

## Experts Sound Alarm: 'Act Now' as Kashmiri Teen Girls Fight Addiction

With parents absent or unaware, Kashmiri teen girls confront addiction and trauma alone, struggling to rebuild lives scarred by neglect.

**Saima Rashid**

Looking for comfort, she took the first step, and slowly, he began to fall apart. Soon after, she moved to another town. Financial troubles ruined her. She was sexually abused. At one point, someone offered her a cigarette, and she was left in the care of her grandparents, who barely noticed what was happening.

Kashmiri teenager hardly left her home in months. Her body bears the physical scars, but the psychological wounds in the form of trauma, shame, guilt remain raw and permanent. Dr. Zoya, a clinical psychologist who runs "Psychline," a mental health clinic in Hyderabad, treats her. "I share this case to spread awareness among parents,"



Dr. Zoya said, "They need to provide age-appropriate education to their children. Kids make mistakes, but parents need to support their children unconditionally. The teen girls' story is one of thousands unfolding in the valley, where addiction remains an invisible crisis, especially among young women. The United | [More on PG](#)

## Radhakrishnan Elected 15th VP Of India



**Press Trust Of India**

New Delhi: NDA candidate C. P. Radhakrishnan won the 15th presidential election on Tuesday by bagging 452 votes, while opposition candidate S. Subramanian secured 300 votes, becoming Officer P. C. Mody said.

The vote tally suggested a narrow crossing, in favour of Radhakrishnan. BJP leaders claimed that at least 25 opposition members voted for the NDA nominee. Earlier, the Congress said it wanted the opposition seat united with the rest of the 315 MPs running up to vote in the vice presidential poll.

A total of 267 MPs cast their ballot in a turnout of 98.2 per cent, of which 252 were valid and 15 votes were declared invalid. Mody said. One postal ballot cast by a member of the opposition was also declared invalid. Mody said.

Mody said Radhakrishnan secured 452 first preference votes against 300 for Raghav. Justice C. P. Radhakrishnan elected to the post of Vice President of India and the result will be communicated to the Election Commission, Mody said. Radhakrishnan will be sworn in as the 15th vice president of India on September 10.

The poll was necessitated by the sudden resignation of Jagdish Mukhi on July 21. The electoral | [More on PG](#)

## Valley Cut Off: NH Shut For 9th Day

NHAI Says Restoration In Final Stage



**Press Trust Of India**

Jammu: The 270-kilometre-long Jammu Srinagar Highway remained closed for vehicles for the ninth consecutive day on Tuesday, with work underway on water-layers to restore a badly damaged 250-metre-long stretch in the Ishangar district. NHAI Project Director Shashank Yadav said that critical repair work is in the final stage and the key highway may

reopen for general traffic tonight, he said. The closure, triggered by heavy rains and major landslides, had walled away several portions of the highway—particularly, the Jammu side. Yesterday's fresh spurt of rain triggered more slides, disrupting work this morning. In response, a 250-metre-long temporary road has been carved out at the affected stretch to ensure two-way traffic movement in the coming days. | [More on PG](#)

## J&K FLOODS 12,000 KM Of Road Length Damaged

Nearly 12,000 km of road length, including the Jammu Srinagar national highway, suffered damage in the recent floods and landslides in the Union Territory, officials said. Restoration work on the damaged Ishangar-Jammu stretch is going on a war footing and expected to be restored by this evening, they said. "Out of the total road length of 42,000 km, | [More on PG](#)

## Markets Reel As Closure Hits Supplies

The prolonged closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National highway has reeled Kashmir's markets gasping for supplies, with traders reporting massive losses, spiralling prices, and even marriage ceremonies being cancelled due to acute shortages. Traders say that | [More on PG](#)

**CLEAR WEATHER SLIGHTLY MOORING ALREADY** uninterupted work, pushing the project into its final phase. We are hopeful the highway will be reopened within hours, finally allowing stranded vehicles to move."

## Israel Strikes Qatar In Bid To Kill Hamas Negotiators

**Trans Asia News**

Dubai: Israel on Tuesday targeted several residential buildings in Qatar's capital, Doha, in a surprise attack, marking the first Israeli operation in Qatar, said a senior US military official. The strike, which marked the first Israeli operation in Qatar, was aimed at Hamas negotiators. The US military official said the strike was aimed at Hamas negotiators. The US military official said the strike was aimed at Hamas negotiators. The US military official said the strike was aimed at Hamas negotiators.

Human rights leaders have long been based in Qatar, which has mediated talks between Hamas and Israel for years, even before the current Gaza war. The operations came against the backdrop of Israel's regional operations across the East | [More on PG](#)

## PM Plans J&K Visit To Review Flood Devastation

**Agencies**

Srinagar: After visiting flood hit areas in Jammu & Kashmir on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jammu and Kashmir on coming days to review the flood situation and damage caused due to cloudbursts, rains and landslides. Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and organizational Secretary General Sushil Kumar Singh said, "PM Modi will visit J&K to take the first-hand account of the damages caused by the recent natural calamities."

He said, "The date of his J&K visit will be announced soon." Sources told IOD that PM Modi besides assessing the

damages will also conduct an aerial survey of landslide hit holy town of Katra, where landslides erupted. Sri Mata Vashno Devi Shrine last month led to more than 15 people losing their lives. They said that PM Modi will also conduct the aerial survey of Chasni village in Kathwar District where more than 60 people died after a landslide hit the hamlet nestled within mountains. "PM Modi may also announce a special relief package for the flood victims in J&K."

Meanwhile, PM Modi visited Himnath Prabh to review the losses caused by floods and landslides. The Prime Minister first conducted an | [More on PG](#)

## MHA Asses Damage; Relief Package Expected

Inter-Ministerial Contact Teams (IMCT) deputed by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) are currently visiting parts of Kashmir to assess damages caused by recent floods and landslides, officials said on Tuesday. The teams are conducting field inspection, reviewing the impact on the ground, and preparing | [More on PG](#)

## Restoration Will Take Time, But Relief Our Priority: I.G

Visits Flood Relief Health Camp, Urges Farmers to Avail PMFBY, HADP Benefits | AIMS Jammu to Hold 9 More Health Camps for Flood Victims

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that while complete restoration of infrastructure damaged by the recent natural calamities in Jammu will take time, the administration is focused on providing immediate relief and rehabilitation to the affected families. Visiting a health camp at Jammu, the Lieutenant Governor interacted with flood-affected families, heard

their concerns, and assured them of the government's full support during this difficult phase.

## Restores NH Revision Works

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that he has reviewed the ongoing restoration work on national highway-44.

He said that the work is progressing well and he is confident that the highway will be reopened soon. He also assured the people that the government is committed to providing relief and rehabilitation to the affected families.

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday highlighted the immense potential of Jammu and Kashmir for destination wedding tourism, saying efforts are underway to position the region as the country's hub for luxury weddings. He made the remarks after inaugurating the Hindustan-2025 Wedding Planners Expo, organized by the Indian Chamber of Event Industry (ICEI) at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC). "Jammu and Kashmir is not just a paradise on Earth, it has the potential to become the world's premier destination wedding capital," Omar Abdullah said. "The tagline 'Wed in Kashmir' is more than a slogan—it is a movement to turn the valley's



The Lieutenant Governor was briefed by His Highness Major General J. K. Bhat, J&K, and other officials about the progress of restoration work in the flood-affected areas.

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## FCIK Urges Revival Of Defunct Carpet Centres

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has urged the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, to revive defunct carpet centres under the erstwhile Massive Carpet Scheme and to introduce Kashmir-specific initiatives aimed at revitalizing the region's textile and handicraft sectors.

During a meeting with the Secretary of the Ministry of Textiles, Ms. Neelam Shami Rao, FCIK President Shahid Kamili strongly advocated for the restoration and modernization of the abandoned carpet and handicraft centres across Kashmir. He proposed that these centres be transformed into dynamic hubs for production, design, and skill development.

These centres were once the backbone of Kashmir's carpet industry. With proper restructuring, they can be converted into modern Textile and Craft Development Centres, equipped with advanced looms, CAD/CAM technology, dyeing and finishing units, and skill training modules," said Kamili.

He emphasized that reviving these facilities would not only breathe new life into the Valley's hand-made carpet industry but also generate sustainable employment for thousands of artisans and weavers.

"We believe this is the most effective way to bridge tradition with technology," he added.

On the occasion, FCIK presented a comprehensive memorandum to the Ministry, outlining several key proposals for the revival and growth of the sector.

### 85 Year Old Artisan Warns Of Handicraft Decline

Agencies

Srinagar: In the narrow lanes of Kathidarwaza, Perbagh, lives an 85-year-old artisan who carries the weight of Kashmir's handicraft legacy on his frail shoulders.

Mir Abdul Majeed, a veteran of Aari staple work, has spent around 70 years perfecting the delicate art that once brought global fame to the valley's artisans. Today, he speaks not only as a craftsman but as a custodian of a tradition he fears may be lost to machines and modern apathy.

Majeed's journey began at the age of 12 when handicraft workshops thrived across Kashmir. "That time, workshops were everywhere, and I joined one to learn chain stitching. After mastering it, I shifted to staple work, which later gained immense popularity," he recalls.

For Majeed, the survival of this heritage now depends on the younger generation. "The government is showing some interest in handicrafts, but it is the youth who must embrace it. If they learn, they can create employment for others instead of chasing jobs. Our legacy should not vanish in silence," he appeals.

As his wrinkled hands continue to guide the needle with unmatched precision, Majeed stands as both a reminder of the valley's glorious past and a plea for its uncertain future—(KNO)

Read full story on [Kashmirobsrver.net](http://Kashmirobsrver.net)



## CM Omar Meets Public Delegations At Raabita Office

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Scores of delegations and individuals called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Raabita office here on Tuesday to apprise the Chief Minister of various issues of public importance.

A delegation of folk artists and renowned singers of Kashmir including Ustaad Abdul Rashid Hafiz, Waheed Jeelani, Gulzar Ganie and Muneer Mir raised the concerns of the local artists and singers with the Chief Minister. They sought the Government's intervention to resolve various challenges faced by the community from the last several years.

**“A delegation of folk artists and renowned singers of Kashmir including Ustaad Abdul Rashid Hafiz, Waheed Jeelani, Gulzar Ganie and Muneer Mir raised the concerns of the local artists and singers with the Chief Minister. They sought the Government's intervention to resolve various challenges faced by the community from the last several years.”**

Similarly, other public delegations also met the Chief Minister

and apprised him of various developmental issues and concerns of their respective areas.

Apart from these delegations, scores of individuals called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of various personal and public concerns.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all delegations and individuals, assuring them that the issues raised would be appropriately addressed through the concerned departments.

Earlier, the Chief Minister also held a brief interaction with MLA Kulgam, M.Y Tarigami and discussed developmental activities in Kulgam constituency.

## NIT Pays Tributes To Dr. Sagadevan

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Tuesday paid rich tributes to Dr. Sagadevan R, Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering, who passed away at SKIMS Soura, Srinagar. His sudden demise has left the campus

community in deep shock and mourning.

The entire NIT Srinagar fraternity, including teaching, administrative, non-teaching staff, and scholars, assembled near the Main Faculty Block for a condolence meeting and paid rich tributes to Dr. Sagadevan.

The gathering was led by In-Charge Director Prof. (HAG)

Roohi Naaz, along with the Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman, Deans, Heads of Departments, and Centers, teaching and non-teaching staff, Administrative Officers, scholars, and students.

In his condolence message, Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia described Dr. Sagadevan's demise as both a personal and institutional tragedy.

## Man Found Dead, Police Launch Investigation

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Sept 09: A man was found dead in Batwara area of Srinagar on Tuesday, prompting police to launch an investigation into the matter.

Officials said the body was first spotted by locals, who immediately

informed the police. Soon after, a team from Ram Munshi Bagh police station reached the spot and took the body into their custody.

The deceased has been identified as Mohammad Qayoom Butt, son of Mohammad Kamal Butt, a resident of Gandbal, Srinagar.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Kashmir University records of my degree Bsc and B.ed, bearing Registration No 22916-IC-2008 the name is entered as ASIYA KOUNSAR BHAT while my actual name is ASIYA KOUNSAR. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact University of Kashmir with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

ASIYA KOUNSAR  
D/O GHULAM HUSSAIN BHAT  
R/o BEMINA BUDGAM.

mcb

### Court Of Additional District Judge (Bank Cases) Srinagar Designated Commercial Court

Present: Ms. Kusoom Pandita

In The Case Of:-Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd  
Business Unit Khanyar Srinagar  
Through Attorney Holder Jaweed Ahmad Shera Executive (Law), Zonal Office Kashmir (Central-I) Srinagar  
V/S

1. Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Chaloo S/o Abdul Satar Chaloo  
R/o: Gari Masjid Rangerstop Khanyar Srinagar  
In the matter of:

Suit under order XXXVII CPC for Recovery of an amount of Rs 1,17,846.01/-

### PUBLICATION

#### GENERAL NOTICE (U/0:5 Rule 20 cpc)

Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the defendant(s)/respondent(s) above named remained absent all along despite service. Hence, this proclamation under order 5 Rule 20 CPC is hereby issued against him/them who should appear personally or through their counsel on 09.09.2025 at 10 a.m.

Take notice that in default of his/ their appearance on the day before mentioned, the above said case will be heard and determined in his/their absence accordingly to law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 04.06.2025  
Additional District Judge  
(Bank Cases) Srinagar

AB

## OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

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I did wash my hand ... but.... did I clean it enough? ?Wash it again? Is it clean now?

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KASHMIR / Kashmir American Society of Healthcare, Medical Education & Research in collaboration with HPVT / Help Poor Voluntary Trust!

is initiating a **Free 8 weeks Group Therapy** for the individuals suffering with OCD by a team of counselling clinical psychologists led by leading consultant clinical psychologist of J&K.

If you or some one you know is experiencing symptoms of OCD, seeking professional help is crucial.

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Happy & Healthy minds Office, HPVT Building (First Floor), Daresh Kadal Chowk, Srinagar

📞 9070806160

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- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

**AIRPORTS**  
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

**RAILWAYS**

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BUIBHARA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4: 47
ZUHR	12:31
ASR	4: 58
Magrib	6:53
ISHA	8: 15

### This Day In History

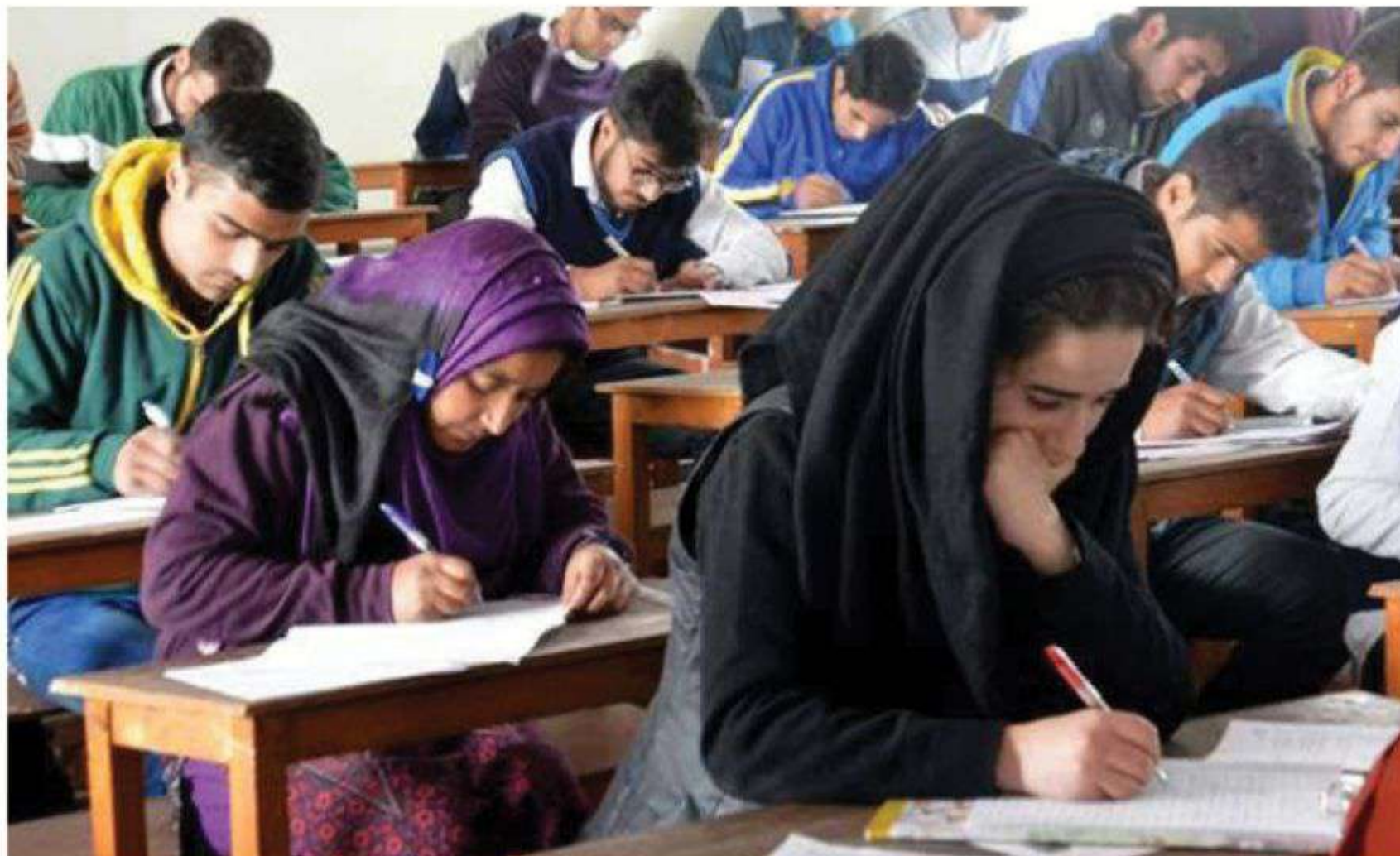
- 1547 - Battle of Pinkie, Midlothian: English beat the Scots
- 1785- Prussia signs a trade agreement with the US
- 1813- American naval commander Oliver Hazard Perry defeats the British in the Battle of Lake Erie
- 1823- Simón Bolívar is named President of Peru
- 1858- George Mary Searle discovers the asteroid 55 Pandora
- 1861- Battle of Carnifex Ferry in Virginia; 170 casualties
- 1861- Battle of Cheat Mountain, Elkwater, West Virginia (until September 15)
- 1863- Battle of Little Rock, Arkansas, begins as Union forces capture the city
- De Brazza Treaty with King of Congo
- 1880- Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza signs treaty with King Makoko of Congo
- 1898- Empress Elisabeth of Austria is assassinated by anarchist Luigi Lucheni
- 1898- Lord Kitchener sails from Khartoum to Fashoda to confront French attempts to claim territory in Sudan
- 1905- Japanese battleship Mikasa explodes at her moorings after the magazine catches fire, killing 251 seamen
- 1910 - Great Idaho Fire destroys 3 million acres of timber
- 1919 - Treaty of St Germain: Austria ends incorporation with Germany
- 1919 - China becomes a member of the League of Nations
- 1926 - Allies-German treaty of Koblenz drawn
- 1926 - Germany joins League of Nations
- 1939 - Canada, under the leadership of Mackenzie King, declares war on Germany
- 1942 - British troops land on Madagascar
- 1942 - RAF drops 100,000 bombs on Dusseldorf
- 1943 - British 8th army occupies Tarente
- 1943 - German troops occupy Rome and take over the protection of Vatican City
- 1951 - British begin economic boycott of Iran
- 1965 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1972 - West Germany beats Pakistan 1-0 to become first European nation since 1920 to win the field hockey Olympic title; marred by disgraceful behaviour of Pakistani players, fans & officials after losing the Munich final
- 1973 - Muhammad Ali defeats Ken Norton
- 1974 - Portugal recognizes independence of Republic of Guinea-Bissau
- 1990 - Iran agrees to resume diplomatic ties with Iraq
- 2007 - Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif returns to Pakistan after seven years in exile, following a military coup in October 1999.
- 2019 - Alibaba chairman Jack Ma steps down, succeeded by Daniel Zhang
- 2019 - Malaysia's National Disaster Management Agency deliver half a million face masks to Sarawak state, after more than 930,000 hectares (about 2.3 million acres) burnt in Indonesia cause hazardous levels of air pollution
- 2020- Austrian-British researcher Martin Hairer wins the Breakthrough Prize in Mathematics worth \$3 million for his work on stochastic analysis
- 2020- California's August Complex wildfire becomes the largest recorded in state history at 471,000 acres (736 square miles)
- 2020- Wildfires in Oregon cause 500,000 people, 10% of the population, to evacuate with an unprecedented 900,000 acres burned
- 2022- Best film at the 79th Venice International Film Festival is awarded to Laura Poitras' documentary about photographer Nan Goldin, "All the Beauty and the Bloodshed"
- 2022- U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres visits and calls for global support for flood-ravaged Pakistan where 33 million people are displaced and damage is estimated at \$30 billion
- 2023- Collapse of two dams after heavy rain from Storm Daniel sends a torrent of flooding through the city of Derna, Libya, cutting it off completely and leaving over 4,000 dead and 8,000 missing

## KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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# Kashmir's Career Conundrum

Thousands of young Kashmiris pin their hopes on government jobs, equating exam results with success. But in a region of limited opportunities, this belief is a trap, not a gateway to progress.



Nazim Bashir

Government jobs are respectable, but they are not the only path to success. True intelligence shows in the ability to adapt, to innovate, and to rise after failure. Every young person in Kashmir carries the seeds of potential. It is time we stop watering only the narrow path of exams and start nurturing talent in every field.

ness thrive in this atmosphere. Yet, amid this gloom, there are many who are charting their own course.

Young Kashmiris are starting small businesses, building tech startups, creating art, and working in the private sector. They are employing others instead of waiting to be employed. Their successes remain undercelebrated.

One young entrepreneur from Srinagar runs a successful app-based delivery service, connecting local vendors with customers across the region. Another has launched an online platform that showcases Kashmiri handicrafts to a global audience. These are not government jobs, but they represent innovation, courage, and intelligence.

Swami Vivekananda's words are worth remembering: "We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care about what you think." If we keep thinking that success lies in government jobs, we limit a generation's potential.

What we need is a cultural shift. Parents must encourage their children to explore diverse careers, develop practical skills, and dream beyond government exams. Schools should promote creativity, problem-solving, and entrepreneurship, not just exam preparation. The government must invest in creating new sectors of employment, especially in technology, creative industries, and services.

Government jobs are respectable, but they are not the only path to success. True intelligence shows in the ability to adapt, innovate, and rise after failure. Every young person in Kashmir carries the seeds of potential. It is time we stop watering only the narrow path of exams and start nurturing talent in every field.

After all, as the saying goes, "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant."

It is time we sow seeds of encouragement, opportunity, and belief in every young Kashmiri.

The author is an MBA in HR and Marketing and a keen observer of youth and social issues in Kashmir.

### KO VIEW

## Time To Relearn Flood Lessons

It has been eleven years since the Jhelum submerged swathes of Kashmir Valley leaving behind death, and devastation. One would have thought that such a calamity would shake governments into action, forcing them to build a robust flood defense system for the Valley. Yet today, Kashmir stands almost as vulnerable as it did in September 2014.

The facts are damning. Of the Rs 1,623-crore Comprehensive Flood Management Plan, cleared with fanfare in 2022, its two most crucial components, resectioning of the Flood Spill Channel and widening of the Outfall Channel, remain frozen in files. These works, valued at over Rs 1,200 crore, were expected to decisively improve the Jhelum's carrying capacity. Instead, they have been mired in bureaucratic confusion, with clashing studies from two agencies, and now further cost escalations of Rs 300 crore. The end result is paralysis, while the river remains a ticking bomb.

What is more, the wetlands such as Hokersar, Haigam, Shalabugh, and Mirgundhat that once acted as sponges during high rainfall have been encroached upon or degraded. The Environmental Policy Group has rightly warned that without halting this reckless land use, any engineering intervention will be futile. As things stand, a weakened drainage system in Srinagar, fragile embankments left unattended since 2014, and piecemeal dredging only add to the Valley's vulnerability.

Meanwhile, the High Court's recent intervention is a timely reminder that the executive has failed in its duty of foresight. The court rightly summoned top bureaucrats to explain why long-promised works remain stalled. Courts, however, cannot substitute governance. Ultimately, it is the government that must break the inertia and move beyond paperwork.

Kashmir's people cannot be expected to live year after year under the shadow of another deluge. The Rs 1,623-crore plan cannot remain a statistic; it must translate into strengthened embankments, widened channels, restored wetlands restored, and modern monitoring systems.

Nature may not give a second chance. The Valley has already seen the cost of complacency. Another Jhelum flood could be one extended rainfall away and could once again wash away homes and lives. Eleven years on, Kashmir deserves more than promises; it deserves safety.

Flood management in Kashmir has never been treated as a priority. Funds earmarked for disaster management haven't been well-spent as also alleged by the chief minister Omar Abdullah. Announcements are made after every tragedy, but accountability is never enforced.

The 2014 floods should have been the turning point. Instead, they became a missed opportunity. Eleven years of ad hoc measures, temporary embankments, and half-completed dredging have left the Valley just as fragile.

### CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

## Valley's Growing F&O Traders

As more Kashmiris enter the world of derivatives trading, understanding options becomes crucial.

Irshad Mushtaq

In Srinagar and across Kashmir, a new wave of retail traders is exploring derivatives markets, drawn by the lure of options trading. Options are financial contracts that give you the right to buy or sell an asset at a set price before a certain date. They sound complex, but their logic is straightforward, and mastering them can be key for traders looking to make informed moves.

Call options allow you to buy an asset, betting that its price will rise. Put options let you sell, if you anticipate a fall. Each trade requires a premium, the upfront cost of entry. Buying options limits your losses to this premium, while selling can earn you income but exposes you to larger risks.

Pricing is built on intrinsic value, the gap between market price and strike price, and time value, which fades as expiration nears. Consider the Nifty 50 at 25,000. Buying a 24,500 call gives an intrinsic value of 500, but the premium is higher, reflecting potential gains over time. If the market doesn't move as expected, the option expires worthless, and the premium is lost.

Experienced traders often blend buying and selling strategies, managing risk with a careful eye on liquidity, volume, and market dynamics. Choosing high-volume options helps avoid manipulation and ensures you can exit positions when needed.

A broker facilitates trades, but prices are set by supply and demand. Options carry no guaranteed profits, and losses happen. For newcomers, consulting a financial advisor can make the difference between a costly mistake and a valuable lesson.

As interest in derivatives grows in Kashmir, understanding the mechanics of options equips traders to participate confidently, responsibly, and with a sharper sense of the risks and rewards.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

A government job is often seen as the only measure of success in Kashmir. Families, teachers, and society at large treat it like a trophy that proves intelligence, discipline, and worth. Young people spend years preparing for exams, living in hope that one day their names will appear on a merit list. When the results don't come, the heartbreak can be devastating.

I know this because I have witnessed it. One of my closest friends spent years preparing for the SSB Accounts Assistant exam. Every day, he followed a strict routine, studied late into the night, and set aside his hobbies, friendships, and even his health. His family believed that clearing this exam would guarantee him a secure, respected future.

After his attempt failed, I found him despondent, unable to sleep or eat. Another friend missed the cut-off by just a couple of points. The disappointment sank so deep that he attempted suicide. I spent days counseling him, helping him understand that life is bigger than a single test.

These are not isolated cases. Across Jammu and Kashmir, thousands of young people live under the same pressure. Official data shows that over the past five years, Jammu and Kashmir has produced around 36,000 government jobs. That is roughly 7,000 to 9,000 jobs a year through JKSSB and JKPCS combined.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of aspirants apply. The odds are overwhelming, but the belief remains that failing such exams is a sign of failure itself.

So, what drives this obsession? Part of it lies in economic insecurity. A government job is still seen as stable, secure, and respectable in a place with limited private-sector opportunities. But this single-minded focus reduces intelligence to a number on a paper.

It ignores the diverse abilities that young people in Kashmir possess: creativity, resilience, adaptability, and problem-solving.

A youth once told me, "We are too many

with too much talent, but too little space." His words linger. The system does not account for the fact that every child is not wired to pass standardized tests. Some are brilliant artists, inventive entrepreneurs, dedicated social workers, or innovative tech developers. They do not follow the conventional path of clearing exams, yet their potential is immense.

Albert Einstein's famous words capture this perfectly: "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid." We continue to make that mistake in Kashmir, measuring intelligence solely by exam success.

Parents bear much of the blame, often unknowingly. Driven by concern, they pressure children to focus solely on government job preparation, equating failure with shame. The social stigma attached to not securing a government position weighs heavily. Schools and coaching centers further reinforce this mindset, treating alternative career paths as secondary or inferior.

The result is a toxic environment. Youth grow up believing that if they fail one test, they fail in life. Depression, anxiety, and hopelessness

### Letter to Editor

## Mental Health Neglect Fuels Silent Suffering in Kashmir

Behind closed doors and silent screens, a growing number of Kashmiris are losing their mental calm.

A recent study revealed that 11.3 percent of adults in the region suffer from mental health disorders, including depression, anxiety, and mood disorders. Women are disproportionately affected, with a rate of 12.9 percent compared to 8.4 percent of men. These numbers reflect more than individual suffering. They point to a system failing its people.

Mental health is as important as physical health. The brain governs every thought, emotion, and reaction. When its delicate balance falters, every part of life suffers. But in Kashmir, a combination of factors pushes mental illness into the shadows. The highest unemployment rate in India, over 22 percent, drives despair, especially among the youth. Few businesses survive, societal interaction is limited, and digital screens have replaced real conversations.

The world of social media creates a false sense of connection. Many young Kashmiris scroll endlessly, substituting genuine relationships with curated images and fleeting likes. Isolation begins with personal or work-related challenges. The feeling of helplessness builds. Slowly, the individual drifts further from family and community, until depression takes hold.

Mental illness in Kashmir is poorly understood. Myths rule. Many see it as weakness or a flaw of character, not a medical condition. Elders insist that mental illness affects adults only. Parents refuse to believe their children's complaints of persistent sadness or anxiety. Speaking about these issues is seen as tempting fate, as if talking about depression makes it grow stronger.

The stigma is crushing. People suffering from mental illness are labeled "mad." Their families are shunned. Doctors don't prescribe understanding, neighbours hardly offer support.

Depression alters how people think, behave, and respond to life. It is not laziness or a passing phase. It is a medical disorder that rewires the brain, creating feelings of worthlessness and despair. Anxiety disorders keep sufferers in a constant state of fear, while mood disorders warp their emotional responses.

These illnesses are treatable. Medicines help rebalance the brain's chemistry. Counseling and therapy provide the tools to rebuild thought patterns. The challenge lies in access. Mental health care remains scarce in Kashmir. Even when available, the social stigma prevents people from seeking it.

The solution demands more than clinics and prescriptions. It begins with education. Schools must teach children that it is okay to feel sad, anx-

ious, or overwhelmed. Families must recognize that their suffering is real. Community programs can break taboos and create safe spaces for open conversation.

An awareness campaign cannot be a one-time event. It must be sustained, persistent, and tailored to the unique challenges of Kashmir. Workshops, seminars, and public talks must become part of the cultural conversation.

The state's highest unemployment rate plays a direct role in this crisis. With no jobs and little hope, youth fall into depression. Political instability strains family bonds and leaves many mourning the loss of loved ones. Domestic violence further traps women in cycles of fear and isolation.

The first step toward change lies in recognizing mental illness as an illness. It is not shameful, nor is it a reflection of character. It is a medical condition that requires treatment, understanding, and compassion.

Kashmir faces many battles. Now it must take on the battle against silence, stigma, and the neglect of mental health.

Sincerely,

Ayaan Saroori  
ayaansaroori8@gmail.com

# The Scientist Changing Kashmir's Healthcare

A Kashmiri scientist's telehealth platform turns smartphones into portals of care, helping families in remote villages consult specialists and manage chronic diseases amid winters and instability.

Dr. Saad Parvez

Dr. Nawab John Dar adjusts his glasses and looks at a microscope, though his mind drifts far from the high-tech labs of California's Salk Institute.

His research into Alzheimer's disease, specifically how iron imbalance accelerates brain degeneration, has earned him respect among peers.

Yet it is the distant peaks and valleys of his childhood home in Kashmir that occupy his thoughts most.

Years ago, the question came to him in stark clarity: Why should geography determine the care you receive?

For millions in Kashmir, access to specialist medical care is a daily struggle. Winters block roads for months. Political instability shuts down movement without warning.

The region's public health infrastructure struggles under years of trouble, with reports from the Jammu and Kashmir Health Department showing that in 2022, only 5.8 doctors served every 10,000 people, far below the national aver-

age of 7.9.

The majority of specialists cluster in Srinagar and Jammu, while villages remain disconnected.

It was this reality that prompted Dr. Dar to join forces with the Greenovator Incubation Foundation (GIF) and the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar to develop Teleprac, a digital health platform designed to bridge the divide.

The platform connects patients in remote villages with doctors in urban centers, allowing them to consult, test, and treat without leaving home.

"This isn't about just having video calls," Dr. Dar explains, his voice calm, measured. "It's about a system where your medical history travels with you. Every test, prescription, consultation is linked, accessible, reliable."

For Shabir Ahmad, a labourer from a small village near Shopian, Teleprac proved to be a lifeline.

Last January, his mother developed severe chest pain. The nearest cardiologist was over 150 kilometers away in Jammu. Snow had blocked the roads. Local clinics offered only painkillers and basic care. Desperation settled in.

"I kept thinking, there had to be another way," Shabir says, staring out at the murky sky from his modest home.

Through Teleprac, Shabir connected with a cardiologist based in Srinagar. The doctor reviewed his mother's medical records stored in the system, ordered an ECG and blood tests at a nearby diagnostic center, and prescribed the necessary medicines. A courier delivered the prescribed drugs the next day. Shabir's mother began to recover.

In Baramulla, Amina Bano, 58, struggled for years managing diabetes. She remembers the confusion of handling different prescriptions and the repeated, costly trips to doctors. Her condition remained



unstable, and every month, her worry grew.

Her life changed after she registered on Teleprac. Today, an endocrinologist in Delhi tracks her blood sugar levels remotely. Her local lab performs tests, and medicines are delivered directly to her home. The system even reminds her when to take doses.

"Before, I would forget medicines or stop taking them when I felt fine," Amina says. "Now, everything is connected."

Teleprac's design accounts for Kashmir's unreliable internet infrastructure. Video consultations adapt to low bandwidth. Visual icons guide users who may not

read English or run complicated apps. Elderly patients often rely on their children to manage accounts, setting up profiles that store their entire medical history.

The platform supports over twenty-five medical specialties, including cardiology, nephrology, oncology, and urology. It offers more than 100,000 medicines, often at discounted rates. The early impact has been striking.

A recent internal study revealed that 75 percent of Teleprac users adhered more consistently to prescribed treatment plans. The frequency of repeated, unnecessary tests dropped by over 60 percent. Travel expenses, which, in Kashmir,

can cost upwards of 2,000 rupees per trip, fell sharply, easing financial stress on families already living hand-to-mouth.

Dr. Dar sees another layer of impact.

When doctors consult patients across regions, they begin to learn how local habits, diets, and environmental factors shape diseases in Kashmir's diverse terrain. This shared knowledge helps doctors provide more personalized treatment plans.

The environmental footprint also shrinks. In a place where public transport is sparse and private vehicles rare, cutting down long journeys for medical care translates

into fewer emissions and reduced fuel use, a small but important step toward sustainability.

Still, the model faces its critics. Experts raise concerns about data security. How safe is a patient's medical history in the hands of a digital system operating in a politically-fragile zone? Could this approach leave behind those unfamiliar with technology, widening the gap instead of bridging it?

Dr. Dar listens carefully. "Data privacy is not a second thought," he says. "It's at the heart of our design. Some cases will always need hands-on diagnosis. But the alternative is having no specialist care at all."

Public hospitals in Kashmir, already overburdened, welcome the relief. Government data from 2022 indicates that over 80 percent of hospital outpatient consultations occur in Srinagar's main hospitals. Coordinated remote care means fewer patients arriving in emergency wards in critical condition.

As winter nears and roads begin to freeze again, families living in remote Kashmir will no longer be stranded. Their smartphones will connect them to doctors who understand their environment and local challenges.

Dr. Dar does not see this as the final solution. It is just the beginning. His ambition stretches beyond one platform. He imagines a system-wide transformation of Indian healthcare, bringing services to people, rather than forcing people to chase services.

"This is the future," he says. "Accessible, connected, human."

— Dr. Saad Parvez is Co-Founder of the IED Centre at NIT Srinagar and Principal Investigator at i-TBI-GIF, a Section-8 company focused on digital healthcare innovation in Jammu and Kashmir.



**As winter nears and roads begin to freeze again, families living in remote Kashmir will no longer be stranded. Their smartphones will connect them to doctors who understand their environment and local challenges.**

## The Rising Affair Culture

Extra-marital affairs are no longer whispered secrets in the valley. They are breaking homes, scarring children, and eroding the values that once held our society together.

Danish Aisha

I don't know where to begin. Every starting point feels wrong, sinful, as if even narrating it gives life to the shame it carries.

I am talking about extra-marital affairs, a phenomenon that has grown silently, yet alarmingly, across Kashmir.

What worries me more is that some have started perceiving it as cool, modern, or acceptable.

That normalization is catastrophic. It is shaking the moral foundations of our society, but still, almost no one is speaking up.

This is not just about men or women. It involves both: fathers, mothers, husbands, wives.

People we trust to uphold the family, the very anchor of society, are breaking the bonds that hold us together. And where are the voices to guide us?

Religious scholars, who once reminded us of values, are either silent or preoccupied with sectarian disputes, debating Shia and Sunni supremacy, while families and children battle the chaos silently, often alone.

During my research, I came across the term "Sugar Daddy." Google can define it, but the reality is here in our own towns and cities. It is disgraceful to see older men, sometimes grandfathers in age, approaching girls barely in their twenties. Some young women accept these arrangements for money, gifts, or status.

Strip away the euphemisms, and it is an exchange of lust and greed masquerading as a relationship.

When society turns a blind eye, we are telling the next generation that betrayal is acceptable, loyalty is outdated, and immediate gratification outweighs values.

The consequences are endless: families fracture, trust evaporates, and lives are ruined. Children are the silent sufferers. They grow up in homes where conflict, dishonesty, and tension



are constant companions.

Imagine a mother who sacrifices her comfort, independence, health, and even her dreams for her husband and family. She shares her life entirely, including her mind, body, and soul, yet sees her trust betrayed. How do we measure her pain?

She asks for nothing more than loyalty and respect. The



**Extra-marital affairs betray not just spouses. They betray children, families, communities, and God Himself. They kill trust, crush innocence, and destroy homes. The scars inflicted by betrayal outlast any momentary pleasure.**

betrayal seeps into every part of her existence: mental health, self-worth, even financial secu-

rety if her husband diverts resources to sustain his affair.

Affairs are never born from love or noble intentions. They are born of desire, boredom, and material greed.

And the children? Let me share a story.

A boy, barely ten, went to the mosque for Quranic lessons. Other children mocked him, saying, "Your father is a badmash mol."

That single taunt broke something in him. He never returned. Betrayal does not confine itself to adults. It stains generations.

A man who spends lavishly on another woman often neglects his wife and children, leaving emotional and financial scars that last a lifetime. Families that protect daughters from misfortune often fail to see the precedent they set by committing similar betrayals themselves.

Children growing up in such households carry humiliation, shame, and trauma. My brother once told me: "When fights break out in these families, opponents do not need to curse. Taunts alone are enough to shatter a child."

And yet, society stays silent. Families cover up infidelity in the name of honour, choosing decades of suffering over confrontation. Silence preserves neither respect nor dignity. It normalizes betrayal.

Extra-marital affairs are so-

cial wounds. They break families, scar children, and erode trust in our communities. What may seem like a fleeting thrill leaves behind years of emotional wreckage. Loyalty, honesty, and respect, the pillars of marriage, collapse.

If we do not start honest conversations at home, in mosques, in schools, and social circles, this erosion will worsen. We need to guide our youth to see that respect and loyalty are not old-fashioned, they are the essence of a dignified life.

Extra-marital affairs betray not just spouses. They betray children, families, communities, and God Himself. They kill trust, crush innocence, and destroy homes. The scars inflicted by betrayal outlast any momentary pleasure.

The only way forward is to call this out, confront it, and reject its normalization.

If we fail, we leave behind a generation burdened with wounds that will shape their lives long after the pleasures that caused them are gone.

— The author is the Convener of the Centre for Public Interest (CPI), a Kashmir-based independent think tank working on governance, policy reform, and community empowerment through research and advocacy.

## The Right to Remarry

Widows in Kashmir carry responsibilities, face judgment, and struggle for the right to move forward.

Faria Bhat

When a woman loses her husband in Kashmir, the world often reacts as if she has lost something far greater than a partner.

Families and neighbours suddenly measure her every action. Her laughter, clothing, even the way she speaks can become subjects of scrutiny.

In contrast, men who lose their wives often face encouragement to move forward, to rebuild their lives.

The difference is stark.

Widows in Kashmir carry a weight that has little to do with grief alone. Families worry about society's judgment. Women themselves hesitate, shaped by generations of expectations. Life after loss is expected to be contained, restrained, defined by mourning. And yet, there is no rule, religious or legal, that forbids a widow from remarrying.

In Islam, the iddah, the period of mourning, is a pause, after which remarriage is permitted and considered virtuous. Offering care, companionship, and stability to a widow aligns with the Prophet Muhammad's teachings, yet cultural resistance remains strong.

Remarriage happens, but it is rare. Younger widows may have slightly more room to make choices. Older women, those with children, often find the path blocked. Many focus entirely on their children, making sacrifices that go unnoticed.

Financial challenges, dowry demands, and the reluctance of relatives make it harder for widows to consider remarriage. Some become dependent on family, their independence limited not by desire, but by circumstance.

Even within families, widows can face subtle pressures. Some are treated as caretakers rather than as individuals with their own lives and desires. Others are whispered about, blamed for misfortune, or seen as unlucky.

A local NGO survey found that seventy percent of Kashmiri widows experience social scru-



**Remarriage is an affirmation that life persists and that a woman's identity extends beyond her relationship to her husband.**

tiny after their husband's death, and forty percent are actively discouraged from remarriage.

These numbers reflect social realities that are felt every day, in conversations, in glances, and in the unspoken rules of behaviour.

The question then becomes: why should loss erase a woman's chance at companionship, at a home, and at life beyond responsibility?

Grief does not erase the need for human connection. It does not erase the possibility of joy. Life continues, and widows, like everyone else, navigate the tension between expectation and desire.

Families and communities have a role to play. Supporting widows, allowing them to make choices about remarriage, respecting their agency, can reshape the social narrative.

Policymakers and social leaders can reinforce these messages through awareness and community programs, highlighting both religious encouragement and moral reasoning.

At the same time, financial and legal support, including clarity in inheritance, access to property, and protection against exploitation, can make real change possible.

Kashmir has seen women succeed in classrooms, sports fields, and workplaces. The same recognition should be extended to widows. Their strength is visible in the daily management of households, in raising children, and in maintaining stability under circumstances that are often harsh.

Their lives do not end with loss. They continue, silently persistent, seeking the same human experiences of companionship, love, and independence that men enjoy without judgment.

By allowing widows to reclaim agency, families and communities can support a life that continues with dignity. Remarriage is an affirmation that life persists and that a woman's identity extends beyond her relationship to her husband.

Kashmir has the chance to redefine widowhood, to recognize it as a stage of life rather than a sentence.

— The author is a freelance journalist from Srinagar. She can be reached at jariabhatz6@gmail.com.

# Div Com Reviews Status Of Migrant Grievances, Related Issues

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deivisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Arshad Gani, has directed the concerned agencies to review the status of registered grievances of migrants and other related issues.

The meeting was attended by the Deivisional Commissioners, Additional Commissioners, Joint Commissioners, Central, OSD, and the Law Officer.

During the meeting, Div Com directed all Deputy Commissioners to check the status of registered grievances of migrants and other related issues.

Resolution of migrant grievances is emphasized as the most important. The Div Com directed all Deputy Commissioners to check the status of registered grievances of migrants and other related issues.

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## Avalanche Strikes Siachen Base Camp In Ladakh; 3 Soldiers Killed

Observer News Service

Lah: Three soldiers lost their lives when an avalanche struck Siachen, the world's highest glaciated area, in the Siachen Army Base Camp (SABC), officials said on Tuesday. The avalanche occurred in the 12,000-feet-high Siachen base camp area on Sunday, trapping three soldiers, including two Army and one of the officials said.

The rescue mission was immediately launched and the bodies of the trapped soldiers were retrieved.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Experts Sound Alarm:

Nations Drug Control Programme estimates that approximately 70,000 people in the region are addicted to various substances. Nearly 4,000 of them are women, most between 34 and 40 years old.

Their suffering is rarely acknowledged, often being in silence and shame.

"I have hardly witnessed parents accompanying girl victims to my clinic," said Dr. Arif Khan, a clinical psychologist at the Srinagar. His wife holds the heavy burden.

Women, who often prefer to seek help on their own, face severe rehabilitation costs, women face more treatment phases.

"The number of female visitors has been mounting," Dr. Arif explained. "But there is still a gender gap in receiving help. Many seek rehabilitation because society constantly blames them."

Two girls lately came to his clinic claiming insanity. Only after multiple consultations were they admitted to care.

The access points to addiction are not what one expects. "This is not a drug problem, but illicit medicine bromide and chlorazepate used in breast-feeding cycles led to addiction in some cases," Dr. Arif said.

The failure of parental care remains a critical factor. "Parents try to never be heard such as in the Zoya case," he noted. Their daughters fall to receive medical attention on their own.

Dr. Khan stressed the urgency of early intervention. "Parents must learn to intervene before it's too late," he said.

The government has made efforts to tackle the issue. Rehabilitation centres have been established, and slogans demanding Noha Mulla, a drug-free region, are being spread across the valley.

"Many addicts find living a decent life despite their addiction," he said. "They work hard to be independent with such a history. They don't want to return to their parents' care."

For the girl in Dr. Zoya's clinic, her parents have been informed, but the psychological pain is harder to escape.

"Her case represents not just a personal tragedy, but a mirror to a society that has failed to invest in open consultation," Dr. Zoya noted.

Dr. Khan said that parents should support their children unconditionally and provide them with the space to speak before it's too late.

### Falcy Cut

Valley: The road which the mahalanipal project was supposed to temporarily reduce, complete restoration of the road is expected to be completed by the end of the month. The road will be much longer.

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the wake of a massive landslide.

So far, 10 trucks, which were the main bulks in the restoration of the highway stretch, were halted and removed on Monday, and three more trucks were excavated to pave the way for removing additional chokers, the officials said.

The road, the main to beginning to clear, and the blocked highway will soon be opened to traffic.

While most of the landslides, mudslides, and falling stones were cleared from the highway stretch remained buried under a hill of Third National Highway.

The landslide in the Maiti Vishnu Dooi village in the Jammu district, said, adding that the road is expected to be opened to traffic by the 15th consecutive day.

"People are advised to not undertake the road, the main to beginning to clear, and the blocked highway will soon be opened to traffic," he said.

"Traffic on the inter-regional Mughal Road, which connects Jammu region, is being diverted to the Kashmir Highway, which is moving smoothly, while in Baramulla-Doda road, traffic is closed due to landslides.

The closure of highway and other inter-regional roads has led to the backlogs of over 4,000 vehicles getting stranded at various points on the highway, while the roads are being repaired.

The Jammu and Kashmir Highways are fully repaired, (inputs from NNC)

### PM Plans J&K

an aerial survey of flood affected areas of the state. The Prime Minister will have an official meeting in Kangra to review the relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken as per the order of the Government.

The PM also announced a financial assistance of Rs 150 crore for financial floods. There will be advance release of the second instalment of Rs 100 crore.

The PM asked for a multi-dimensional view to assess the damage to the roads, and to set back on its feet. These would be done through the PM Aard, measures of Rs 200 crore.

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badly as doctors have exhausted strategies are rising because of non-availability of products," he said.

He also questioned why suppliers were not being brought by train.

"If train services have started, why can't essential goods arrive through rail as well? Rates are already skyrocketing," Chaudhary said.

Mohammad Salam, Vice President of the Lal Chowk Traders Association, said many shops are closed because of the shortage of essential goods.

"The recent GST hike has further compounded the issues, leaving traders under immense strain," he said.

Meanwhile, traffic authorities said the Mughal Road and Srinagar Road remain open as per advisory, but NH-44 continues to be shut.

The Doda-Kishtwar road (NH-24) is also blocked due to a landslide at Kishtha Shih near Naab Nang, while the Srinagar-Somnath road is also blocked due to a landslide at Naab Nang, while the Srinagar-Somnath road is also blocked due to a landslide at Naab Nang.

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floods and landslides in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab.

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properties and land.

The Com highlighted the need to ensure that all relief projects are implemented progressively.

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## CM Seeks Special Trains To Ease Highway Crisis

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday appealed to Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to operate special trains between Kashmir and rest of the country for ferrying essential goods to the valley and transport fruits to terminal markets of the country.

The Jammu Srinagar national highway has been closed following incessant rains and landslides en route, leaving hundreds of trucks carrying horticulture produce stranded.

"Our (railway) tracks are open. I will request the Rail Minister if two to four special trains can be operated for bringing in essential supplies to Kashmir and taking out fruit from here, people will get some relief," Abdullah told reporters outside his private office here.

He said Jammu and Kash-

mir had suffered losses due to floods and its aftermath on various accounts and he expected that the Centre would compensate for these losses.

"Lives have been lost in Kishtwar, residential houses and shops have been damaged, government infrastructure has also suffered due to floods. Fruit was not damaged by rains but is rotting in the trucks due to closure of the highway," the chief minister.

He said an inter-ministerial central team had come to Jammu and Kashmir for loss assessment after the visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah for a first hand assessment of the situation in the wake of devastating floods.

"The Home Minister spent an entire day here. It is not as if no one came here...We expect that we are compensated for the losses we have suffered due to floods," he added.

## SIA Arrests Key Operator In 2022 Narco-Terror Case

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The State Investigation Agency has arrested a key operator in Awantipora area of Pulwama district in the 2022 narco-terror case, the agency said today.

According to a statement, issued to Kashmir Observer, the accused, Abdul Rashid Bhat of Awantipora, was evading arrest for more than 2 years.

The statement reads that he was designated a proclaimed offender by the court in case FIR 19/2022 of SIA Kashmir.

"Rashid is the third absconder to be arrested in the case so far following years of pursuit. His arrest marks a severe blow

to the LeT operated narco-terror module backed by Pakistan based handlers," it reads.

It adds this module was involved in smuggling of narcotics and arms through dead drop consignments near the LoC in Karnah sector and subsequent transportation and sale throughout the valley.

"Sale proceeds of these narcotic substances were later channelised to sustain the waning terrorism in J&K. So far multiple charge sheets have been filed in this case. With this arrest the SIA hopes to unfold some important links and to gather more evidence to be presented before the court to supplement the undergoing trial," it reads.

## Dy CM Assesses Flash Flood Damage On Ground



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** In order to take the on ground assessment of the damage due to heavy rainfall and flash flood recently, the Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary on Tuesday conducted an extensive tour of Jammu city.

The Deputy Chief Minister visited low-lying and worst-hit localities of Sidra, Majeen, Lower Rangoora and Daware Chowk. He also interacted with the flood victims, and assessed the extent of damage caused to residential houses, agricultural fields, public utilities and road networks in these areas.

He directed the administration to provide immediate relief in the form of ration, clean drinking water, medicines, and

temporary shelter facilities to all affected families.

Taking a serious view of the damage caused to public infrastructure, the Dy CM asked officials of the concerned departments to prepare a comprehensive assessment report of losses for immediate submission to the Government, so that adequate compensation and rehabilitation packages can be extended to the affected families at the earliest.

While interacting with the flood affected families, Surinder Choudhary assured them that the Government is committed to their welfare. He expressed solidarity with the victims and reiterated that providing timely relief and rehabilitation remains the topmost priority of the Omar Abdullah led Government.

## Minister Sharma Reviews Availability Of Food Stocks



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In the wake of the recent floods that have disrupted life in several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma convened a high-level meeting to review the availability and distribution of essential commodities including food grains, LPG, and petroleum products across the Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Saurav Bhagat, along with senior officers of the department.

During the meeting, the Minister was apprised that ad-

equated stocks of food grains and essentials are available in all districts. The ration for the month of August has already been distributed, while in certain flood-affected and vulnerable areas, the September quota has also been issued in advance to ensure uninterrupted supply. In addition, the department has maintained a buffer stock of food grains, LPG, and other essential items to meet any future requirements in case of extended disruption.

It was also highlighted that with the active cooperation of telecom operators, the Smart PDS system has been made fully functional, ensuring that the distribution of ration remains smooth and transparent despite the challenges posed by floods.

## Union Textiles Secretary Reviews Handicrafts & Handloom Sectors

Emphasizes Artisan Welfare, Promotion, Export & Market Expansion Of Local Products



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Union Textiles Secretary, Neelam Shami Rao on Tuesday said that the Central Government will explore establishing a vibrant testing and certification system to promote high-end handicrafts and handloom products of Jammu and Kashmir.

She made these remarks during an interaction with representatives from chambers of commerce, exporters, weavers, and artisans' associations at the Arts Emporium Office, Srinagar.

Chairing a meeting with stakeholders, the Union Secretary discussed ongoing initiatives and proposals aimed at promoting local crafts, enhancing exports, and creating new avenues for growth, innovation, and employment generation.

Neelam Shami Rao emphasized that a strong testing and certification system would help eliminate counterfeit products, boost exports, and safeguard the unique identity of Kashmiri crafts.

**YOU ARE THE FUTURE OF INDIA'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY.** Your creativity and skills will define the next generation of design and fashion from Kashmir to the world"

In this regard she instructed that a proposal be submitted to the Union Government.

Appreciating the Government's decision to reduce GST on textiles and handicrafts from 12% to 5%, stakeholders called for a brand campaigning for J&K handicrafts and handloom products at national and international markets, infrastructure upgradation, extension of welfare schemes for artisans, market diversification, and curbing sale of machine-made and counterfeit items from showrooms.

At the outset, the Union Secretary stressed ensuring maximum coverage of artisans under pension schemes, PF/ESIC registration, and scholarship benefits for their children.

She said that efforts are being made to diversify markets for local products, targeting Europe, the UK, and the Middle

East markets.

Neelam Shami Rao said that the Government is committed to developing J&K's textile sector with a focus on infrastructure development, skill enhancement, market expansion, and the welfare of artisans, weavers, and entrepreneurs.

The Union Secretary also visited the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) campus in Budgam, where she inspected various labs, auditorium, classrooms and interacted with faculty and students.

She appreciated students for their exemplary work and dedication in making the best products, showcased on the occasion.

Addressing students she encouraged them to make best use of training and learning throughout their time in the campus, and become one among the best creators.

## Kashmir's Walnut Harvest In Full Swing Amid Challenges

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** As September unfolds, Kashmir's walnut season shifts into full swing, not just in Srinagar's Harwan area but across orchards and wild groves throughout the valley.

In places like Anantnag, Pulwama and Kupwara, farmers also harvest larger tonnes of walnuts, making J&K responsible for over 90% of India's walnut production. As per the details obtained, the major production hubs include Anantnag, Kupwara and Pulwama, along with other key areas such as Shopian, Baramulla, Budgam, Srinagar and Ganderbal.

In Anantnag's beautiful valleys and Budgam's orchards, especially in places like Kandiwara, Kokernag and Ashmuqam, walnut harvesting is not just a task, but a seasonal pulse.

The traditional method remains unchanged, as skilled "walnut thrashers" climb trees barefoot, wielding long cedar or willow sticks to knock down the ripe walnuts—a sight repeated across valleys and streambeds, in managed groves and wild patches alike.



**CLIMBERS OFTEN FALL FROM HEIGHTS OF 30-45 METERS,** risking spinal injuries, paralysis, or even death,"

"This rustic method carries peril. Climbers often fall from heights of 30-45 metres, risking spinal injuries, paralysis, or even death," the locals from Srinagar's Harwan said while speaking about the risks of this harvest.

They said that once down, walnuts are gathered, dehusked, washed, dried in the sun, and manually shelled, often turning into a community effort involving entire families.

Despite the organic purity and distinct Wonth, Kaghazi, and Barzul varieties, Kashmiri

walnuts face diminishing demand as they are now often overshadowed by cheaper, mass-produced imports from California, Chile, and China.

Meanwhile, the growers cite the lack of processing facilities, packaging support, and state-backed market access as key obstacles. They said that in places like Pulwama, many must transport their walnuts to Jammu for sale, adding to labour and logistical costs, yet receiving meagre returns. This time, as the road is closed, that too remained shortened—(KNO)

## Rana Visits Landslide Affected Kalaban Village

Observer News Service

**POONCH:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana on Tuesday visited Kalaban Village of Mendhar sub-division of Poonch district and took stock of damages due to landslide and land sinking incidents in the area.

The Minister was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, along with other senior officers of the district and sub-divisional administration.

During the visit, the Minister conducted a detailed assessment of the situation and interacted with the affected families to understand the



gravity of the losses suffered. Expressing deep concern over the unprecedented damage, Rana emphasized the urgency of providing immediate support and relief to the affected population. He issued firm directives to the district administration to initiate prompt rehabilitation measures for all the displaced families.

He instructed that all essential facilities like temporary accommodation, food, clean water and healthcare be extended to the victims without any delay.

The Minister also directed the administration to conduct swift and comprehensive assessment of the losses incurred, so that timely compensation can be provided to the affected families under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

AAP MLA's PSA Row

## Protests Erupt Across Doda, CM Calls Detention 'Unjust'

KO Web Desk

**SRINAGAR:** At least eight police personnel, including two officers, were injured in clashes between protesters and security forces in Doda as demonstrations were held in the district and other places in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday against the detention of Aam Aadmi Party MLA Mehraj Malik under the Public Safety Act (PSA), officials said.

Police and paramilitary forces had been deployed in strength in Doda, where supporters of Malik, the president of the J-K unit of AAP, took to the streets a day after he was detained for allegedly disturbing public order and lodged in Kathua district jail. At least eight police personnel, including a deputy superintendent of police and a station house officer, were injured in a clash with stone-pelting protesters at Duda after the police tried to stop a march from Bhatyas towards Doda town, the officials said, adding that police fired teargas shells and chased the protesters who regrouped repeatedly and tried to move towards Doda.

Some protesters, including a woman, were also injured in the clash, the officials said. In a related development, the legal advisor of Malik and AAP spokesperson, Appu Singh Slathia, said she was denied a meeting with him in jail despite repeated requests, while a dossier against Malik running in hundreds of pages was handed over to her after 24 hours.

"Malik was brought to Kathua jail at 11.30 PM on Monday and we forwarded a request for a meeting and a copy of the dossier. We were made to wait till 2.30 AM on one pretext or another. Again this morning, we approached the jail authorities seeking permission to meet him, but to no avail," Slathia said.

"We will go through this love letter (dossier) and will decide the future course of action," she said, accusing the administration of violating rules by denying her a

meeting with Malik. Officials said a baby girl suffering from pneumonia, who was referred to Government Medical College (GMC) Doda from the primary health centre in Thathri, died after her vehicle was stuck in a traffic jam during protests at Pul Doda near the town, despite efforts by police to clear the way for the vehicle carrying the patient.

They said an investigation has started into the incident after the girl's father claimed that they were not allowed to pass by the deployed cops despite repeated requests.

Traffic was stopped at Pul Doda in view of continuous day-long protests by the Doda MLA's supporters at the clock tower in the town, the officials said, adding police cleared the clock tower of these people several times during the day using mild lathicharge, but the protesters, including women, dodged the cops and continued their stir, demanding immediate release of their leader.

Police personnel were seen blocking the roads with barbed wire and using public address system to inform the protesters to clear the clock tower in view of the promulgation of Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), which allows the authorities to direct individuals to stop certain actions or manage property to prevent harm, thereby maintaining public order and tranquility in situations where an immediate threat is perceived. The officials said security forces have been deployed in strength in various sensitive areas, including Gandoh, Bhalessa, Chilli Pingal, Kahara and Thathri tehsils, as a precautionary measure.

Some locals claimed that authorities have slowed down internet services amid a spontaneous shutdown in several parts of Malik's Kahara village. However, the district authorities denied it, saying "temporary fluctuations" are due to ongoing restoration and technical works being carried out by service providers.

## Speaker Slams PDP's Para Over Mehraj Malik's Detention Remark

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Tuesday said PDP MLA Waheed Para will have to face the consequences under rules for making a false claim that the assembly secretariat had endorsed the detention of AAP MLA Mehraj Malik under PSA.

Malik, who is also the president of J&K unit of AAP, was detained on Monday under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) for allegedly disturbing public order and was subsequently lodged in Kathua district jail.

"Waheed Para Sahib in my opinion is ignorant about the rules and he has lied about the issue. He (Para) will have to face the consequences under rules as he has deliberately and intentionally misled the public. We cannot allow that to happen," Rather told PTI.

The speaker was responding to a social media post of Para in which the Pulwama MLA claimed that the assembly secretariat had endorsed the slapping of the PSA against AAP leader Malik.

"Shameful surrender. The Assembly Secretariat endorsing PSA against an elected MLA is a direct assault on democracy. J&K CM @OmarAbdullah must act, don't allow the institution

of MLA, the last agency of the people, to be silenced. Today it's Mehraj, tomorrow it could be you," Para said in a post on X on Monday.

Rather said the speaker of the assembly has no role in such matters as he does not have the powers to approve or disapprove the arrest of any MLA.

"Such arrests are made by the district magistrate. After any MLA is arrested, the district magistrate has to inform the assembly secretariat and it is the duty of the assembly secretariat under rule 60 to inform the rest of the members about the arrest," he said.

The speaker said in the case of Doda MLA Malik, he was informed about his (Malik) arrest and he in turn informed the other assembly members.

In a statement issued on Monday night, the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Secretariat denied endorsing the PSA against Malik.

"It has been highlighted/reported in some media reports, social media platforms, X that the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly Secretariat has endorsed the slapping of provisions of Public Safety Act 1978 on Mehraj Malik, MLA, which is factually incorrect and baseless as the secretariat has no role in it," the secretariat said in an official communique.

## Dr Hakim Irfan Conferred Membership Of Royal College Of Physicians

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Dr Hakim Irfan Showkat, a noted cardiologist from Kashmir, has been conferred the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow (MRCP Glasgow)—a prestigious honour that recognises his academic accomplishments, clinical expertise, and dedication to advancing healthcare.

The MRCP (UK) examination, regarded worldwide for its rigorous standards in testing medical knowledge and clinical competence, serves as a benchmark for excellence in the medical profession. Dr Showkat's induction into the esteemed body

underscores his pursuit of professional distinction and unwavering commitment to patient welfare.

Dr Showkat already holds several international fellowships and memberships, including FACC (USA), FESC (Glasgow), FSCAI (USA), and FAPSIC (Singapore). With MRCP (Glasgow) added to his credentials, his stature among the leading medical professionals

has been further reinforced. Dedicating the honour to his family and patients, Dr Hakim Irfan expressed gratitude and said the recognition would inspire him to contribute more actively towards medical education, research, and quality patient care.



