmiri youth tools to think critically about the online world.



are spending more time online than ever before.

The program was hosted by ACT, a Srinagar-based nonprofit, and led by Dr. Seema Sangra, a professor from Amity University Dubai.

With the ease of a teacher used to balancing research with real-world questions, Dr. Seema explained how social media platforms work to capture attention and shape behaviour.

"With every good aspect, there also comes a harmful side. Hence, one must remain alert and use these tools wisely," she told the room, adding that free platforms often profit by turning users into the product.

To make the lesson sharper, she screened short videos made by Amity University's Digital Media students.

The clips portrayed the ways

"Our students are digital natives," he said. "They need emotional resilience and awareness to navigate these spaces. It is a responsibility we owe them."

The program was interactive, with students asking about privacy, screen time, and whether it was possible to balance social media with academic goals. Teachers, who have often struggled to hold attention in classrooms flooded by smartphones, welcomed the effort.

ACT has built its reputation around community-focused initiatives, but the Srinagar workshop struck a chord because it spoke directly to the daily realities of young people.

The workshop reminded both students and faculty that being online comes with choices, and those choices shape the future.

Post-Flood Health Alert:

Experts Urge Caution With Water, Food Safety

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In the aftermath of recent floods that struck several areas of Jammu and Kashmir, health experts have urged people to exercise extreme caution while using food and water supplies. They said contaminated sources pose a grave risk of water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, dysentery, typhoid, and hepatitis A and E.

Officials said the foremost priority should be access to safe water. They stressed that only clean water should be used for drinking, cooking, and brushing teeth.

Sealed and packaged bottled water from a reliable source is the safest option, they added. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Anantnag, Dr Khalid Parvez said that in the absence of bottled water, residents should boil water for at least 10 minutes before use, and chlorine tablets or household-grade unscented liquid bleach can be used for disinfection by following recommended instructions.

"If water appears muddy or turbid, it should first be filtered through a clean cloth before boiling or treating," he said, adding that to avoid recontamination, safe water should be stored in clean, covered containers.

Dr Khalid added that hands or unclean objects should never be dipped into stored drinking wa-

ter; instead, use a ladle or small vessel and drinking water must always be kept separate from water used for washing or cleaning.

Experts warn that food items exposed to floodwater are unsafe and must be discarded immediately.

They said that fruits and vegetables should be thoroughly washed with safe water before consumption, and people must wash their hands with soap and safe water before preparing or eating food, while utensils should be cleaned with safe water before use.

Open wells and surface water sources are at high risk of contamination after floods and submerged wells should not be used until they are properly cleaned, disinfected, and tested, according to health experts.

People have been advised to depend on alternative safe water sources until proper clearance is given. Doctors have urged people to remain vigilant for symptoms of water-borne diseases, and warning signs include diarrhoea, vomiting, fever, or jaundice.

"Anyone showing these symptoms should be taken to medical care immediately. For those suffering from diarrhoea, ORS (Oral Rehydration Solution) should be given promptly to prevent dehydration and clean, safe water saves lives. Following these precautions can prevent the spread of deadly diseases after floods," doctors said. —(KNO)

ister was briefed on the ongoing restoration efforts, the progress made so far, challenges faced, and the measures being implemented to speed up relief operations and restore normal water supply.

Rana emphasized the urgency of restoring the water supply infrastructure, particularly in flood-impacted areas, ensuring that residents have access to clean drinking water.

The Minister directed the immediate deployment of water tankers to areas where the water supply had been severely disrupted. He also recommended utilizing private water tankers on an interim basis to augment the existing fleet of

tankers and ensure an uninterrupted water supply.

Additionally, he proposed the use of fire tenders for areas where tankers could not reach, ensuring a continuous supply of water to the affected communities.

To streamline the restoration efforts, Minister Rana directed the nomination of a dedicated nodal officer to coordinate between departments and ensure the timely completion of restoration work.

Furthermore, he instructed the Chief Engineer to oversee the distribution of restoration tasks and rationalize manpower to speed up the restoration process.

'Wanted' In IPL Auction: Kerala's Salman Smashes 11 Sixes In 13 Balls

Press Trust of India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Salman Nizar, who showed his classical batting traits during Kerala's runner-up finish in the last Ranji Trophy season, smashed an unprecedented 11 sixes off 13 balls including a 40-run final over, in a Kerala Cricket League T20 match here on Saturday.

The 28-year-old left-hander, who would soon be joining the South Zone squad for the Duleep Trophy semi-final, hit an unbeaten 86 off just 26 balls with the help of 12 sixes as his team Calicut Globstars beat Adani Trivandrum Royals by 13 runs.

Globstars scored 186 for six and bowled out ATR for 173 in 19.3 overs.

Batting first, Calicut Globstars were struggling at 115 for six after



18 overs with Salman batting on 17 off 13 balls. Up till then, he had hit only one six off Ajith Vasudevan. However, the 19th over

bowled by Basil Thampi changed the complexion of the Globstars innings. Thampi, who was a part of the Indian squad that won the

Nidahas Trophy in 2018, was hit for five consecutive sixes as he repeatedly erred on length. The length of one of the two square boundaries seemed a bit on the shorter side though.

A lot of Salman's sixes came after he made room and slashed the ball over cover point region. For the other sixes, he muscled it over cow corner and long on.

He hammered Thampi for 31 runs, which completely destroyed the pacer's figures as he went for 65 in four overs, after going for 25 in his first three.

But it was Abhijeet Praveen, who bore the maximum brunt of Salman's brutal onslaught as the bowler leaked a whopping 40 runs in the final over of the innings. ATR skipper Krishna Prasad's strategy to hand the ball to Praveen at the expense of

Nikhil M (3/20), who had an over left, proved to be a disaster for his team.

Salman belted the first ball from Praveen for a six, the next couple of deliveries were called wide, and then a no-ball got them three runs. With 10 runs scored and only one legal delivery bowled, the next five were hit for five sixes.

This effort will certainly not go unnoticed as far as the IPL scouts are concerned and he is expected to be called for trials. Salman would be on the wish-list of multiple franchises.

Earlier this year in a Ranji Trophy quarter-final, Kerala were 200 for nine in their first innings after Jammu and Kashmir scored 280. Salman scored an unbeaten 112 as Kerala got a slender one-run lead.

DPS Srinagar Student Wins Silver In Provincial Taekwondo

Delhi Public School Srinagar student Mohammad Rafan Bhat secured a silver medal at the Inter-District Provincial Level U-19 Boys Taekwondo Championship. The tournament concluded on August 24.

Rafan, a student of Class 12th, showcased exceptional skill and dedication throughout the competition, ultimately earning him a second-place finish in a highly competitive field. His achievement is a testament to his relentless training and the comprehensive sports programs offered by the school.

Chairman of DPS Srinagar, Vijay Dhar said the school is immensely proud of Mohammad Rafan Bhat for his remarkable performance.

Principal Shafaq Afshan also extended her congratulations, stating, "Mohammad Rafan Bhat's silver medal is a well-deserved recognition of his talent and perseverance." (Observer News Service)



Start Time Of 2025 Asia Cup Matches Pushed Back

The start time for 18 out of the 19 matches in the upcoming Asia Cup has been pushed back by half an hour from the original schedule due to the extreme heat in the UAE, the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) announced on Saturday.

As per the revised timings, the matches will begin at 6.30 PM local time (8 PM IST).

The continental tournament, to be held in the T20 format this time, will run from September 9 to 28 across the two venues of Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

In the initial schedule announced by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) earlier this month, the matches were scheduled to start at 6 PM local time.

The Dubai International Cricket Stadium will host the high-voltage India-Pakistan Group A match on September 14. India, Pakistan, UAE, and Oman are in Group A, while Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Hong Kong form Group B. (PTI)

Central University Kashmir Celebrates National Sports Day



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Central University of Kashmir celebrated the National Sports Day by hosting a series of activities, organised by the Department of Physical Education, School of Education here Friday.

The festivities began with registrations for several sporting events and a collective National Sports Day pledge.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath and Dean Academic Affairs Prof. Shahid Rasool conveyed their best wishes to the organisers.

In a competitive volleyball match, Department of

Physical Education defeated Department of Law. In the Push ups Open Fitness Challenge, Ali of MPed Semester 3rd claimed first position and Raja (student of IBM) bagged second.

On the cricket field, CUKashmir overpowered Sainik School Manasbal by 40 runs.

The football encounter was fiercely contested, as students led 2-0 in the first half, but employees staged a late comeback, drawing level in regulation time and winning via penalties with a final score of 3-2.

A passionate tug of war event fostered camaraderie among students representing various disciplines.

Khelo India Water Sports Festival: Sarmad Hafeez Felicitates Partner Agencies

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Following successful culmination of the 1st edition Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025, a felicitation ceremony was organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council to honour and recognise the collaborating organisations for their invaluable support and cooperation during the tournament, which was held at Dal Lake here.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, lauded the collective efforts of all the agencies involved in the successful execution of the national event.

Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council was also present on the occasion.

As a mark of appreciation, Commissioner Secretary presented certificates of gratitude to Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Kashmir, Department of Youth Services & Sports, J&K Lakes Conservation & Management Authority, Tourism Department, Department of Health Services Kashmir, Floriculture Department, Department of Hospitality & Protocol, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Jal Shakti Department Kashmir, KPDCI, Fire & Emergency Services Kashmir, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Srinagar, JKTCDC, SKICC Srinagar, Doordarshan Kendra, Srinagar, All India Radio, Srinagar, Department of Handlooms & Handicrafts, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar and J&K Road Transport Corporation.



YSS Budgam Continues National Sports Week Celebrations Across Zones



Dabirah Hassan

BUDGAM: The District Youth Services and Sports Office Budgam is carrying forward a series of engaging events under the ongoing National Sports Week across all 12 Physical Education Zones of the district.

Under the overall supervision of District Youth Services & Sports Officer Budgam, Ghulam Hasan Lone, a variety of sports and cultural activities are being organised, including Quiz Competitions, Tug of War, Volleyball, Kho-Kho, Badminton and other traditional games.

The week-long celebra-

tions, being held in honour of National Sports Day and the legendary hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand, are witnessing enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and youth, thereby promoting a culture of physical fitness, discipline, and team spirit.

Speaking about the initiative, DYSSO Budgam reiterated the department's commitment to providing maximum exposure and opportunities to the young athletes of the district and highlighted that the celebrations aim to nurture sporting talent and build a strong foundation for future champions.

Dravid Steps Down As Head Coach Of Rajasthan Royals

Rajasthan Royals on Saturday announced that head coach Rahul Dravid will step down ahead of the 2026 IPL season, after turning down a "broader position" within the franchise.

Dravid was appointed as the head coach of the Royals ahead of the IPL 2025 season.

Interestingly, the Royals announcement comes amidst rumours that skipper Sanju Samson also wants to leave the franchise.

"Rahul has been central to the Royals' journey for many years. His leadership has influenced a generation of players, instilled strong values within the squad, and left an indelible mark on the culture of the franchise," Royals posted in a statement on X.

If Samson also leaves the side, it will leave the Royals in a tricky position a few months before the mini auction. (PTI)

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