

How Soaring Gold Prices Are Changing Kashmiri Weddings

Record gold prices are forcing families to rethink cherished customs. As jewelers report plummeting demand, Kashmiris are finding creative ways to blend tradition with modern financial tools

Irshad Mushtaq

Srinagar: The scent of saffron tea filled a modest home in Anantnag as Farida Bhat gathered her family around a low table. Her son's wedding was drawing near, a moment of joy now clouded by growing worry. Gold has always been at the heart of Kashmiri weddings,

but today, a 10-gram piece of 24-karat gold costs ₹1,11,170, up sharply from ₹78,950 earlier this year.

"We planned to buy bangles and chains to honour our lineage," Farida said, gently tracing an old necklace passed down from her mother.

But local jewelers say demand for wedding gold has

fallen by 90 to 95 percent as prices keep rising.

Beyond ceremonies, Kashmiri weddings are a display of wealth, a way to seal family bonds, and a celebration of tradition. Brides wear chokers, earrings, and rings, each piece symbolizing status, blessings, and good fortune. India's Bullion and Jewellers

Association notes that 30 percent of global gold consumption is driven by Indian weddings, with Kashmir's demand peaking between April and October.

Traditionally, families invested lakhs of rupees in gold for weddings.



This year, however, a 43 percent price increase forced many to scale down their plans, turning lavish displays into modest gestures. "Even small price changes ripple through our expenses," said Abdul Majid, a

Srinagar gold trader, as he added a scale in his shop. For the Bhat, this crisis became a call for creativity. Farida's brother Khalid, a retired engineer, guided the family toward smarter choices. In 2020, Khalid invested ₹4 lakh in Sovereign Gold Bonds, drawn by their link to gold's market value | [More on P10](#)



Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025

SC To Pronounce Interim Order On Monday

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is slated to pronounce on September 15 its interim orders on three key issues, including the power to denotify properties declared as "waqf by courts, waqf-by-user or waqf by deed", which cropped up during the hearing of pleas challenging the validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

A bench headed by Chief Justice B R Gavai had on May 22 reserved the interim orders on these issues after hearing both sides in the waqf case.

According to the cause list of September 15 uploaded on the apex court website, the court will deliver its order in the matter.

One of the issues relates to the power to denotify properties declared as "waqf by courts, waqf-by-user or waqf by deed" prescribed in



the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

Before reserving the interim order, the bench heard arguments by advocates appearing for those challenging the amended waqf law, and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, on three consecutive days.

The bench previously identified the three issues, on which a stay was sought by the petitioners, for passing interim orders.

Apart from the issue of denotification, | [More on P10](#)

THE BILL WAS CLEARED BY LOK SABHA with the support of 288 members while 232 MPs were against it. The Rajya Sabha saw 128 members voting in its favour and 95 against it.

Nationwide Alert As Degrees Found Fake/Forged

Delhi Bar Council Revokes Licenses Of 100 Lawyers

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: In a major disciplinary crackdown, the Delhi Bar Council (BCD), acting on directives from the Bar Council of India (BCI), has permanently revoked the licenses of more than 100 advocates after their law degrees and mark sheets were found to be fake or forged.

The decisive action was taken after their educational qualifications, primarily LLB degrees and graduation mark sheets,

were reported to be fake or forged by the concerned universities. The BCD's notifications cancel their licenses to practice law with immediate effect due to fraudulent enrolment based on misrepresentation.

Through a series of notifications issued between June 2023 and September 2025, the Bar Council of Delhi, a statutory body constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961, published the names and details of the individuals whose enrolments have been invalidated.

Law Trend reported that the removals were executed under the authority of the Proviso to Section 26(1) of the Advocates Act. | [More on P10](#)

LG Calls for Linguistic Harmony

'Mother Tongue Education Key to Nation-Building, Socio-Economic Growth'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, on Tuesday emphasised the importance of linguistic harmony and mother tongue education in fostering national unity, inclusive development, and socio-economic growth. He made these remarks while addressing the 'Bhartiya Bhasha Samagam' organised by the Hindusthan Samachar Group at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi.

In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted that "A linguistically harmonious society lays the foundation for rapid socio-economic growth, strengthens social bonds, and promotes social equality. Linguistic diversity preserves cultural heritage and enables people to contribute to nation-building."

He noted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is not



only emerging as a major economic power but also reclaiming its cultural and civilisational legacy. Referring to the Panch Pran vision, Sinha urged citizens to shed the vestiges of the colonial past, take pride in India's heritage, and work together under the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' to build a strong and developed nation.

Calling upon linguistic scholars, researchers, and

school years, thereby encouraging cultural preservation. "Our goal should be to ensure that all Indian languages achieve their full potential. By weaving together the country's diverse linguistic fabric, these languages can help create a developed India," he added.

The LG also underlined the role of mother tongue education in child development, noting that children taught in their native language, alongside other languages, become more skilled, competent, and innovative. "A nation can leverage its linguistic diversity to accelerate progress by incorporating unique perspectives in art, technology, and other fields. India stands as a living testament to this diversity and its transformative power," he said.

On the occasion, several scholars were felicitated for their contributions to the promotion of Indian languages. Among the dignitaries present were | [More on P10](#)

Kashmir Mourns Top Surgeon Who Pioneered Cancer Care

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: When Showkat Hussain first met Dr. Syed Ashaq Hussain Naqshbandi in 1989, his father was a patient in SMHS Hospital's surgical ward 16. Hussain remembers not just the surgeon's exceptional skill, but the warmth he showed to the family.

"He didn't speak like a distant expert," Hussain, then 19, recalled, "but like someone who truly cared."

They shared simple meals in the hospital corridor, talking about life, medicine, and what the future might hold. That image of a soft-spoken surgeon treating patients as if they were family has stayed with him ever since.

Early on September 13, 2025, that gentle force left the world.

Dr. Naqshbandi, Kashmir's leading surgeon and pioneer of cancer care, passed away after a long illness. His



HE SHAPED GENERATIONS OF DOCTORS, advanced cancer care in the region, and treated patients with deep compassion. His loss marks the end of an era in Kashmir's healthcare.

Namaz-e-Janaza was offered at the ancestral graveyard of the Naqshbandi Sahib shrine in Srinagar, where family, former students, patients, and colleagues gathered under a bright sky to

mourn a man whose life seemed inseparable from the health of Kashmir itself.

His career spanned over four decades. During that time, he built not just surgical techniques and medical curricula, but trust in a healthcare system often strained by scarcity and strife.

As Principal and Dean of Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar and Head of Surgery at SMHS Hospital, Dr. Naqshbandi was a steady hand in turbulent times, someone who believed that medicine was as much about humanity as it was about science.

Colleagues called him the "surgeon with golden hands." In the operating theater, his movements were precise and calm, almost meditative. Each incision and suture carried the weight of years of dedication.

Patients remember those hands not as | [More on P10](#)

Chaos Grips Jammu-Srinagar NH After Rain Havoc

Press Trust of India

Srinagar: The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, a critical lifeline for the region, has turned into a scene of chaos and frustration for commuters, who face a gruelling ordeal as what used to be a nearly five-hour journey just three weeks ago now drags on for more than 12 hours due to damaged road and poor management.

The highway – the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country – suffered extensive damages at several places, especially on the stretch between Nashri and Udhampur, in the aftermath of record rainfall on August 26 and 27.

However, the damaged

portion is not the only obstacle to smooth movement of vehicles.

Even as the authorities implemented a one-way traffic system after reopening the highway three days ago, lack of proper management has only added to the misery, the commuters who took the arterial road told PTI.

The truckers, who are officially not allowed on the road for the time being, have completely choked one side of it almost all along the highway, with continuous work on the damaged portions leading to severe traffic congestion.

The situation is worsened by complete disregard for lane discipline, reckless overtaking, and near-total | [More on P10](#)

Vaishno Devi Yatra Postponed Again

The pilgrimage to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, which was scheduled to restart on Sunday after remaining suspended for 19 days, has been postponed again till further orders amid incessant rains, the shrine board said | [More on P10](#)

No Signs Of Local Body Polls As 2025 Wraps Up

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Panchayat and Urban Local Body (ULB) elections in Jammu & Kashmir appear unlikely this year, with the National Conference (NC)-led government yet to take crucial steps such as deciding on Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation and appointing a new State Election Commissioner (SEC).

"There are no chances of holding Panchayat and Urban Local Body polls this year. As of now, we have not received any such indication from the government," a ruling NC legislator



said. The last local body polls were held in 2018 during Governor's rule, and the term of those elected bodies has long since

expired.

The first sign that elections may not be on the cards is the government's inaction on the recommendations of a three-member panel headed by former High Court Judge Justice Janak Raj Kotwal, which submitted its report earlier this year. "The cabinet is yet to take a call on the report. It has to decide whether to adopt or reject it," government sources said.

Compounding the delay, the post of SEC has remained vacant since former IAS officer B.R. Sharma completed his term. Without a SEC | [More on P10](#)

'Forcible' Hair Trimming Of Persons With Mental Health Conditions' HC Seeks Explanation From Govt, Team KYC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has issued a notice to Department of Health and Medical Education (H&ME) as well as "Team KYC" for response to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL), seeking an immediate halt to the "forcible" trimming of hair and beards of persons with mental health condition and "distressing" practice of bathing them on camera.

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation, a division bench of



Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal ordered issuance of the notice to the

department of H&ME through its Secretary and Team KYC through its Founder Musadiq

Bashir.

"The Principal District Judge, Pulwama too ensure that necessary measures are taken to ensure service of respondent No. 03 (Musadiq Bashir) before the adjourned date (07-10-2025)," the court said.

Earlier the court impleaded Department of H&ME as party respondent to the PIL filed last year by some law students of Kashmir University. Two of them, Sheeraz Ahmad Najar and Mehvish Manzoor, were present in person before the court.

According to the petitioners, "horrific | [More on P10](#)



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PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for change of name in the Power Development Department (PDD) electricity connection Consumer No. 020103004017 / Account ID 4222004017, Sub-Division Shalimar.

Presently, the connection stands in the name of Ghulam Mohammad, which shall now be changed to Parvez Ahmad. Objections, if any, may be communicated to the concerned PDD Sub-Division Shalimar within 7 days of this notice, failing which the change shall be deemed to have been carried out.

Parvez Ahmad Dar SS
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar,
R/o Turab Lane 2nd, Pazwalpora, Shalimar, Srinagar

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

No: 238/B&D/T2/2025 Date: 13/06/25

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death
Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Aijaz Ahmad Bhat S/o Ali Mohd Bhat R/o Edipora, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of self Aijaz Ahmad Bhat Born on 01/01/1991 as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Naib Tehsildar
Executive Magistrate
Bomai
fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name and address from (Old Name & Address) Mohamad Imran Malik R/o H NO - 64 B/A Nund Reshi Housing Colony B Bemina Barthana, Srinagar Jammu and Kashmir - 190009 To (New Name & Address) Mohammad Imran Malik, R/o Sector 5, Hamdaniya Colony, Bemina, Sabdan, PO: Bemina, Dist: Budgam, Jammu and Kashmir - 190018. In future I will be known as Mohammad Imran Malik, R/o Sector 5, Hamdaniya Colony, Bemina, Sabdan, PO: Bemina, Dist: Budgam, Jammu and Kashmir - 190018.. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Passport Office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Imran Malik
(Passport No: M0283679)
S/o Mohamad Maqbool Malik
R/o Sector 5, Hamdaniya Colony, Bemina, Sabdan, PO: Bemina, Dist: Budgam, Jammu and Kashmir - 190018
H.KO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle bearing Registration No. JK04A-3854. Now, I have applied for the duplicate of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of the ARTO Budgam within seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Abbas Bhat
S/O Mustafa Bhat
R/o Magam, Budgam
BMG

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mistakenly, my sons' names have been mentioned in their Aadhaar Cards vide Card Nos. 2062 2784 5427 and 2909 5152 1473 as Ayaan Khan and Amaan Khan instead of Ayaan Irshad Khan and Amaan Irshad Khan respectively. The same needs to be corrected.

If anyone has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the concerned authority within seven days. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

Irshad Ahmad Khan SKU
F/o Amaan Irshad Khan & Ayaan Irshad Khan

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PALHALLAN

Sub: Application of Mufeeda Begum W/o Ferooz Ahmad Lone R/o Goshbugh, Tehsil Pattan for issuance of Legal Heir Certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that the legal heir certificate of the applicant's husband is under process in this office. In this matter, a report was sought from the concerned Patwari, which reveals that the applicant's husband, namely Ferooz Ahmad Lone S/o Gh. Ahmad Lone R/o Goshbugh, died on 01/03/2025 and left behind the following legal heirs:

1. Mufeeda Begum – Wife of deceased, 45 years (widow)
 2. Saba Ferooz – Daughter of deceased, 21 years (unmarried)
 3. Fazil Ferooz – Son of deceased, 16 years (unmarried)
 4. Gh. Ahmad Lone – Father of deceased, 70 years (married)
- In this connection, if anybody has any objection regarding the issuance of the said certificate, he/she may contact this office within 04 days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

SD
fko Naib Tehsildar Palhallan

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: JK Tyre Shiksha Sarthi Scholarship Program 2025-26

Description: JK Tyre & Industries Limited invites applications from daughters of heavy vehicle drivers who are pursuing general or professional undergraduate or diploma courses and reside in select locations.

Eligibility: Open to female students who are HMV Driver's daughters and are enrolled in general or professional undergraduate or diploma courses. Applicants must have secured a minimum of 55% marks in their previous academic year.

Annual family income must be less than or equal to 5,00,000. Applicants must be residents of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. Children of employees of JK Tyre and Buddy4Study are not eligible to apply.

- Prizes & Rewards: Annual Fixed Scholarship Details:
- Professional Undergraduate Courses: INR 25,000
- General Undergraduate Courses: INR 15,000
- Diploma Courses: INR 15,000
- Last Date to Apply: 06-10-2025
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/

JKTS3
QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/jk-tyre-shiksha-sarthi-scholarship-program-2025-261757751527.png>

Scholarship Name 2: DXC Progressing Minds Scholarship for Graduation Students in STEM 2025-26

Description: A CSR initiative by DXC Technology that aims to support the educational expenses of students who belong to marginalized groups.

Eligibility: Women and transgender students pursuing graduation in any year of a STEM-related field are eligible.

Applicants must have obtained a minimum of 60% marks in their previous class/semester. Applicants' annual family income must be less than or equal to INR 4,00,000. Students from PAN India are eligible to apply.

- Children of employees of DXC Technology and Buddy4Study are not eligible to apply. Students with disabilities will be given preference.
- Prizes & Rewards: INR 50,000
- Last Date to Apply: 30-09-2025
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/DXCS6



QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/2025-261755496064.png>

Scholarship Name 3: OakNorth STEM Scholarship Programme

Description: The OakNorth STEM Scholarship Programme is an initiative by OakNorth aimed at supporting underprivileged women aspiring to pursue a degree in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). This scholarship is available to female students from Haryana, Uttarakhand, and Bihar who have completed their Class 12 and are currently enrolled in a

STEM-related undergraduate program (any year) at government colleges or universities.

Eligibility: The scholarship is available to students who are residents of Haryana, Uttarakhand, and Bihar. Only female applicants are eligible for consideration.

Applicants should be enrolled in an undergraduate STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) at government universities or colleges in India, regardless of the year of study. Candidates must have secured an aggregate of 75% or more in their Class 12 (or equivalent) exam, with at least 65% in the previous class/semester/year (if applicable). The annual family income of the applicant should not exceed 3 lakhs.

- Children of Buddy4Study and OakNorth employees are not eligible to apply.
- Prizes & Rewards:
 - ₹30,000 (fixed amount)
 - Last Date to Apply: 30-09-2025
 - Application mode: Online applications only
 - Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ONSS4
 - QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/oaknorth-stem-scholarship-programme1754296912.png>

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER (Chairman Procurement Committee) Poshan Project, Pulwama

Quotation for supply of nutrition items for Blocks Pulwama, Newa, Awantipora and Litter.

Subject: Providing of rates of below mentioned Nutrition items (SNP).

As per the directions of the procurement committees of the respective blocks, the Super Bazaars/Cooperative Stores/Fixed Price Shops/registered Local Shopkeepers of concerned blocks are hereby informed that the Poshan Project Pulwama is going to procure the below mentioned nutrition items under SNP for supplying to Anganwadi Centres. In this context, a short term quotation is invited under which interested parties possessing their shops/establishments in these concerned blocks may furnish their rates along with samples of items (Including Loading/Unloading & Labour charges) up to the AW Centers. The rates should reach to this office within seven days from the date of issuance of this quotation:-

S. No	Nutrition Items	Unit	Rate	Brand
01	Channa-A Grade (Atleast 2-3 samples from various brands)	Rate Per KG		A-Grade
02	Moongi Green-A Grade (Atleast 2-3 samples from various brands)	Rate Per KG		A-Grade
03	Eggs	Rate Per Egg		Medium Size
04	Mustard Oil – A Grade (Atleast 2-3 samples from various brands)	Rate Per Litre		A-Grade
05	Haldi – A Grade (Atleast 2-3 samples from various brands)	Rate Per KG		A-Grade
06	Salt Iodized – A Quality (Atleast 2-3 brands from various brands)	Rate Per KG		A-Grade
07	Biscuits (At least 2-3 samples from various brands) (oats/Millet)	Rate Per packet (7 biscuits /Pkt)		A-Grade
08	Green peas (At least 2-3 samples from various brands)	Rate per kg		A-Grade
09	Packed Nutrie (Atleast 2-3 samples from various brands)	Rate per kg		A-Grade

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. The quotation, duly signed and stamped should be submitted in a sealed envelope to the office of Child Development Project Officer (Chairman Nutrition Procurement Committee), Poshan Pulwama, by or before **16-09-2025** up to 10:30 am.
2. The items are required to be delivered at each AWC of the project.
3. The delivery of nutrition items must be completed within seven days of the supply order. Any delay in delivery of nutrition items beyond stipulated time frame shall attract a penalty of 1% of total cost, per day of delay. Continuous non-compliance with terms will lead to cancellation of supply order and black-listing of firm.
4. In case of unforeseen circumstances i.e. natural calamities or any government imposed restrictions delivery of nutrition may be revised upon mutual agreement.
5. The items supplied will be surveyed by the procurement committee at AWCS. Any deviation to supply order/ approved sample will lead to cancellation of supply order.
6. The items /supplies approved shall be sent to Food Safety Department for testing and in case of adverse report regarding the same, the concerned supplier shall be blacklisted and FIR shall be lodged against him /her under rules.
7. The payments will be made after satisfactory survey of nutrition items by procurement committee members. Supply of substandard nutrition items may result in cancellation of supply order and penalty upon the concerned firm.
8. The department reserves the right to accept or reject any sample based on the recommendations of members of the nutrition procurement committee.
9. The department reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation without any reason.
10. A supplier can submit quotations for one RDD Block only and must be from the same block and possess his/her shop/establishment in the same Block. In case, no quotations are received from any supplier for any of the four Blocks, the suppliers can participate in quotations for more than one Block.
11. The Quotations shall be opened on **16-09-2025** at 11:30 pm in presence of intending suppliers.

S/d Member Secretary Block Pulwama S/d Member Secretary Block Awantipora S/d Member Secretary Block Newa S/d Member Secretary Block Litter

DIPK-6193/25 dated: 13-09-2025

S/d (Chairman) Child development Project officer Poshan project Pulwama

No: CDPO/Poshan/PUL/25/370-75

Dated: 11-09-2025

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR SHEEP BREEDING FARM DAKSUM (Agri Sec.)

Tender Notice

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Union Territory of India, and keeping in view the poor response from contractors, this office once again invites sealed quotations affixed with revenue stamps Rs 2/= from the authorized contractors/firms for harvesting of perennial crop / Fodder including Drying, Binding, Stacking, Collecting, Loading, Dumping and fuel Charges at sheep breeding farm Daksum. As such the interested contractors/firms are informed to provide their rates per quintal on sealed quotations upto 16/09/2025 (4:00 pm). The quotation will be opened by the committee on 17-09-2025 at 3:00 pm or the next feasible date.

No: SBFD/Agri/2025-26/
DIPK-6222/25 Dated: 13-09-2025

Sd/
Deputy Director
Sheep Breeding Farm
Daksum

Government of JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION ANANTNAG

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT No.:-19 of 2025-26 [e-Tendering]
Dated :- 11-09-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from approved and registered Govt. contractors, for the works mentioned below:-

S.N o.	Name of work	Class of Contractor	Adv. Cost (In lacs)	Earnest Money (In Lacs)	Time of completion	Cost of Tender doc. (in Rs)	Major Head of Account	Tender Receiving Authority
01	Temporary Restoration of Sandran Nallah at Village Hengipora by way of channelization / cunnet cutting and diversion of nallah	DEE	0.50	1000	2 Days	50	District Capex	Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag

Position of Accord of Administrative Approval: - Accorded
Position of Accord of Technical Sanction: Accorded
Status of Funds: -Budgetary Provision 2025-26 District Capex (DMRRR)

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below.

S.No.	Description	Date	Time
		DD MM YYYY	HH:MM
1	Publishing date of NIT	13 09 2025	10:00AM
2	Download start date	13 09 2025	10:00AM
3	Bid submission start date	13 09 2025	10:00AM
4	Bid submission end date	19 09 2025	06:00 PM
5	Bid opening date	20 09 2025	10:00AM

01. Bids must be uploaded on Jktenders.gov.in with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favor of Executive Engineer, Flood Control Division, Anantnag.
02. Earnest Money equivalent to 2% of Advertised cost shall have to be uploaded by the tenderer in shape of CDR/FDR/TDR should be pledged to Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag, without which the tender shall not be entertained. The Earnest Money shall be forfeit:

- a. The bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bill.
- b. Failure of the successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time limit.
- c. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of the contract.

03. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an email message on their e-mail address.

12. All other terms, conditions are as per the PWD form 25 (Double agreement form)

13. Any other condition not reflected in the NIT shall be dealt as per GFR, Manual of procurement of works.

14. Since the works are of emergent nature (SDRF, these works should be carried out in any sort of the weather and there should not be any delays on part of the contractors due to bad weather etc.

No.FCD/Ang/3413-30
DIPK-6200/25
Dated :- 13-09-2025

Sd/= Executive Engineer, Flood Control Division, Anantnag

Bemina-Bypass Road Chokes Under Traffic As Expansion Dreams Fade

Despite Flyover, Key Sgr Link To NH-44 Remains Clogged

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Bemina-Bypass road, one of Srinagar's most vital traffic links connecting the Children's Hospital, SKIMS Bemina and several government offices to the NH-44 corridor—continues to remain clogged with traffic throughout the day, causing daily chaos for commuters and motorists.

Locals from the area said the stretch from Bemina Crossing (Tattoo Ground) to Bemina Bypass, where it merges with NH-44, carries a major share of traffic towards north and south Kashmir but is too narrow to handle the growing volume of vehicles.

"Traffic snarls have become routine here. Ambulances get stuck for long and very few men from the traffic department manage the mess," said Irfan Ahmad, a daily commuter.

Other commuters pointed out that the road surface is smooth but its narrow width leads to frequent congestion and long traffic jams.

They said authorities had commissioned the Bemina By-

pass Flyover in June 2024 to ease congestion at the junction. However, the flyover has done little to decongest the ground-level road, which continues to see bottlenecks during peak hours.

What worries locals even more is the silence surrounding the proposed four-laning of the stretch, reportedly planned under NABARD. "No official sanction, DPR, or timeline has been made public so far, and the project appears to have made no headway," said a local resident, adding that although the matter 'was discussed in the previous Assembly session,' nothing has been implemented on the ground.

"Every day we are stuck here for 30 to 40 minutes. This is the only route to the highway and to the hospitals. We need wider roads and proper traffic management," said another commuter.

Officials from the Roads & Buildings department were not immediately available for comment on the status of the four-laning proposal.

Meanwhile, the residents have urged the administration to speed up road widening, improve traffic regulation and deploy more traffic police personnel at Bemina Crossing to prevent daily gridlock—(KNO)

Fire Damages Several Houses In Noor Bagh

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A fire broke out in the Pamposh Colony area of Palpora Noor Bagh in Srinagar on Saturday evening, damaging a few residential structures, officials said.

They said personnel of Fire and Emergency Services responded soon to contain the blaze, preventing further loss.

An official said that fire tenders reached the scene after receiving the initial fire call.

The official said additional trucks from the Fire and Emergency Headquarters were mobilised to assist. "Three to four residential sheds and one single-storey house were involved in the fire, while the situation was brought under control within half an hour," he said.

Moreover, locals rushed to assist in controlling the fire. Abdul Rashid, a resident of the colony, said they saw thick smoke rising suddenly and feared the worst. "Thanks to the fast action of the fire teams, the fire did not spread further," he said.



THREE TO FOUR RESIDENTIAL SHEDS AND ONE SINGLE-STOREY HOUSE were involved in the fire, while the situation was brought under control within half an hour,"

Shabir Ahmad, another local, added the fire caused panic among families in the neighbourhood, but thankfully, no one was injured. "We hope authorities provide support to those affected," he added.

The exact extent of the damage is still being assessed, and investigations are underway to determine the cause of the fire. Officials have also urged residents to remain vigilant and follow safety measures—(KNO)

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
20 Rabi-ul-Awwal
1447

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4:48
ZUHR	12:30
ASR	4:52
Magrib	6:46
ISHA	8:09

New Criminal Laws Exhibition Concludes

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The New Criminal Laws Exhibition, organized by the Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir) at JK Police Public School, Bemina, concluded on Saturday on a high note, bringing to a close a successful three-day initiative aimed at raising public awareness on India's recently enacted criminal laws.

The exhibition, inaugurated on September 11, 2025 by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT, attracted an overwhelming response from students, legal professionals, civil society members, and concerned citizens, reads a statement.

The key focus of the exhibition was to educate the public about the three new legislations that constitute the backbone of India's reformed criminal justice system: Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023.

Over the span of three days, the exhibition welcomed approximately 9,000 visitors, with more than 5,500 attendees

on the first two days and an additional 2,500 on the final day. This enthusiastic turnout highlights a growing public interest in understanding the scope and implications of the new legal framework.

Designed as an interactive and informative platform, the exhibition successfully fostered legal literacy, promoted civic responsibility, and encouraged public dialogue on these vital legal reforms that aim to redefine the criminal justice landscape in India.

The closing ceremony, held on Saturday, September 13, 2025, was graced by Sujit Kumar, IPS, Inspector General of Police, Crime Branch J&K, as the Chief Guest. In his address, he commended the initiative for its role in bridging the gap between law enforcement agencies and the public through active engagement and education.

The Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir) extends its sincere gratitude to all stakeholders, participants, students, and citizens for their enthusiastic support and meaningful participation in making this exhibition a resounding success.

Startup Kashmir Hosts Pitch Deck Event With US-Based Angel Investor

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Startup Kashmir organized a sector-agnostic Pitch Deck Event, bringing together emerging entrepreneurs and industry experts to share ideas and explore investment opportunities. The event was attended by Syed Tasawur Jalali, a US-based angel investor; Khair ul Nisa Shah, Director at Startup Kashmir and Alson Motors; and Shahid Ansari, CEO of Startup Kashmir.

Fourteen startups from Kashmir participated, representing sectors such as technology, wellness, banking, education, textiles, and handicrafts. Entrepreneurs presented their business models, showcased their solutions, and received direct feedback from investors and experts.

The event went beyond traditional pitching, creating space for collaboration and exchange of ideas. Founders gained valuable insights into market expectations and international standards. Several high-potential startups were shortlisted to advance to the next stage of the program, opening doors to further support and



scale-up opportunities.

Syed Tasawur Jalali underlined the importance of nurturing local talent, stating, "The passion and potential I witnessed today is inspiring. I look forward to working with these startups and helping them grow beyond borders."

Shahid Ansari, CEO of Startup Kashmir, added, "This event reflects the growing strength of Kashmir's entrepreneurial ecosystem. Our goal is to provide a platform where ideas meet in-

vestment and local talent gets a chance to succeed globally."

Khair ul Nisa Shah emphasized the value of mentorship and partnerships in driving growth, saying that supporting entrepreneurs in challenging environments is key to building long-term economic resilience.

Startup Kashmir continues to focus on building a strong startup ecosystem, connecting entrepreneurs with networks, and enabling ventures to make a lasting impact in the region and beyond.

Authorities Begin Reconstruction Of Collapsed Bund On Boulevard Road

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A section of bund along Dal Lake on Boulevard Road collapsed a couple of days ago, prompting authorities to launch immediate reconstruction work to prevent further damage.

An official said that the repair work is underway and efforts are being made to restore the embankment without delay. The collapse has raised concerns among locals and frequent visitors to the area, given the importance of Boulevard Road as a prime stretch along the iconic Dal Lake.

Locals attributed the collapse to erosion caused by rats that have reportedly burrowed into the bund, weakening its founda-

tion. They warned that several other portions of the bund along the lake's footpath are vulnerable and may give way at any time if preventive measures are not taken.

Shikarawalas urged the authorities to carry out a comprehensive inspection of the entire bund stretch to identify weak points and strengthen them before more sections collapse. They stressed that negligence could put both pedestrian pathways and road traffic at risk along the busy Boulevard corridor.

The incident has once again highlighted the need for sustained maintenance of Dal Lake's embankments to safeguard both its ecological balance and the infrastructure surrounding it [KNT]

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

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

It's not just RECURRENT HANDWASHING AND CHECKING BUT UNSEEN PAIN, distress, myths and stigma associated with OCD

KASHMER 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.

You do not have to fight your battles alone.

There is no need for referral, simply call us for registration.

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

9070806160

سائنس اور تھراپی

یہ خبر نہایت ہی رنج و غم کے ساتھ شہر کی جاتی ہے کہ اہلہ اشتیاق احمدیہ سائنس تھراپی پورہ بالا پھولہ مل سری گنہر منتظر حالات کے بعد بروز جمعہ المبارک 18 مارچ 2025ء مطابق 12 ماہ جنوری 2025ء اپنے خالق حقیقی سے جا ملی۔ اِنَّا لِلّٰہِ وَاِنَّا اِلَیْہِ رَاجِعُونَ ۝ مرحومہ کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی سووارا ۲۱ مارچ ۲۰۲۵ء مطابق ۱۵ مارچ ۲۰۲۵ء بوقت 10 بجے ان کے آہائے مقبرہ سید منطقی صاحب گزربل پھولہ مل سری گنہر میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ (مستورات سے گزارش کی جاتی ہے کہ وہ اپنے ساتھ کسی بھی قسم کے بیوہ جات و شروہات نہ لائیں۔) سوگواراں

اشتیاق احمدیہ (7006800725)

شوکت احمدیہ (9906665345)

مدثر احمدیہ (فرزند) / تنظیم احمدیہ قادری (فرزند سستی)

This Day In History

- 1901 - Theodore Roosevelt is sworn in as the youngest man to serve as US President, after William McKinley finally dies after an anarchist shoots him in Buffalo
- 1914 - German troops withdraw from Aisne/invent trenches
- 1918 - WW I: Austria-Hungary sends a note to the Allies requesting peace discussions, but the Allies reject the offer
- 1938 - Graf Zeppelin II, world's largest airship, makes maiden flight
- 1939 - World's 1st practical helicopter, the VS-300 designed by Igor Sikorsky takes (tethered) flight in Stratford, Connecticut
- 1940 - German bomb hits shelter in Chelsea; hundreds die
- 1942 - Battle of Edson's Ridge (Japanese assault) at Guadalcanal
- 1949 - India's Constituent Assembly adopts Hindi as an official language. Celebrated today as Hindi Day.
- 1950 - Western allies rearm West Germany
- 1953 - Nikita Khrushchev appointed First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, succeeding Malenkov
- 1957 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Maralinga, Australia
- 1957 - UN resolution deplores & condemns USSR invasion of Hungary
- 1958 - Two rockets designed by the German engineer Ernst Mohr, the first German post-war rockets, reach the upper atmosphere.
- 1959 - Soviet Union's Luna-2 is 1st spacecraft to land on the Moon
- 1960 - Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi-Arabia & Venezuela form Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- 1972 - West Germany & Poland establish diplomatic relations
- 1973 - Israel shoots down 13 Syrian MIG-21s
- 1974 - Charles Kowal discovers Leda, 13th satellite of Jupiter.
- 1978 - The Provisional Irish Republican Army explode over 50 bombs in towns across Northern Ireland over the next 5 days, injuring 37 people

From KO Archives

It Takes Years To Fill Up Posts

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Believe it or not. It takes years for the State Government to fill up vacant posts after advertising them.

The J&K Government had advertised the posts of Range Officers in 1995 and all the formalities were completed during these three years. However, the selection is yet to be done.

Over 17 candidates who have done two years State Forest Service Post Graduation Diploma in Forestry and allied subjects have not been absorbed in the forest department as Assistant Conservator Forests despite most of them about to cross the upper age limit. Some of these candidates have completed their courses way back in 1991. Despite clear vacancies in the department the Government has not referred the posts to the Public Service Commission. Most of these candidates may not be able to apply for such posts in future as they are about to cross the upper age limit. One of the candidates, Imtiyaz Ahmad Zargar, 33, said that they should be appointed by the Government on adhoc basis so that they may not lose the chances of the Government job. After the appointments the posts should be referred to the Public Service Commission, he added.

These candidates are trained for the job as they have done State Forest Service courses at SFS college Dehradun and Co-imbator under the Ministry of Environment and Forests. As per the Schedule-II of the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Service (Gazetted) Recruitment rules, 1970, 50 per cent quota has been kept for direct recruitment of the forest officers and rest for the in-service candidates. The in-service candidates had prayed for the stay of the recruitment to the posts of Assistant Conservator of Forests last year. The High Court (Single Bench) vacated the interim order of the stay on 11-03-1998 and gave liberty to the state to go ahead with the appointments as per the recruitment norms. The in-service forest officers who were not satisfied with the decision of the single bench took the matter to the double bench. The double bench not only held that the 50:50 share of the recruitment as reasonable but also justified their appointment by saying that they are the young blood with better qualification and deserve to be put into the service for better and quicker understanding of the complex scientific problems necessary for the development of Forestry in the State.

(Kashmir Observer, September 14, 1998)

Iran Urges Muslims to Act Against Israel's 'Madness'

Trans Asia News

Tehran: Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Larijani says Muslim countries must form a joint operations headquarters to stop the "madness" of the Israeli regime against the Palestinian people.

In a post on his X account



on Saturday, Iran's top security official said such a decision would be enough to worry the master of this entity, in an apparent reference to US President Donald Trump.

He added that the move will force the US president to promptly shift his directives to the Israeli regime under the pretext of "bringing world peace" and the "Nobel Prize".

Larijani emphasized that the Muslim countries have done nothing so far for the starving and oppressed Muslims in Palestine and must take at least a modest

decision to avoid their own annihilation.

The SNSC secretary also pointed to the upcoming emergency Arab-Islamic summit in Doha to discuss the recent Israeli attack on the Qatari capital, warning that without action, such meetings are in fact equivalent to issuing a new order to Israel to carry out more acts of aggression.

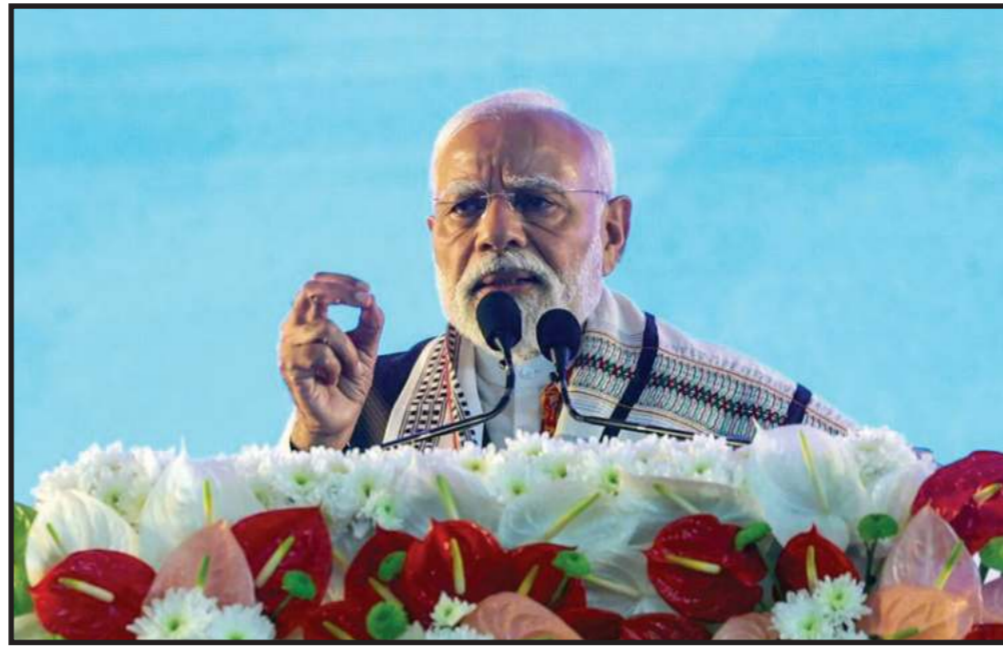
Qatar confirmed on Saturday that it will host an emergency Arab-Islamic summit on Monday in response to the recent Israeli attack targeting leaders of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas on its territory.

The Israeli regime attacked a residential area in the Qatari capital, Doha, on Tuesday, targeting Hamas's leadership.

Top Hamas leaders, who were meeting to discuss a Gaza ceasefire proposal, survived the attack. However, five members of the Gaza-based resistance group and a Qatari security officer were killed.

The US tried to distance itself from the attack, with Trump claiming that the assassination attempt was not his decision.

While US officials had been notified of the Israeli attack in advance, Qatar said there was no warning of the strike from the United States.



PM Unveils Projects Worth Rs 8,500 Crore in Manipur

Press Trust Of India

Imphal : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday unveiled projects worth Rs 8,500 crore in Manipur during his first visit to the state after ethnic violence broke out nearly two-and-a-half years ago.

From the Kuki stronghold of Churachandpur, Modi laid the foundation stones for projects worth over Rs 7,300 crore.

Among them were the Manipur urban roads, drainage and asset management improvement initiative worth Rs 3,647 crore, and the Manipur Infotech Development (MIND) project worth Rs 550 crore.

He also laid the foundation for nine working women's hostels worth Rs 142 crore, and super-specialty and healthcare facilities to be developed at Rs 105 crore.

He laid the foundation stones for infrastructure development in and around Polo Ground at Rs 30 crore, and the upgradation of 120

schools in all 16 districts for Rs 134 crore.

Various projects pertaining to rural connectivity, education and tourism, with a total value of Rs 102 crore, were also on the list of projects for which the foundation stones were laid.

Construction of a multipurpose indoor stadium worth Rs 36 crore at Khuman Lampak Sports Complex in Imphal, and upgradation of NH 102A in the Tengnoupal section worth Rs 502 crore were also on the list.

From Meitei-dominated Imphal, he inaugurated 17 projects worth around Rs 1,200 crore.

The prime minister inaugurated the new Manipur Police headquarters at Mantripukhri, built at a cost of Rs 101 crore, and the civil secretariat, constructed at Rs 538 crore in the same locality.

Inauguration of Manipur Bhavans in Delhi and Kolkata, along with the development of the western front of

Imphal River phase-II, and Mall Road phase-II in the state capital, were part of these 17 projects.

'Ima' (mothers) markets at four locations, development of Leishang Hidden Cultural and Heritage Park in Imphal West district, infrastructure development of five government colleges in Imphal West, Thoubal and Kakching districts, and a four-lane bridge over Irang river connecting Imphal-Jiribam NH-37 in Noney were among the projects he inaugurated.

The institutional building with staff quarters at the Saikot community health centre in the Churachandpur district was also inaugurated.

This was PM's first visit to the state after ethnic violence broke out in May 2023. The violence has left over 260 people dead and rendered thousands of people homeless.

Modi said these projects will improve the lives of the people of Manipur.

India Backs UN Resolution on 2 State Solution for Palestine

Asian News International

United Nations: India on Friday voted in favour of a resolution in the UN General Assembly that endorses the 'New York Declaration' on peaceful settlement of the Palestine issue and implementation of the two-state solution.

The resolution, introduced by France, was adopted with an overwhelming 142 nations voting in favour, 10 against and 12 abstentions. Those voting against included

In the declaration, the leaders "agreed to take collective action to end the war in Gaza, to achieve a just, peaceful and lasting settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the effective implementation of the two-state solution, and to build a better future for Palestinians, Israelis and all peoples of the region".

The declaration called on the Israeli leadership to issue a clear public commitment to the two-state solution, including a sovereign, and viable



Argentina, Hungary, Israel and the US.

India was among the 142 nations that voted in favour of the resolution titled 'Endorsement of the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution'.

The declaration was circulated at a high-level international conference held in July at the UN headquarters and co-chaired by France and Saudi Arabia.

Palestinian State.

It also called on Israel to "immediately end violence and incitement against Palestinians, to immediately halt all settlement, land grabs and annexation activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, publicly renounce any annexation project or settlement policy, and put an end to settlers' violence". It also reaffirmed "support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination".

Kejriwal Links India-Pak Match to Trump Pressure

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi : The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday protested the upcoming India-Pakistan cricket match, with its Delhi unit chief Saubh Bharadwaj accusing the Centre of "humiliating" the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack.

There was no immediate reaction available from the government or the BJP.

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal questioned the decision to go ahead with the clash scheduled for Sunday.

"What is the need for the Prime Minister to organise a match with Pakistan? The whole country is saying that this match should not happen. Then why is this match being organised?" Kejriwal questioned in a post in Hindi on X.

"Is this also being done under Trump's pressure? How much will you bow down to Trump?" he added.

Bharadwaj pointed to a social media post, allegedly shared by Pakistani cricketers, that depicted Pakistan Army Chief Asif Munir filling the hair parting of a woman painted in the Indian Tricolour with vermilion — an image seen as a mocking reference to Operation Sindoor, which was India's counterstrike against terror bases in Pakistan in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack.

"This is a gross humiliation of our women who lost their husbands in the Pahalgam attack, but still our central leadership is going ahead with the India-Pakistan cricket match," Bharadwaj said during a press conference here.

He warned that his party workers would "expose" clubs, pubs and restaurants screening the match, "so that people stop going to these outlets".

The AAP leader, along



with party workers, also burnt an effigy symbolising Pakistani players.

Later, in a post on X in Hindi, Bharadwaj said, "Pakistan's cricket players mock our widows in such a dirty, disgusting way, and we will play cricket with them. Shame on the BJP government."

Calls for boycotting cricketing ties with Pakistan have grown louder since the April 22 Pahalgam attack in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were gunned down by terrorists.

According to the government's new sports policy, India will not play bilateral contests against Pakistan but will continue to face them in multilateral tournaments such as the ongoing Asia Cup and ICC events.

PM Modi in Imphal Calls for Bridge of Trust in Manipur

Press Trust Of India

Imphal : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said a strong bridge of "trust" must be built between the people of the Hills and the Valley in Manipur.

Addressing a public meeting at Imphal's Kangla Fort during his first visit to the state after ethnic violence broke out between Kukis and Meiteis in May 2023, Modi said his government was committed to "healing wounds, restoring confidence, and ensuring no family is left behind".

"Manipur is the 'ratna' adorning the crown of 'mother India'. Any form of violence here is condemnable. It is not only unfortunate but also a grave injustice to our ancestors and our future generations. Together, we must take Manipur forward on the path of peace and development," he said.

While the people of the Meitei community live in the

"Manipur is the 'ratna' adorning the crown of 'mother India'. Any form of violence here is condemnable. It is not only unfortunate but also a grave injustice to our ancestors and our future generations. Together, we must take Manipur forward on the path of peace and development"

Imphal Valley, the Kukis reside in the adjoining Hills.

The Prime Minister stressed that peace in the state was non-negotiable and could only be achieved through dialogue and unity.

"Manipur has immense potential, but violence weakens our social fabric. Only

peace and harmony can restore the state's rightful place as India's eastern crown jewel," he said.

Modi said the Centre had approved the construction of 7,000 new houses for those affected by the conflict, alongside a special package of about Rs 3,000 crore.

"Restoring normalcy in the lives of those who endured the heat of violence is our top priority," he said.

From the function, the Prime Minister inaugurated 17 development projects worth Rs 1,200 crore.

Modi said Manipur's growth trajectory was transformed under his government.

"Before 2014, Manipur's growth rate was less than 1 per cent. Today, the state is advancing much faster. The 21st century belongs to the East, to the North-east, and that is why the Centre has continuously prioritised Manipur's development," he said.

Man Acquitted in 2006 Mumbai Blast Case Seeks ₹9 Cr Damages

Press Trust Of India

Abdul Wahid Shaikh, the only accused acquitted by the trial court in the 2006 Mumbai train blasts case, has sought a compensation of Rs 9 crore for his "wrongful incarceration" and "custodial torture".

All remaining accused in the case were acquitted by the Bombay High Court in July this year. In his applications filed before the National Human Rights Commission as well as Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission on Friday, Abdul Wahid Shaikh also requested support for rehabilitation.

Nine years after he was arrested by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in the blasts case, a special court in 2015 cleared him of all charges.

The period of imprisonment caused "irreparable" damage to his career, education and personal life, and the "brutal custodial torture" left him with serious health issues, his



Abdul Wahid Shaikh

application said.

Further, the "stigma" of being branded a "terrorist" made it difficult for him to find employment after his release, said Shaikh. He is working as a school teacher and is the sole breadwinner of the family, he said, adding that his family suffered socially, emotionally, and economically when he was in jail. He also incurred a debt of nearly Rs 30 lakh for medical and living expenses, Shaikh claimed.

From Varanasi to Nepal's PM: Sushila Karki's Journey

Press Trust Of India

Former Chief Justice of Nepal Sushila Karki, 73, who has now become the country's first woman prime minister to head an interim government, shares a strong bond with Varanasi.

Karki, who described herself in a recent media interview as a "friend of India", pursued her post-graduation from the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi. It was during her stay at the BHU that she also met her life partner, Durga Prasad Subedi.

Dipak Malik, a former professor of political science



Sushila Karki takes the oath of office as Prime Minister in Kathmandu, Nepal. PTI file photo

at the BHU, vividly recalled Karki's stay at the prestigious university.

"Sushila Karki did an MA in political science from BHU in 1975. Back then, Varanasi was the centre of the anti-monarchy movement in Nepal for

a long time," said Malik. He added that Karki, too, got associated with the movement.

Incidentally, renowned writer BP Koirala — who later became Nepal's prime minister — was also active in Varanasi during the

same time.

"Between 1940 and 1980, BP Koirala was also in Varanasi, working for the Nepali Congress, with the BHU as its base. Sushila Karki thus got associated with the anti-monarchy movement," he said.

He described Karki as a "very honest and capable leader" and asserted that her election as the interim PM of Nepal is a significant milestone in the country's history. "I congratulate her," he added.

Malik observed that Nepalese youth have raised questions on corruption and economic inequality and said that these issues need to be addressed.

NEWS MAKERS

Hardcore Criminal Detained Under PSA In Jammu

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: An alleged criminal was detained under stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) here on Saturday, police said.

Arjun Kumar alias "Billu", a resident of Kalyana village of Arnia, is a hardcore criminal with a history of involvement in violent and heinous offences, a police spokesman said.

He said despite multiple arrests and legal actions, he has consistently shown a blatant disregard for the law and contin-

ued his involvement in criminal activities, posing a serious threat to public peace and security.

"Routine legal measures having failed to deter his unlawful conduct, his preventive detention under PSA was deemed necessary to protect public order and prevent further criminal acts," the spokesman said.

Following his repeated engagement in criminal activities, the spokesperson said multiple FIRs have been registered against the accused for indulging in such criminal activities.

Chief Justice Inaugurates New Court Complex In Handwara



Observer News Service

HANDWARA: Chief Justice High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Arun Palli on Saturday inaugurated the newly constructed Court Complex at Handwara in district Kupwara in presence of Administrative Judge for District Kupwara, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi; Registrar General J&K High Court, M. K Sharma; Principal and District Sessions Judge Kupwara, Manjeet Singh Manhas; DIG North, Maqsood Ul Zaman; DC Kupwara Shrikant Balasaheb Suse; Additional Session Judge Handwara, Mansoor Ahmad Lone; SSP Handwara, Chaudhary Mushtaq, officers from Judiciary/District Administration Kupwara, members of the Bar Association Kupwara and representatives from the legal fraternity.

On his arrival, Chief Justice was given guard of honour by the Police.

After the inauguration, the Chief Justice inspected various sections of the Court Complex Handwara including Court Rooms, E-Court Room, Record Room, staff rooms and others.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Justice Arun Palli described the occasion as a momentous day for the people of Handwara, emphasizing that the newly constructed court complex is more than a physical structure, symbolizing the

judiciary's unwavering commitment to accessible and fair justice for all. He highlighted the role of modern infrastructure in expediting case proceedings, reducing delays, and strengthening the rule of law, while extending gratitude to the architects, engineers, and local administration for their efforts in bringing the project to fruition. He said the new infrastructure will open new openings, new heights and horizons for the Judiciary Officer and young lawyers to work in a congenial atmosphere.

Administrative Judge for District Kupwara, Moksha Khajuria Kazmi in her address stated that the inauguration marks a significant step forward in eliminating geographical barriers to justice. She emphasized that it ensures the justice system remains accessible, transparent, and fair for all citizens, regardless of their location.

Principal District and Sessions Judge Kupwara, Manjeet Singh Manhas, delivered the welcome address on the occasion.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse also spoke on the occasion and expressed gratitude to Chief Justice and other dignitaries accompanying him. He said the new court complex Handwara equipped with latest technology and amenities will facilitate the judiciary and lawyers to deliver justice in a calm atmosphere.

Amazon.in Unveils Early Deals' Ahead Of Great Indian Festival 2025

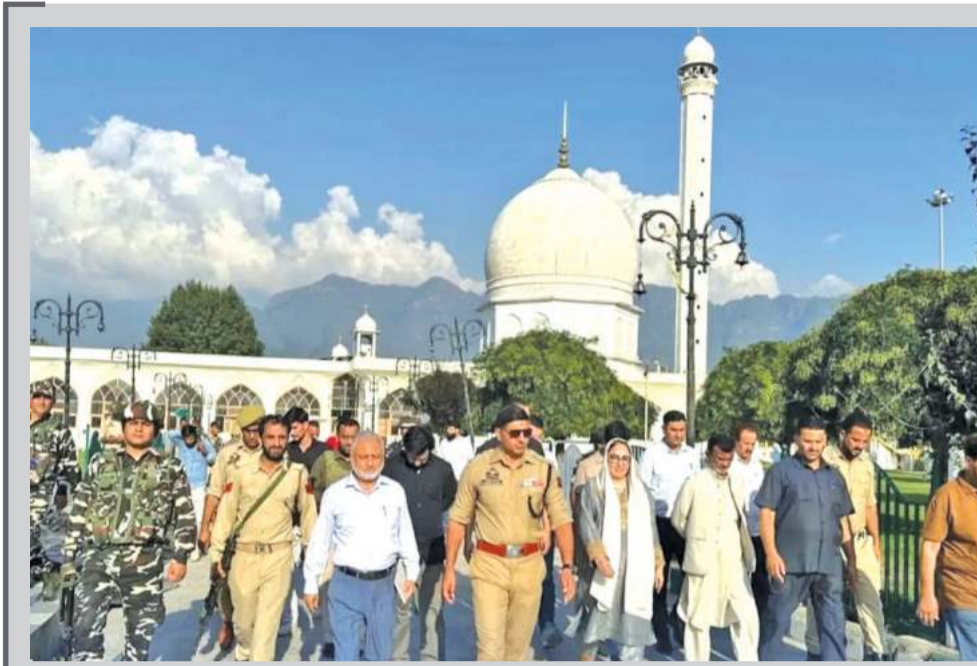
Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Amazon.in today unveiled 'Early Deals' ahead of the Amazon Great Indian Festival 2025, offering customers exciting pre-festival offers starting September 13. The main festival begins on September 23, with Prime members enjoying exclusive 24-hour early access. This year's shopping festival brings enhanced shopping experiences through expanded delivery networks, AI-powered shopping tools, and exclusive entertainment options to complement the festive celebrations. Prime members will enjoy exceptional value throughout the entire Great Indian Festival. Beyond the 24-hour early access advantage, Prime members can unlock exclusive 'Prime Dhamaka Offers' special lightning deals and Prime-only offers available throughout the festival period.

Amazon will engage 1 lakh+

creators, including Sameera Reddy, Rajiv Makhni, and Ranveer Brar, to showcase deals through shoppable content via the Amazon Influencer Program. The initiative spans specialized programs like Elevate, Fashion, Home, and the new Tech Influencer Program with over 3,000 creators.

To make shopping even more rewarding, Amazon Pay Later is offering special No-Cost EMI plans on fashion, furniture, kitchen appliances, and more for the next three months. Eligible customers can avail instant credit of up to INR 60,000 for shopping, recharges, bill payments, and travel bookings on Amazon.in. Through the Rewards Gold program, customers who complete 25 transactions in the last three months can unlock assured 5% cashback (3% for non-Prime members) across select categories.



WAQF CHAIRPERSON DR. DARAKSHAN ANDRABI discussed future developmental works with a team of experts at Hazratbal on Saturday.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Reviews Post-Flood Restoration, Relief Measures

Directs Departments To Expedite Restoration Of Essential Services

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar, on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting to review the relief and restoration works in districts of the Jammu division post heavy rains and floods.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner took a detailed assessment of damages to public infrastructure and the status of essential services including power, water and road connectivity in each district.

The Chief Engineer JPDCI informed that electricity has been restored in all affected areas. Similarly, the Jal Shakti Department reported that barring a few areas, the water supply has been largely restored.

Reviewing road infrastructure, officials from PWD and PMGSY briefed the Div Com on damaged roads and ongoing repair works. The Divisional Commissioner issued strict directions to expedite restoration work and asked for submitting detailed estimates, work progress reports, and timelines for completion of works.

The Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control presented



updates on the restoration of canals damaged by the floods.

Regarding the education sector, the Director School Education informed that most schools have reopened, while others will resume after ongoing safety audit is completed. The Div Com instructed that classes be shifted to nearby safe buildings where schools have suffered structural damage.

The meeting also reviewed damages to higher education institutions including Jammu University and SKUAST. The Div Com asked representatives to submit details of damages with estimates of works.

While reviewing Agriculture and allied sectors, the Div Com directed concerned offi-

cers to conduct surveys of crop losses and report infrastructure damages.

Further, damages to infrastructure and services in RDD, Floriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Animal/Sheep Husbandry, Health, Industries, SIDCO, and Tribal Affairs departments were also reviewed. All departments and Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to submit detailed reports of damages along with requisitions for both temporary and permanent restoration measures on priority.

The meeting was attended by heads of key departments, while Deputy Commissioners and district officers joined via video conferencing.

Salman Khan Pays Courtesy Visit To Ladakh LG Kavinder Gupta

Press Trust Of India

LEH: Bollywood actor Salman Khan who is here shooting for his upcoming war drama "Battle of Galwan" on Saturday paid a courtesy visit to the Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta, an official said.

According to a Raj Bhavan spokesperson, the lieutenant governor and his wife extended a warm welcome to Khan, by presenting a traditional 'Khatak and Thangka'.

The lieutenant governor lauded Khan's immense contribution to Indian cinema and his philanthropic initiatives, the spokesperson said. Gupta, who has been focusing on boosting Ladakh's tourism, viewed the meeting as an opportunity to connect with Bollywood for promoting the region on a larger scale.

Their interaction also focused on the promotion of Ladakh as a unique tourist destination, given its natural beauty and cultural heritage,



the spokesperson said. The lieutenant governor highlighted his administration's efforts to strengthen Ladakh's tourism potential, especially in the fields of adventure tourism, film shooting, and eco-tourism.

He noted that Ladakh's pristine landscapes have always been a major attraction for filmmakers.

The administration has been supporting film activities

in Ladakh, both to highlight its stunning landscapes and to give local talent more opportunities, he added.

Khan thanked the Union territory administration for its support and appreciated the hospitality of locals and expressed admiration for the region's natural beauty.

The lieutenant governor's wife, Bindu Gupta, and the actor's production team were also present during the meeting.

Bandipora Youth Enters International Book Of Records For Unique Feat

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: In a remarkable display of agility and determination, a youth from north Kashmir's Bandipora district has entered the International Book of Records by achieving a rare and unique feat.

Sayam Hyder, hailing from Bandipora, on Saturday set a world record for the "Maximum Times Full Body Passed Through a Tennis Racket in One Minute." He successfully squeezed his entire body through a tennis racket five times within just sixty seconds, securing his name in the global record book.

The official recognition was awarded on July 26, 2025, after his performance was verified and acknowledged by the International Book of Records. With this, Sayam Hyder has become the first individual from Jammu and Kashmir to hold this distinctive record in the solo activity category.

Expressing his happiness, Sayam said the achievement was the result of hard work and consistent practice. "It wasn't easy, but I wanted to attempt



something different. I hope this inspires other youth from Kashmir to explore their talents and aim for international platforms," he said.

Locals from Bandipora and his well-wishers have congratulated Sayam for bringing laurels to the district and Jammu and Kashmir at large. His achievement is being hailed as a testament to the hidden potential of Kashmiri youth, who continue to shine in diverse and unconventional fields on the global stage.

Sakeena Itoo Holds Public Darbar At K.B Pora Kulgam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health, Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today visited K.B Pora area of Kulgam and held a massive Public Darbar to address public issues and take stock of developmental needs of locals.

Addressing a large gathering on the occasion, the Minister



emphasized on the importance of responsive administration, adding that the Chief Minister has established a dedicated mechanism 'Raabta Public Outreach Office' to address the issues and grievances of people.

"Our priority is to ensure that every citizen, regardless of their location, has access to quality healthcare services and other basic necessities. Today's Public Darbar is a testament to our commitment to transparent governance, accountability, and rapid response to public concerns", Minister Sakeena stated.

She added that the aim of Government is to ensure that no voice from any corner goes unheard, adding that K.B Pora and all its adjacent areas deserve the same attention and developmental thrust.

The Minister highlighted that the Omar Abdullah led

Government is committed to addressing the developmental needs and other issues of the public. She further stressed that the Government is focusing on better infrastructure, employment avenues for local youth, and improved implementation of welfare schemes.

During the Public Darbar, Sakeena Itoo also interacted with local residents and took

stock of their pressing issues and demands. Locals on the occasion raised various issues like upgradation of K.B Pora-Hawkswass road, establishment of a JK Bank branch and ATM, upgradation of Girls Middle School, staff augmentation at health centres and educational institutions, library and reading room, marriage hall, public park, and playground.

The Minister, while interacting with public delegations, assured them that their genuine issues would be redressed promptly. She also called upon officers to conduct periodic reviews and field visits in far-flung areas to effectively monitor public welfare services.

Earlier the Health Minister also visited Primary Health Centre (PHC) K.B Pora and dedicated an Analyser machine for the public use.

Satish Sharma Meets Union MoS Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today, held a meeting with the Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya, who is on a visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

During the interaction, Minister Sharma put forth a series of issues of urgent public importance concerning the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially those living in border belts, flood-affected and low-lying areas, as well as bifurcation of the Ration cards and sought the intervention of the Union Government for their redressal.

The Minister underlined the need for permanent Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and Government Food Stores in vulnerable areas to ensure an uninterrupted supply of essentials. He also urged for the inclusion of millets, pulses and edible oils in the PDS basket to enhance nutritional security, particularly for marginalised communities.

Highlighting the infrastruc-

tural needs, Satish Sharma pressed for modern warehousing facilities with temperature control, pest management and automated storage systems, as well as scientifically designed disaster-resilient grain silos at the district level for long-term preservation of buffer stocks. He also called for the establishment of state-of-the-art food testing laboratories across J&K to monitor the quality and safety of distributed food items.

To safeguard consumer rights, the Minister sought urgent attention towards strengthening consumer courts in J&K with an allocation of Rs. 50 crore for setting up 20 District Consumer Forums and two State Commissions. He also stressed the importance of consumer awareness programmes, regional workshops and capacity building initiatives for citizens, manufacturers, distributors and retailers.

In view of recent natural calamities, Satish Sharma appealed for additional foodgrains for affected families, proposing 5 kg per person for flood-hit inhabitants and 10 kg per person for those in cloudburst-affected areas, over and above the existing quota.

Poonch Admin Finalizes Sewa Parv 2025 Preparations

Observer News Service

POONCH: To ensure effective execution of the Sewa Parv activities slated to be observed from 17th September to 2nd October 2025, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pankaj Magotra chaired a meeting with concerned district officers and heads of institutions to discuss the arrangements for the fortnight-long campaign.

The meeting focused on ensuring active public participation, inter-departmental convergence, and comprehensive community



outreach, aligning with the spirit of Sewa Parv — a nationwide cel-

ebration of selfless service and inclusive development.

During the meeting, officers briefed the ADDC on planned and ongoing initiatives including cleanliness drives, community meals for the needy, health check-ups, blood donation camps, and nutrition awareness under health initiatives. They also discussed awareness programs on key government schemes such as PM-KISAN, Ayushman Bharat, and other flagship initiatives through capacity-building workshops. A variety of cultural and educational activities like essay competitions, wall paintings, art and slogan contests, and donation

drives for underprivileged students were also presented as part of the upcoming celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC Pankaj Magotra emphasized that Sewa Parv is not just a series of activities, but a collective spirit of service, underscoring the government commitment to citizen welfare and inclusive governance. He directed key departments including ICDS, Education, Rural Development, Health, Municipality, Information, JKAAL, and Social Welfare to develop targeted activities under various schemes to ensure outreach at the grassroots level.

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KO VIEW

Kashmir's Battle with Sepsis

The world just marked Sepsis Day with warnings and data. The wakeup call is already here in the valley. It is alive in the cries of children, the confusion of elderly patients, and the exhaustion of doctors running against the clock.

It is sepsis, the body's brutal, uncontrolled response to infection, that tears through Kashmir's fragile health system with ruthless speed.

At Government Medical College in Srinagar, the ICU feels like a battlefield. Monitors blink relentlessly, ventilators hiss, and exhausted doctors try to hold back death. Among the patients is a two-year-old fighting dengue, a mother struggling with pneumonia, and a farmer collapsing from an untreated infection. They are faces of failure of awareness, access, and preparedness.

Sepsis moves fast, killing organs, suffocating hopes, and overwhelming families. Every hour without treatment reportedly increases the chance of death by 8 percent. Yet in Kashmir, the first defense against sepsis is missing.

A simple farmer represents this tragic reality. His fever was dismissed as seasonal flu. By the time he reached the ICU, sepsis had claimed precious hours. Treatment saved him, but the damage lingers, both in his body and in the unspoken grief of families who arrived too late.

The farmer's story is the rule in a region where public health education is treated like charity, and preventive care remains a low priority.

Vaccines for pneumonia, a leading cause of sepsis in Kashmir, remain out of reach for many. Immunization rates in rural districts continue to lag far behind national averages. Handwashing is often impossible where access to clean water is irregular.

Then there's the reckless overuse of antibiotics. Families, desperate for relief, demand pills for every cough and fever. This accelerates the spread of drug-resistant bacteria, creating a future where infections will no longer be treatable. The Antibiotic Stewardship Programme in Srinagar tries to regulate this, but its reach is limited in a system already stretched thin.

The fight against sepsis begins in every home, school, and village. Vaccinate children, wash hands, learn the warning signs, and demand help the moment trouble begins.

The doctors will continue their battle. The question is whether people will rise to meet theirs. Sepsis doesn't wait, neither should we.

The Darkness No One Sees

By Nissa

Behind every quiet girl is a story too painful to be told. This is not fiction. This is a reality lived and endured.

She wasn't in the dark because the lights were off. She was in the dark because the light inside her had gone out.

No one heard her cry. No one noticed her silence. No one wondered where she had gone—because her body was still there, moving, breathing. But her soul had slipped into shadows.

This isn't a cry for sympathy. It's a voice for those still stuck in the dark. For the girls who are alive... but not living.

—
Syeda Nissa,
daughter of Syeda Maqbool,
is a medical student residing in Wahabpora,
Budgam.



Where Is My Paradise?

Amid floods, neglect, and despair, one citizen's story shows how small islands of integrity can rebuild Kashmir's fading dream of civilization.

Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili

tion, falling into addiction. Lavish weddings reflect a society that confuses show for substance.

Education and health systems remain hollow. Private players have stepped in, but many who can afford it send their children and families outside Kashmir in search of real

care and learning.

Once, Kashmir was self-sustaining, a paradise. Fresh, organic food would come from local farms. Pure water flowed from mountain springs. Now, chemical-laden imports flood markets while food safety regulators sleep. Pollution and unplanned urban growth poison our lakes.

Fertile land, once tended carefully for generations, now bears scars of pesticide overuse. Natural cooling from mountains and streams has been replaced by air conditioners as temperatures rise, while the Climate Change Department seems blind to the crisis.

We were given the best. We chose destruction.

We cut down trees without thought, polluted Dal, Manasbal, and Wular lakes, and turned tourist spots like Gulmarg and Sonamarg into concrete jungles. We consumed, neglected, and wasted.

My voice, a lone citizen's lament, finds no echo.

Newspaper columns and posts on digital platforms feel like whis-

In a civilized society, wealth means nothing without conduct. The 3-Rs must guide us: respect for others, responsibility for our actions and restraint over our desires and anger.

The Currency of Dignity

I have watched how financial success shifts attention and admiration. True richness comes from honouring each other's presence.

Nusrat Hassan

I remember sitting in our living room, cardamom tea curling through the air, and watching my family speak in tones weighted with money, duty, and unspoken expectations.

My uncle, living outside and sending a steady income home, was welcomed with smiles and warmth that filled the room. My cousin, who stayed behind searching for work, leaned against the wall as if he were invisible. He spoke, and his words seemed to vanish into the air.

I watched them and felt the shift from valuing character to measuring people by money.

Kashmir carries contrasts deep in its bones. Uncertainty and loss have settled in our character. Young people drift from village to city, from hope to frustration, while families absorb the strain like old rugs fraying at the edges.

I grew up on stories of shared simplicity. Elders spoke of neighbours offering what little they had: a cup of flour, a handful of apples, and a hand to lean on. Fathers were judged by the integrity they carried home. Today, respect carries a price.



The son who leaves for a city job becomes a source of pride. The one who stays faces suspicion or silence.

I have watched friendships and family ties strain under this invisible weight. Weddings turn into contests of display rather than celebrations of union. Community gatherings hum with the unspoken question: How much do you have?

Cooperation turns to competition, while generosity becomes calculation. Conversations are scored by numbers rather than care.

Friends tell me they feel trapped, as if dignity depends on a bank balance.

This mindset sweeps through streets, schools, and homes. Young people belittle those who earn less, treating them as less than human. It leaves everyone diminished.

pers against the storm. I wonder: is anyone listening?

A few days of rain bring flood fears. Helicopters hover, reminding us peace is fragile. Mental health, already strained, is fast becoming Kashmir's most urgent challenge.

What is the cure for this pain? It will not come by waiting for systemic change that may never arrive. It must begin with a revolution of the spirit, inspired by Medina.

I've learned that the sanctity of home can be rebuilt. I cannot recreate Masjid an-Nabawi, but I can create a corner for prayer, remembrance, and study. The calm we seek outside begins within.

The first step is simple: build small islands of integrity. Find one or two like-minded people. Start a study circle. Organize a neighbourhood clean-up. Make a pact of honesty.

Civilization is rebuilt brick by brick, by honest shopkeepers, reliable plumbers, professionals who take pride in their work.

Channel your anger into action. Mentor a young person. Organize an initiative to fight food adulteration. Speak not only in op-eds, but in community meetings. Teach children the power of words and the harm of backbiting.

Memories of Medina remind me that the real challenge is to live with piety, because faith makes it necessary.

In a civilized society, wealth means nothing without good conduct. The 3-Rs must guide us: respect for others, responsibility for our actions, and restraint over our desires and anger.

—
Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili is a senior consultant surgeon and writer, focusing on Kashmir's social, environmental, and spiritual issues.

—

The Martial Artist Shaping Kashmir's Next Generation

Azmat Khan blends discipline, sportsmanship, and social service, inspiring young Kashmiris to pursue excellence while giving back to their communities.

Gowher Bhat

In the winding lanes of Baghat Khan Mohalla in Srinagar, a young woman trains with a focus that belies her age.

At 22, Azmat Khan has already carved a name in the world of Taekwondo, achieving state-level medals and earning a black belt under the guidance of Rohit Sharma at the Khelo India Taekwondo Center in Polo View.

But her story extends beyond the mats. Azmat is a mentor, a volunteer, and a source of inspiration in a city often overshadowed by uncertain state of affairs.

Her journey began years ago with a simple curiosity about martial arts. "I still remember the first time I stepped into the training hall," she recalls, "I was nervous, unsure if I could keep up with the older students. But I was determined. Every day, I pushed myself a little further."

That determination carried her through grueling training schedules, academic responsibilities, and moments of exhaustion that would have deterred many.

Azmat's approach to martial arts is deeply personal. "It was to become stronger, for myself and for those I can inspire," she says.

Her own strength has translated into mentorship, where she teaches local students life lessons in focus, discipline, and resilience. Ali Rehman, one of her students, says, "Training under Azmat taught me patience, focus, and self-belief."

For Fatima Bano, another student, Azmat's presence has made pursuing sports a possibility. "She encourages girls like me to take up physically demanding activities without hesitation," Bano says.

Azmat's influence stretches beyond sport. She is actively involved in social service, volunteering with local NGOs to assist marginalized communities and care for street animals.

Gowher Majeed, a fellow volunteer, recalls her energy and commitment. "Azmat goes beyond what is expected. Her compassion inspires everyone around her."

For Azmat, the reward is in the act itself. "Helping others brings immense joy," she says. "Seeing a child smile, or a street dog find care, re-energizes me. That feeling. It's priceless."

Her philosophy bridges physical training and social responsibility. She encourages students to cultivate both a strong body and a strong mind. "Strength without compassion is meaningless," she explains.

Informal mentorship sessions often accompany her training, where she discusses resilience, goal-setting, and the value of community service. In this way, sports become a tool for personal growth and societal impact.

The Baghat Khan Mohalla community has taken notice.

Shopkeeper Mohammad Yaseen describes her as "a source of pride. She represents dedication, hard work, and kindness all at once."



For a generation of young Kashmiris, Azmat Khan represents a path where achievement and compassion coexist. Her legacy, already visible in the students she mentors and the communities she supports, promises to extend far beyond medals.

Zahoor Ahmad, who runs a local NGO, adds, "Her presence uplifts everyone. Azmat genuinely cares and organizes initiatives that help children and animals alike."

She credits her support system, including family, neighbours, and students, for keeping her motivated.

Challenges have been constant companions on her journey. Balancing training, volunteering, and personal life requires careful time management and resilience.

"Challenges teach you resilience," Azmat reflects. "In martial arts, as in life, you fall, but you get up stronger. Every obstacle is a stepping stone if you approach it with the right mindset."

Looking ahead, Azmat envisions a sports academy in Srinagar where young people can pursue martial arts while learning the importance of community service. She hopes to expand her volunteer initiatives, particularly for street children and animal welfare programs. "Every small effort counts," she says, resolve shining in her eyes.

For a generation of young Kashmiris, Azmat Khan represents a path where achievement and compassion coexist. Her legacy, already visible in the students she mentors and the communities she supports, promises to extend far beyond medals.

— Gowher Bhat is a published author, freelance journalist, book reviewer, and educator based in Srinagar.

Treasures of a Lost Autumn

Autumn in Kashmir carries echoes of laughter, transformation, and the fleeting beauty of fields and skies I once knew.

Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

This year, autumn arrived like an unexpected guest: swift, untimely, almost startling.

It slipped through the days like sand through my fingers, leaving behind only a faint shimmer of a season I once lived in fully, now remembered in fragments.

Time seems to dissolve in this light, leaving memories as golden as the leaves beneath the willows.

Along the village path, cicadas performed their trembling orchestra. Their chorus was piercing yet intimate, a herald of the equinox.

There is a magic in autumn that always feels deliberate: the way trees shed emerald silks for crimson tatters, a reminder that beauty, however radiant, visits and departs.

I wandered past paddy fields where the stream once glistened like molten glass. Now, burdened with plastic waste, it murmurs like a tired vein of the earth. Still, the air carries the scent of rain, cool and sharp. The willows stand as solemn sentinels beneath a pale sky, their leaves falling one by one, soft farewells stitched into the wind.

Above, cicadas continue their stubborn devotion. Some sing with abandon, intoxicated by the moment. Others fall silent, guarding secrets only the trees understand.

I lifted my phone, hoping to trap the sound, the motion, the season, in a frame. The effort feels absurd. Some moments resist capture.

Perhaps it is nostalgia that pulls me. In childhood, these insects were companions. My friends and I would cup them in our palms, startled when they baptized us with sudden sprays of their strange "cicada rain," then watch them vault into the sky with a defiant hum.

Their small lives taught awe in ways no classroom could replicate. Even now, their chorus threads me back to the boy I once was, to the unbroken rhythm of seasons that turn and return.

We once thought cicadas wept when caught. Time and study taught me otherwise: it was merely the aftermath of their sap feast.



Somewhere between rustling leaves and the murmuring stream, I search for the boy who saw divinity in tree bark, raced grasshoppers, and tasted joy in muddy handfuls of paddy.

Understanding the science never diminished their wonder. It amplified it. Their empty shells fascinated us too: papery husks clinging to willow bark like tiny reliquaries.

We imagined them as sleeping bodies, waiting for a miracle. The miracle, I realize now, had already happened: the evidence of transformation, a reminder that even the smallest lives carry grandeur.

Autumn brings harvests, and the rhythm of labourers in golden fields fills the air. I remember emerald grasshoppers clinging to my trousers, chosen companions in childhood games.

My brother and I, with a wild parade of friends, turned the fields into arenas. We captured grasshoppers, hid them in bottles, crowned them as champions, and celebrated with tape reels from my father's old cassette bag, now wings for our tiny athletes.

Grasshoppers would leap, ribbons trailing like comets, and we cheered, defending them from swooping birds. Those fields were our worlds, each moment a small ritual of joy.

Sundays carried another harvest ritual.

After the farmers threshed the fields, grains of paddy shimmered like scattered jewels. We combed the stubble with polythene bags, gathering treasure, which our mothers winnowed with a grace that felt sacred, separating grain from dust like priestesses at ancient altars.

Chestnut sellers wandered through the village, baskets brimming with crisp promise. Sometimes we bartered paddy for their fruit. Other times, clay pots.

I can still taste that chestnut - sweet, earthy, sharp with freshness - a flavor from a world without money, where trade was communion.

After the harvest, the skies belonged to kites. I remember Aijaz Bhaya, a boy who ruled the skies with parrot-coloured wings. I watched him, envy braided with awe, until he gifted me a kite. It refused to fly. I stitched my own from newspaper, headlines forming wings.

And then, at last, it rose. I ran beneath it, breathless, children trailing behind me, launching fragments of our souls into the astonished sky. Crows shrieked, eagles wheeled, the heavens alive with rivalry, yet it was not battle. It was freedom.

Now, when I walk those fields, the laughter is gone. Hardly any string twists in poplars, no scraps of paper drift in hedges. Only the wind moves through empty space. Where did that autumn go? Where did the sky lose its song?

Willows remain, cicadas still sing, though fewer stop to listen. Children wander the fields, perhaps without tape reels or sacred dreams hidden in insect wings.

Somewhere between rustling leaves and the murmuring stream, I search for the boy who saw divinity in tree bark, raced grasshoppers, and tasted joy in muddy handfuls of paddy.

Each autumn returns, bringing nostalgia, and yet the world feels smaller, less miraculous.

Where did it all go? Where did that autumn go?

The author writes about memory, nature, and the rhythms of village life. He can be reached at ehsaanamy133@gmail.com.



The Temptation of Forbidden Fruit

A humorous, nostalgic journey through the little rebellions, fleeting indulgences, and irresistible allure of temptation woven into everyday life.

Lily Swarn

Who can forget the charm of the luscious, pale lemon guavas, dangling alluringly from across the wall? The irresistible, compelling, impulsive itch to jump over into the neighbour's garden?

The seductive enticement of forbidden fruit is possibly hiding in our DNA, thanks to Father Adam!

Opportunity may knock only once, but temptation leans on the doorbell. It rattles our wise, thinking, well-disciplined brains. All our "Hail Marys," "mool man-tars," "kalmas," "Hanuman chalisas" make valiant attempts to bring us to our senses.

But the devil rears his ugly, grotesque head repeatedly. His garb is enticing. He simpers and fawns. He smiles and flatters, lures and tantalizes, and coaxes and snares. Ah, the temptation devil is well trained. This guy knows his business like the back of his hand.

We are often warned against yielding to temptation, as it may never pass our way again. Well, it seems alright to indulge in that melt-in-the-mouth gelavati kebab once in a while, but woe be to the one who is planning sacrifice!

The come-hither looks, the magnetism, the drawing power of temptation make one a willing slave to its spell. Who wants life when death beckons with that dripping charisma? Benjamin Franklin felt that if passion drives you, let reason hold the reins.

Oh, come on, Benji! I like the guy who said he could resist everything except temptation. "Theeva mundri da theeva, saari umar karaan main teri seva, ni kwhaabaan vich aan waaliye."

We may often slink away, shame-faced, from temptation, but we do leave our mailing address. This glorious world is brimming with so many nay-matein. Perhaps that is why we had the concept of a "self-control bell" in school.

Those two-minute brushes with our own little devils, when we were supposed to stand straight without fidgeting or talking, ah, they seemed like a lifetime.

A sneaky lick of the orange bar gave us away, since it coloured our tongues. A furtively exchanged book, a juicy piece of gossip! Hai!

"Par karun kya yunhi taskeen zara hoti hai, aarzu ik tarf dil se juda hoti hai; jis ne dekhi ho woh chitwan koi uss se poochhe, nigah-e-naaz ki taaseer bhi kya hoti hai."

"Tu Falatuuno-Arastu hai, tu Zohra Parviin, tere qabze mein hai garduun, teri thokar mein zameen, haan uthha, jald uthha, paaye muqaddar se jabiin. Main bhi rukne ka nahiin, waqt bhi rukne ka nahiin."

— Lily Swarn is an internationally acclaimed poet, novelist, and essayist, author of *A Drop of Cosmos*. She is the 2023–24 International Beat Poet Laureate India and a Peace and Humanity ambassador.



'Chronic Pain Could Be Linked With Higher Levels Of Perfectionism, Reduced Self-Compassion'

Press Trust Of India

A new study has showed that chronic pain such as back pain and migraine could be linked with significantly higher levels of perfectionism and reduced self-compassion, underlining how psychological factors can be crucial to managing health conditions.

Pain persisting beyond the expected period of healing or for more than three months is considered chronic pain.

Findings, published in the journal Psychology and Health, are in line with the 'perfectionism-social disconnection' model, according to which striving for excessively high personal standards can lead to interpersonal problems, potentially increasing the risk of negative outcomes.

"Chronic pain sufferers may experience frustration with difficulties performing day-to-day activities and push themselves toward unrealistic or unachievable goals," author and organisational psychologist Dr Graeme Ditchburn from the school of psychology at Murdoch University, Australia, said.

Studies have shown that people with perfectionism are often also overly critical of themselves, which can further distance them from achieving goals, making them vulnerable to mental ill-health.

"Furthermore, they may also feel that others have expectations that are difficult to meet," Dr Ditchburn said.

Researchers looked at over 1,000 participants aged 18-65 -- 531 having back pain, migraine or arthritis for longer than three months and 515 without a pain condition.

"Individuals with chronic pain reported significantly higher levels of perfectionism and lower levels of self-compassion and self-efficacy than pain-free individuals," the authors wrote.

Dr Ditchburn said, "Self-compassion may reflect fear of judgment or self-criticism, perceiving the pain condition and the burden caused by this condition as their own fault." These also have negative implications for perceptions of self-efficacy or self-belief in one's capacity. "In turn, these have both direct and indirect associations with stress, which has negative consequences for physical and mental health," the author added.

The findings can help understand how perfectionism and protective effects of self-compassion and self-efficacy can help in managing chronic pain conditions, the researchers said.



Geoengineering Projects Dangerous To Environment, Say Researchers

Press Trust Of India

Geoengineering, or the use of technological interventions to delay or mask effects of global warming, is flawed, not viable and "environmentally dangerous", researchers say.

Curbing greenhouse gas emissions is largely considered the primary solution to limiting global warming to well within 2 degrees Celsius, outlined in the Paris Agreement.

However, geoengineering has been proposed by certain research groups to hasten efforts in mitigating warming, especially in polar regions -- effects of which could be felt around the world.

The proposed interventions include 'sea curtains', or flexible floating structures that stop warm water from reaching ice shelves, and 'sea ice management', in which glass beads are scattered on sea ice to boost its reflecting capacity.

The international team of researchers from the US, UK, Eu-

rope, Australia and New Zealand looked at five geoengineering interventions and found that "the proposed concepts would be environmentally dangerous".

"It is clear to us that the assessed approaches are not feasible, and that further research into these techniques would not be an effective use of limited time and resources," the authors wrote in the analysis published in the journal Frontiers in Science.

The team found no field experiments involving sea curtains or sea ice reflection to suggest that the ideas are effective or feasible.

Lead author Martin Siegert from the UK's University of Exeter said, "These ideas are often well-intentioned, but they're flawed. As a community, climate scientists and engineers are doing all we can to reduce the harms of the climate crisis. But deploying any of these five polar projects is likely to work against the polar regions and planet."

Further, each of the five interventions analysed were found to risk environmental damage, with

sea ice management carrying particular ecological risks, such as glass beads darkening the ice.

Risks of stratospheric aerosol injections -- another intervention that involves releasing aerosols in the atmosphere to reflect sunlight and reduce sun's warming effect -- include ozone depletion and changes to climate patterns across the globe, the researchers said.

The team also estimated each geoengineering intervention to cost at least USD 10 billion to install and maintain; sea curtains are among the most expensive, projected at USD 80 billion over 10 years for an 80-kilometre-long structure.

Combining the world's limited resources in treating the cause (greenhouse gas emissions) in place of the symptoms could instead have a "fair shot at reaching net zero and restoring our climate's health," co-author and glaciologist Heidi Sevestre from Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme Secretariat, said.

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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NOTICE

Applications through online mode are invited from eligible candidates for engagement as contractual Assistant Professors on academic arrangement for teaching, research and allied academic activities in the following Departments/Subjects:

1. Physics
2. Islamic Studies
3. English Language and Literature
4. Electrical Engineering
5. Management
6. Architecture
7. Design your Degree (DYoD)
8. (Design Thinking)

Availability of online application form	12-09-2025 (Friday)
Last date of submission of online application form	17-09-2025 (Wednesday) Upto 04:30 pm
Last date of submission of hard copy of the application form	18-09-2025 (Thursday)

The detailed notification reflecting other terms and conditions is available on University website www.iust.ac.in

No. IUST/DAA-Acad/25/1690 Sd/-
Dated: 11-09-2025 Assistant Registrar Academics

DIPK-NB-1943/25 dated: 13-09-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of GH MOHD BHAT S/O MOHD ASSADULLAH BHAT R/O SALOOSA KREERI for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that MOHD ASSADULLAH & ATTIQA BEGUM S/O MOHD AKBAR BHAT & MOHD ASSADULLAH BHAT has passed away on 20/03/2023 & 03/05/ 2021. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1.... GH MOHD BHAT SON 56 years Labour married
- 2.... AB HAMEED SON 53 years Do married

.The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

fko NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI KREERI

28th year OF PUBLICATION



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UNRAVEL KASHMIR

J&K Bank Organizes Multiple Customer Meets In Delhi Zone

MD & CEO chairs meetings in Badohi, Allahabad and Varanasi to strengthen corporate relationships



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Jammu & Kashmir Bank organized multiple Corporate Customer Meets across key locations in the Delhi zone, aimed at reinforcing partnerships with corporate clients and addressing their evolving business requirements.

Conducted over the last two days, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee chaired the meetings attended by the General Manager & Divisional Head (ROI) Khurshed Muzaffar, Cluster Head (Lucknow) Ashok Kumar, and other senior officials of the Bank. The events took place in Badohi, Allahabad and Varanasi, where cross-sections of valuable corporate clients from various areas of Bank's Delhi zone participated.

Addressing the gatherings, Amitava Chatterjee reiterated the Bank's commitment to provide customized financial solutions and strengthen its support to businesses across sectors.

He appreciated the valuable feedback shared by clients and assured them of the Bank's continued focus on operational excellence and customer-centric services.

Speaking on the occasion, Amitava Chatterjee said, "Our vision is to expand the Bank's footprint beyond Jammu & Kashmir and grow our share of business from the rest of the country to about 50% particularly in the metros and emerging business centres. It will be done through a two-legged model where cutting-

edge digital services are seamlessly complemented by highly personalized, humane, and efficient brick-and-mortar support. This approach will ensure that every customer feels valued, empowered and supported at every step."

He further added, "As we scale up our presence in key business hubs, our focus remains on providing hassle-free financial assistance to every viable venture. We are committed to offering timely and tailored solutions that meet the unique needs of enterprises as well as entrepreneurs, enabling their growth while ensuring their complete satisfaction through both technology-driven platforms and close, relationship-oriented banking support."

Divisional Head Khurshed Muzaffar highlighted the Bank's role in facilitating growth opportunities and providing timely assistance to corporate customers. The senior officials also reiterated the Bank's resolve to enhance customer experience by leveraging innovative solutions and improving service delivery.

The participants at the meetings expressed appreciation for the Bank's services and its renewed efforts towards deepening relationships with customers. Many acknowledged the responsiveness of the Bank's leadership, the ease of access to financial products, and the assurance of reliable support for their business needs.

PSU Banks Ready To Play A Larger Role Towards Viksit Bharat 2047: DFS Secy

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- Public sector banks (PSBs) have transitioned from a phase of survival and stability and are now positioned to play a larger role as champions of growth, innovation, and leadership in the journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047, Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju has said.

Addressing the two-day PSB Manthan, which concluded on Saturday, Nagaraju also highlighted the need for PSBs to aspire to global competitiveness, strengthen governance and operational resilience, and expand their role as sectoral champions across both traditional and emerging industries. PSB Manthan 2025, organised by Department of Financial Services (DFS), themed around reimagining public sector banking for a developed India. The event brought together senior leadership of public sector banks, regulators, industry experts, academicians, technologists, and banking practitioners.

The program featured discussions on customer experience, governance, innovation, credit growth, risk management, and technology modernization. Key suggestions included adopting next-generation technologies,



building common infrastructure, and designing hyper-personalized products, the finance ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

The discussions stressed the importance of modernising PSB technology by moving beyond legacy systems to agile and interoperable platforms capable of delivering seamless digital services, enhancing cyber resilience, and integrating effectively with India's digital public infrastructure, it said.

It was further suggested that Public Sector Banks put in place robust governance frameworks for Artificial Intelligence (AI), aimed at strengthening model risk management, nurturing responsible AI adoption, and instituting appropriate safeguards against emerging risks, it said.

The deliberations also underscored the importance of engaging with technology partners who ensure openness and interoperability, thereby avoiding vendor lock-in and enabling long-term flexibility and innovation, it added.

Over 6 Crore Income Tax Returns Filed So Far: I-T Dept

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: More than six crore income tax returns for Assessment Year 2025-26 have been filed so far, the Income Tax department said on Saturday.

The last date to file ITRs without penalty is September 15.

"Thank you taxpayers & tax professionals for helping us reach the milestone of 6 crore Income Tax Returns (ITRs) as of now and still counting," the I-T department said in a post on X.

To assist taxpayers for ITR filing, tax payment and other related services, our helpdesk is functioning on a 24x7 basis, and the department is providing support through calls, live chats, WebEx sessions & Twitter/X, it added.

It also asked taxpayers who haven't filed ITR for AY 2025-26 to file at the earliest to avoid a last-minute rush.

The Income Tax department



in May announced an extension of the due date for filing ITRs for Assessment Year (AY) 2025-26 (for income earned in financial year 2024-25) by individuals, HUFs and entities who do not have to get their accounts audited from July 31 to September 15.

The extension was on account of "structural and content revisions" in the income tax return (ITR) forms, which was notified in late April and early May. The changes made

also need modifications to be made in ITR filing utilities and the back-end system.

ITR filings have shown consistent growth over the years, reflecting rising compliance and the widening of the tax base. For AY 2024-25, a record 7.28 crore ITRs were filed up to July 31, 2024, compared to 6.77 crore in AY 2023-24, registering a 7.5 per cent year-on-year growth.



THANK YOU TAXPAYERS & TAX PROFESSIONALS FOR HELPING us reach the milestone of 6 crore Income Tax Returns (ITRs) as of now and still counting,"

JKEDI Organises Boot Camps Under J&K Startup Idea Challenge

Observer News Service

JAMMU- The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) continued its mission of fostering innovation and empowering youth through entrepreneurship by organizing Boot Camps under Startup Idea Challenge at Government College for Women, Udhampur and Government Degree College Kathua.

The events, held under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-2027, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, aspiring entrepreneurs, and faculty members.

At Government Degree College Kathua, the boot camp and pitching session saw participation from more than 100 students and was inaugurated by Prof. Rakesh Singh, HoD Chemistry and In-charge of Career Counselling Cell, GDC, Kathua who appreciated JKEDI's role in encouraging youth towards entrepreneurship. Fourteen aspiring entrepreneurs pitch their ideas before an expert jury out of which eight ideas were shortlisted for the next round. Dheeraj Handoo, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI, Kathua presented the details regarding the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 while Vir Pratap Singh, Teaching Associate, JKEDI deliberated on the various incentives provided by the Government related to J&K Startup Policy 2024-27.

Similarly, more than 100 students attended the program at Government College for



Women Udhampur. Dr. Nalini Pathania, Principal of the College, was the Chief Guest. She emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship in youth empowerment. Yash Paul, District Nodal Officer (DNO) JKEDI Udhampur, presented the details of the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27, while Dr. Vinod Sharma, Teaching Associate, JKEDI, highlighted various incentives, support mechanisms and the structured phase wise format of the J&K Startup Idea Challenge. A total of seven ideas were shortlisted by a distinguished jury composed of designated faculty members

from the college, officials from DIC Udhampur.

These boot camps served as vibrant platforms for idea exchange, motivation, and entrepreneurial learning. The dignitaries and jury members across all three districts lauded JKEDI's sustained efforts to nurture entrepreneurship and innovation at the grassroots level. By providing mentorship, exposure, and support, JKEDI is reinforcing its mission to strengthen the startup ecosystem and empower the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to become job creators rather than job seekers.

US President Trump Calls On NATO Countries To Impose 50-100% Tariffs On China

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON- US President Donald Trump on Saturday said NATO countries should impose 50 to 100 per cent tariffs on China and stop buying oil from Russia to help end the Ukraine conflict.

Trump's post on Truth Social comes a day after the US asked G7 countries to impose tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia.

In his post, Trump said he is ready to impose "major sanctions" on Russia when all NATO countries agree and start to do the same thing and stop buying oil from Moscow.

The US president said that NATO's commitment to win has been "far less than 100%, and the purchase of Russian oil, by some, has been shocking!"

"It greatly weakens your negotiating position, and bargaining power, over Russia," he said. Trump said that he is ready to "go ahead" when the NATO countries are.

The president said that the 50 per cent to 100 per cent tariffs on China will also be of "great help in ending this deadly, but ridiculous war".

"China has a strong control, and even grip, over Russia, and these powerful tariffs will break that grip," he said.

Trump also said that the Ukraine war is "not his conflict" and it would never have



started if he was president.

"It is Biden's and Zelenskyy's war. I am only here to help stop it, and save thousands of Russian and Ukrainian lives...If NATO does as I say, the war will end quickly, and all of those lives will be saved! If not, you are just wasting my time, and the time, energy, and money of the United States," he said.

The US has imposed an additional 30 per cent tax on imports from China while Beijing has responded with a 10 per cent tax on imports from Washington.

At one point, Trump raised tariffs on Chinese imports to 145 per cent before the two countries agreed in May to end the tit-for-tat tariff war.

On Friday, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and the United States Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer were on a call with G7 finance ministers when they reiterated President Trump's call to the bloc's partners about imposing tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia.

GST Not Applicable On Post-Sale Discounts Given By Manufacturers To Dealers

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Post-sale discounts given by manufacturers to dealers intended solely for competitive pricing and promoting sales will not be subject to GST, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said.

However, GST would be payable on such discounts if the manufacturer and the dealer have entered into an agreement under which the latter conducts promotional activities like co-branding, advertising campaigns or sale drives on behalf of the manufacturer. Issuing a circular regarding treatment of secondary or post-sale discounts under Goods and Services Tax (GST), the CBIC said it has received representations seeking clarifications on the issue.

When dealers receive such post-sale discounts, they may engage in promotional activities to boost sales. However, these activities ultimately enhance the sale of goods that the dealers themselves own, thereby increasing their own revenue. In this context, the discount merely reduces the sale price of the goods and is not linked to any independent service rendered to the manufacturer. "Therefore, it is clarified that post-sale discounts offered by manufacturers to dealers in such cases shall not be treated as consideration for a separate transaction of supply of services," the CBIC said.

However, GST would be leviable in cases where a dealer undertakes specific sales promotional activities, such as advertising campaigns, co-branding, customisation services, special



sales drives, exhibition arrangements, or customer support services, etc., only when such services are explicitly stated in the agreement with a clearly defined consideration payable for such a supply. AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said dealers often receive discounts from manufacturers and may, in the process, carry out activities like small marketing drives or efforts to sell faster. However, such actions are undertaken primarily to increase the dealer's own sales and profits.

"The government has rightly clarified that these routine trade discounts cannot be treated as payment for any service provided by the dealer to the manufacturer, and therefore no additional GST liability arises in such cases," Mohan added. EY Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said the circular correctly distinguishes between a genuine trade discount and a separate service. It affirms that where manufacturers and dealers operate on a principal-to-principal basis, discounts provided by the manufacturer to the dealer, intended solely for competitive pricing and sales promotion, are not a consideration for any independent service. This crucial distinction resolves a key pain point and brings the tax treatment in line with commercial practice.

JK Tourism Bags Award Of Excellence



Observer News Service

NEW DELHI- JK Tourism team has bagged an award for countries promising MICE destination while participating in a three days promotional event in New Delhi.

The JK tourism team of officers including Director SKICC Galib M Shah and CEO Gulmarg Development Authority Tariq Naikoo represented the UT in this important platform of BLTM, a product of Fairfest exclusive meant for showcasing the best MICE potential of the country.

The JK team interacted with lot of potential MICE organisers who have shown keen interest in planning their future mega events in SKICC and other destinations of Jammu and Kashmir. MICE and wedding Tourism has emerged a new niche tourism segment and is considered a priority sector of tourism.

SKICC being hub of the said sector has established itself globally by hosting number of MICE events and activities, the said participating team have shown satisfaction over the outcome of this event

Flipkart India's Loss Widens To Rs 5 189 Crore In FY25 Revenue Up Over 17%

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Walmart-owned e-commerce giant Flipkart India Private Limited saw widening of consolidated losses to Rs 5,189 crore in the financial year ended March 2025, according to data accessed by business intelligence platform ToFlr.

An email sent to Flipkart for comments on the financials did not elicit a response. Flipkart India's losses stood at Rs 4,248.3 crore in the preceding financial year.

The company recorded a 17.3 per cent increase in consolidated revenue from operations at Rs 82,787.3 crore in FY25, from Rs 70,541.9 crore in FY24.

The company's total expenses for the fiscal year swelled 17.4 per cent to Rs 88,121.4 crore.

The primary driver of the company's expenses was the purchase of stock-in-trade, which surged to Rs 87,737.8 crore in FY25 against Rs 74,271.2 crore a year ago.

Finance costs also saw a significant jump, about 57 per cent, to about Rs 454 crore in FY25.

Flipkart Internet Private Limited, the entity which operates e-commerce marketplace, narrowed its losses to Rs 1,494.2 crore in FY25, according to the document shared by ToFlr.

The company had posted a consolidated loss of Rs 2,358.7 crore in FY24.

NPPA Asks Drug Makers, Medical Device Industry To Pass On GST Rate Cut Benefit To Consumers

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has asked pharmaceutical companies and medical device makers to pass on the benefit of reduced GST rates to consumers with effect from September 22.

"The benefit of reduction in GST rates shall be passed on to consumers/patients effective from September 22, 2025. All the manufacturers/marketing companies selling drugs/formulations shall revise the MRP of drugs/formulations (including medical devices) accordingly, with effect from September 22," the authority said in an order.

The manufacturer and marketing companies shall issue a revised price list or supplementary price list to the dealers, retailers, state drug controllers and the government, reflecting the revised GST rates and revised MRP, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) stated.

Manufacturer and marketing companies shall take immediate measures to sensitise dealers, retailers, and consumers about the reduction in GST rates through all possible channels of communication, including electronic, print and social media, it said.

"Industry associations may also release advertisements in leading national newspapers, including vernacular newspapers, to reach out to dealers/retailers to ensure compliance of revised GST rates with effect from September 22, 2025, it added.

Sebi Clears Relaxations On Large Cos IPOs, Other Reform Proposals

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- The Sebi board on Friday approved a slew of reforms and ease of doing business measures that will help IPO-bound large companies and low-risk foreign investors, among other segments.

In a decision, which comes ahead of the mega initial public offerings (IPO) by NSE and Reliance Jio Infocomm, the Sebi board decided to recommend the government to amend the statutes governing minimum public offerings.

Under the proposed framework, companies with a market capitalisation between Rs 50,000 crore and Rs 1 lakh crore would be required to float 8 per cent of their equity instead of the current 10 per cent. Such firms would also get a timeline of five years instead of the present three years for achieving the minimum public shareholding (MPS) requirement of 25 per cent.

For companies with a market capitalisation above Rs 1 lakh crore, mandatory offer requirements would be reduced to 2.75 per cent from the current 5 per cent, while those above Rs 5 lakh crore would need to dilute only 2.5 per cent.

Such large companies would also be given up to 10 years to achieve the 25 per cent minimum public shareholding requirement, compared to five years at present. This means companies can list with smaller IPOs initially, while gradually increasing their public shareholding over a longer period, reducing the immediate burden of large-scale equity dilution.

J&K Floods

Damaged Structures To Be Rebuilt With Better Specifications: Minister

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said the damaged structures would be rebuilt with better specifications to withstand calamities like the recent floods in the Jammu region.

Singh visited the flood-affected villages falling in Bajalta and Pargalta panchayats of Jammu district to assess the damage caused to residential houses and bridges due to torrential rain-induced flash floods and landslides.

"The damaged structures will be rebuilt, with better specifications depending upon the



experience of the recent floods, so that in case there is a calamity like the recent floods in future, the structures should be able to withstand it," the minister said.

In the last few weeks, Singh has been criss-crossing his parliamentary constituency of Udhampur and other affected parts of Jammu and Kashmir

to meet the disaster-affected people spanning from Chisoti in Kishtwar to the Zero Line on the Indo-Pak border in Kathua and Samba.

He also reviewed the restoration work on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, which remained closed for over 10 days due to landslides and caving in of roads at multiple locations.

Accompanied by local MLA Yudhvir Sethi and officers from Union territory administration, the minister visited the sites most affected by flood waters in Bain Bajalta, Tutan Di Khoi, Anthan, Badoon, Khana Shargal and Chalni under Jammu East

assembly constituency.

He issued instructions to officers of various departments, including Roads and Buildings and Public Health Engineering, to undertake restoration work in the affected areas immediately.

Singh also expressed solidarity with the affected families and assured that work is underway to restore the supply of essential services.

Later, the minister also visited the affected places under the Pargalta panchayat to inspect the damage inflicted on public property and shops by flash floods and said estimates are being prepared for the same, including crops.

Over 2.39 Lakh Cases Settled In 3rd National Lok Adalat Across J&K

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: More than 2.39 lakh cases were settled in the third national Lok Adalat across Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, an official spokesman said.

The J&K Legal Services Authority organised the third National Lok Adalat of this year across the Union Territory, the spokesman said. He said the Lok Adalat was organised to promote

amicable settlements in a wide range of cases, including MACT claims, matrimonial disputes, cheque bounce cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act, money recovery, commercial disputes, and compoundable criminal offences.

The spokesman said that out of total 3,06,851 cases taken up by 167 benches in the day-long Lok Adalat, 2,39,533 cases were amicably settled and disposed off.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

How Soaring Gold

and an added 2.5 percent annual interest. By September 2025, this investment outpaced Kashmir's stagnant land market, once known for 14 to 20 percent annual growth over the past 25 years, while gold returned a steady 13.30 percent.

"Land ties you down," Khalid explained, showing his bond statements. "Gold flows with global currents."

He also avoided the typical 20 percent making charges that eat into jewelry's value, preserving the wealth for the wedding and the future.

Gold's story in Kashmir is one of steady growth. Prices rose from around 1,080 per gram in 2007 to over 11,000 today, a compound growth rate of nearly 13 percent over 18 years.

A 10 lakh gold investment in 2000 has swelled to 2.26 crore by 2025, driven by steady demand and global uncertainty.

Experts now predict gold could reach 1,20,000 per 10 grams by March 2026. Behind this surge are global forces far removed from Kashmir's apple orchards.

The World Gold Council tracks the factors behind gold's movements: geopolitical tensions, inflation, interest rates, currency shifts, and investor behavior.

The United States holds 8,133 metric tons of gold in Fort Knox and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, more than Germany, Italy, or France. The International Monetary Fund also holds large gold reserves.

These big reserves stabilize global markets, while Switzerland boasts the highest per capita gold holdings, underlining gold's global role as a safe asset in times of uncertainty.

Locally, India's Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) links global trends to Kashmir markets.

Through MCX, traders buy gold futures to manage risks or profit from market swings. Prices reflect the London Bullion Market, rupee-dollar rates, import duties, and seasonal demand.

Last year, India imported 750 metric tons of gold. Though duties add to costs, gold's appeal remains strong.

In 2022, rising global inflation pushed MCX gold up 18 percent. Today, as of September 13, 2025, MCX gold stands around 1,09,356 per 10 grams.

For the Bhats, the MCX became a daily guide. Khalid checks real-time updates, following market trends and spotting the best time to act. "It shows me when to buy or sell," he said, tapping his phone.

Approved MCX warehouses ensure quality and secure storage for physical trades.

While big institutional speculation fuels volatility, for families like the Bhats, the exchange offers useful insight.

Khalid also invested in gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs), which track gold prices without the hassle of storage, along with mutual funds linked to gold. Systematic Investment Plans let him buy in small amounts, smoothing out price swings.

Financial advisors recommend keeping about 10 percent of a portfolio in gold, especially in uncertain times.

Nationally, gold demand fell 10 percent in April-June 2025, down to 134.9 tonnes, according to the World Gold Council. Yet ETF inflows surged by 170 tonnes, a clear sign that many are moving toward "paper gold."

This shift is gaining pace amid fears of theft and storage risks in the valley.

Farida recalled a neighbour losing 3 lakh to a fraud, prompting her to stay cautious. "We must protect our legacy," she said.

Physical gold in the form of coins, bars, jewelry offers tangible ownership, but vulnerabilities are pushing families toward digital solutions.

Young Kashmiri entrepreneur Aamir switched to monthly digital gram purchases after a cousin's home was burgled. "Gold evolved from chains to clicks," he said.

Wedding demands still exist, but rising costs are a real barrier. Some reports now call for simpler rituals to ease the burden.

For many middle-class families, the gold price surge is shattering dreams, with jewelers seeing fewer buyers.

As Farida prepared for her son's wedding, she blended old heirloom pieces with bonds, merging tradition with financial wisdom, securing both the ritual and the future.

Post-Op Sindoor,

government has not compromised on the mandate given by the people. "We were the ones who passed a resolution in the Assembly asking for restoration of special status. We are the last people who will compromise on this. Statehood was promised by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister in Parliament and there is no reason why it should not be restored

now," he said.

The Chief Minister also sought the release of detained Doda MLA Mehraj Malik, terming his detention under the Public Safety Act as "excessive use of force."

Omar dismissed speculation about the National Conference parting ways with the INDIA bloc. "The Congress party is part of the alliance in J&K. They have said they will join the government once statehood is restored, but we remain committed partners," he said.

He also welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Manipur, calling it "better late than never," and expressed hope that peace would be restored in the violence-hit state.

On cricketing ties, Omar said bilateral cricket between India and Pakistan has always been an issue but welcomed their participation in multilateral tournaments. "Sport often becomes a victim of politics, and nowhere is that truer than with cricket in the subcontinent," he remarked.

Highlighting efforts to boost tourism from southern states, Omar said J&K is working to attract more visitors and film shoots from Tamil Nadu. "We hope to see greater exchanges and more South Indian tourists visiting the Valley," he added.

SC To Pronounce

petitioners have raised questions over the composition of state waqf boards and the Central Waqf Council, where they contend only Muslims should operate except ex-officio members.

The third issue relates to a provision that says a waqf property will not be treated as a waqf when the collector conducts an inquiry to ascertain if the property is government land.

The Centre strongly defended the Act, saying waqf by its very nature was a "secular concept" and can't be stayer given the "presumption of constitutionality" in its favour.

Moreover, though waqf was an Islamic concept, it was not an essential part of Islam, it added.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, leading the petitioners, described the law as a "complete departure from historical legal and constitutional principles" and a means to "capture waqf through a non-judicial process".

On April 25, the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs filed a preliminary 1,332-page affidavit defending the amended Waqf Act of 2025 and opposed any "blanket stay" by the court on a "law having presumption of constitutionality passed by Parliament".

The Centre notified the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 after it got President Droupadi Murmu's assent on April 5.

The bill was cleared by Lok Sabha with the support of 288 members while 232 MPs were against it. The Rajya Sabha saw 128 members voting in its favour and 95 against it.

'Mother Tongue

Dr. Neelkanth Tiwari, MLA Varanasi South; Atul Bhai Kothari, educationist and National Secretary of Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas; Arvind Mardikar, Chairman, Hindusthan Samachar Group; Prof. Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi, Vice Chancellor, BHU; Prof. Anand Kumar Tyagi, Vice Chancellor, MGKVP; and Dr. Pradeep Baba Madhok, Director, Hindusthan Samachar Group, among various personalities from various fields.

Chaos Grips

absence of traffic regulation.

The commuters, however, were all praise for the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), which has managed to create a diversion between the severely-damaged Balli Nalla and Thared in Udhampur district where both sides of the highway are completely buried under a moving hill.

"The surface is still not completely stable and we have to keep our men and machinery ready to keep the traffic moving," an NHAI official supervising the operations near Thared told PTL.

He said they are faced with a challenging situation to keep the highway open in view of major damages at four places between Nashri and Udhampur, particularly in the Samroli area where portions of the highway have been washed away, besides the complete blocking of one tube of a tunnel due to a major landslide near Peerah.

"It will take months for complete restoration of the highway. At least three months are required to raise and stabilise a bed where the road has been washed away," the NHAI official said.

A traffic official said they are regulating one-way light motor vehicle traffic on the highway at present.

"Light motor vehicle traffic was allowed on trial basis on September 11 but due to the slippery surface of the road, vehicles got jammed and were pushed with excavators and loaders

throughout the day.

"Due to the wet bed of this stretch (Thared), heavy motor vehicle movement cannot be permitted until the bed dries up," the official said.

However, the situation on the ground speaks of a different scenario altogether with trucks also seen plying alongside passenger vehicles, including buses.

According to data available with the toll plazas, about 2,500 trucks, including fruit-laden vehicles, plied on the highway during the 16 hours from 4 pm on Friday till 8 am on Saturday despite the restrictions in place.

"What used to be a smooth five-hour journey has turned into a nightmare... We left Srinagar for Jammu at 8.30 am on Friday, knowing that the traffic from the opposite direction is restricted as per the traffic advisory.

"We were welcomed by a tube blocked by hundreds of trucks in the Qazigund sector, leaving the other tube congested on both sides. With no lane discipline, the road has become extremely dangerous," Mohd Altaf, a doctor travelling with his family, said.

He said they had to drive on the wrong side of the highway for many kilometres in the Banihal-Ramban sector as "there was no sign board indicating diversion or traffic police to guide".

According to Jasbir Singh, who was heading for Chandigarh, the real test of patience for the drivers begins after crossing Peerah towards Nashri, where traffic is moving at a snail's pace with the road maintenance agency frequently closing the stretch to undertake necessary works.

Singh said he reached Nashri around 11.30 am and managed to cross the 3-km stretch only around 7.30 pm.

"The trouble was far from over as trucks choked one tube and also one of the lanes of another tube in Udhampur, which resulted in complete chaos.

"It took more than two hours to clear a half-a-kilometre stretch in Jhakani because of poor traffic mismanagement," Ravi Kumar Sharma, a businessman from Jammu, said.

The traffic department had to take action against the violators to maintain discipline on the highway, Sharma said.

"It was unimaginable that truckers were allowed to completely block one tube and transgress on the other as well. Udhampur is an important town and you could see ambulances caught in the traffic jam," he said

Vaishno Devi Yatra

on Saturday.

The pilgrimage was suspended on August 26, hours before a major landslide hit the route leading to the shrine that resulted in the death of 34 pilgrims and injuries to 20 others.

In a post in C, the Shrine board said, "Due to incessant rain at Bhawan and the track, commencement of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra scheduled from September 14 stands postponed till further order. Devotees are requested to stay updated through official communication channels."

It had, a couple of days ago, decided to resume the pilgrimage from Sunday, but the inclement weather once again played spoilsport.

Wireless Sets To Be Reintroduced

The Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) will reintroduce wireless sets to strengthen the communication network along the track leading to the revered shrine, set to reopen on Sunday after a 19-day closure due to a landslide last month, officials said.

This decision was made during a joint meeting chaired by Sachin Kumar Vaishya, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SMVDSB, to ensure a smooth pilgrimage experience during the upcoming Shardiya Navratras, scheduled from September 22 to October 1.

The meeting included senior officials from the shrine board, police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), civil administration, and representatives from the Army, fire and emergency services, and other allied agencies.

"Navratras are inching closer and the board is expecting a considerable influx of devotees at the holy shrine, besides, at the base camp Katra," the CEO said, emphasising the synergy between all stakeholders during the festival.

Vaishya highlighted the need for action across various fronts to facilitate a hassle-free pilgrimage in the coming days.

Following directions from the Chairman of SMVDSB and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the CEO stressed the importance of disaster management preparedness, including firefighting arrangements and simulation exercises.

He instructed the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel to collaborate with SMVDSB's Disaster Management Task Force to monitor vulnerable areas and strengthen crowd management capabilities.

Additionally, Vaishya directed the installation

of extra signage along the route, regular public announcements, and joint patrol monitoring to manage crowds effectively and designate holding areas.

He emphasised the importance of having gas cutters and essential rescue tools ready across all sectors and called for improved communication networks by reviving wireless sets and enhancing infrastructure for seamless coordination.

The effective utilisation of the Integrated Command and Control Centre for real-time monitoring and rapid response was also underscored, officials noted.

The yatra was suspended on August 26 following a landslide that resulted in the deaths of 34 devotees and injuries to 20 others.

The CEO reiterated that pilgrims must carry valid RFID cards to undertake the yatra, and additional handheld scanners with sufficient staff will be deployed to enforce this directive.

Measures to verify the credentials of 'pithoo and ponywallas' were discussed to prevent impersonation and ensure their legitimate presence on the yatra track, the officials said.

The Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Katra was tasked with identifying additional holding areas in Katra to accommodate pilgrims in case yatra operations are suspended due to adverse weather conditions.

Further directions included managing vehicular movement, ensuring sanitation and drinking water arrangements, and improving illumination in dark spots throughout Katra.

The CEO called for physical and systemic improvements wherever required after critical examination.

Representatives of security agencies highlighted key challenges for the deployed security forces in managing the expected influx of pilgrims on the Navratra, the officials said.

Detailed security arrangements were also discussed, with a multi-tier security grid involving police, CRPF, paramilitary forces, and quick-response teams being established.

Kashmir Mourns

cold instruments of surgery, but as instruments of hope.

"He saved my father's life in 1990," one patient said. "That smile, that care, I will never forget it."

Yet technical brilliance was only part of his legacy. His true distinction lay in the empathy and integrity that infused every action.

Mohammad Ashraf, a former colleague, remembered a man whose smile was a constant comfort in both wards and lecture halls. "He treated every patient with respect and compassion, believing that diagnosis without dignity was no diagnosis at all."

Students recall him as an educator who pushed them beyond textbooks.

Yog Raj Handoo, a former student, remembered a pivotal moment during a resident strike in 1988. Administrative powers asked Dr. Naqshbhandi to threaten students. Instead, he leaned over and whispered, "Go and do what needs to be done."

"That moment lifted a burden from my shoulders," Handoo said, "and deepened my respect for him."

Dr. Naqshbhandi's vision reached far beyond surgery and teaching. He was among the first to recognize cancer as an emerging health threat in Kashmir. At a time when awareness was nearly nonexistent and treatment facilities scarce, he founded the Cancer Society of Kashmir.

"He worked tirelessly, building networks of care and counseling, offering hope where there was fear," said colleague Shabir Hassan.

His efforts extended beyond hospital walls. On Radio Kashmir, he spoke to the public, sharing simple, life-saving health advice in a language people could understand.

Family remembers him as a humble man whose values were unshakable. His nephew described him as "a light of wisdom and knowledge who never compromised on duty, honesty, or dignity."

He stood firm against favouritism and injustice, selecting candidates for interviews purely on merit. His honesty and fairness became legendary among medical circles in Kashmir.

Today, colleagues, students, and patients speak of his kindness with reverence. Ravi Garyali, a friend and junior colleague, called him "a thorough gentleman and a wonderful surgeon." One patient recalled being a child, terrified at the hospital, only to find comfort in Dr. Naqshbhandi's gentle smile and words.

His legacy lives on in the patients who found hope under his care, in the doctors who carry forward his lessons, and in the countless small acts of compassion that defined his life.

For Showkat Hussain, it is not just the memory of a surgery from 1989 that endures, but the sense of being seen, heard, and cared for:

a feeling that, in the end, is the truest measure of a healer.

HC Seeks Explanation

videos" showing forcible trimming of hair and beard of "vulnerable individuals" are being uploaded on facebook and other social media platforms by an organisation called team 'KYC'.

"In these videos it can be clearly seen that the members of the organisation are forcibly trimming the hair and beards of (such) individuals, bathing them on camera which infringes their right to privacy and dignity".

The individuals, the petitioners, being targeted can be seen protesting and screaming but are "rendered helpless and are being overpowered by the members of the organisation."

The students said that they wrote an application to State Commissioner Persons with Disabilities in August 2024 to protect the rights of these individuals and to take cognisance of the incidents and direct the relevant authorities to take action. However, they said, no action was taken as the videos still continue to surface on the social media and thus they had to approach the court to seek its intervention to stop the blatant abuse of the vulnerable individuals and the subsequent video recording of the incidents and uploading them on various social media platforms.

On December 13, last year, the court had directed the State Commissioner, Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to file a better affidavit for the purpose of disclosing the activities carried out by it in terms of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and Mental Healthcare Act, 2017. The affidavit has been filed and the same was taken on record by the court.

No Signs Of Local

in place, revision of electoral rolls, the first step in the election process, cannot begin. The appointment of the SEC is made by the Lieutenant Governor on the recommendation of a committee comprising the Chief Minister and the Leader of Opposition.

Former Panchayat representatives say the delay is impacting grassroots development. "The government should hold elections so that we don't lose crores in grants tied to Panchayati Raj Institutions. Implementation of plans at Panchayat level has already been hit due to the absence of PRIs," said a former Block Development Council chairman.

The Centre, meanwhile, has been pressing for early elections. A report tabled in Parliament in July revealed that the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj had advised J&K in December 2024 to take steps to hold Panchayat polls "at the earliest." (inputs from KNO)

Nationwide Alert

1961. The official notifications, signed by Col Arun Sharma (Retd), Secretary of the Bar Council of Delhi, state that the action was taken because the advocates "LLB /Graduation Degree/Marks Sheet reported to be Fake/ Forged and Enrolled with Bar Council of Delhi by Misrepresentation.

The process for removal was initiated after the respective universities that had supposedly issued the degrees reported them to be fraudulent. Following these reports, a Sub-Committee of the Bar Council of India conducted removal proceedings. The notifications detail that the orders passed by the BCI's Sub Committee were subsequently "ratified by the General Council of the Bar Council of India," giving finality to the removal.

According to officials, the universities concerned confirmed that the degrees and mark sheets submitted by the disbarred advocates were indeed fake or forged.

"This action underscores our zero-tolerance policy toward malpractice and fraudulent entry into the legal profession," the BCD said, adding that the decision aims to protect the integrity of the legal system.

The notification also directs all bar councils across India to display the order prominently on their notice boards to ensure wide dissemination across the legal fraternity.

Legal experts have termed the move one of the most significant clean-up measures by the bar in recent years, noting that it sends a strong message about the profession's commitment to ethics and accountability.

This mass disbarment is part of a broader national effort by the BCI to restore public trust in the legal system. Over the past few years, the BCI has removed hundreds of individuals across states found to have forged documentation or misrepresented their eligibility to practice law.

In an earlier statement, the BCI stressed that maintaining "integrity and professionalism" within the legal community is essential to protect the public and uphold the sanctity of the judicial process.

With India Miles Ahead Of Pakistan, Contest Lacks On-Ground Hype

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: A spoilt-for-choice Indian squad will be the favourite by a country mile against arch-rivals Pakistan here on Sunday in their Asia Cup encounter which is strangely devoid of any hype despite border tensions that have only risen in the past few months.

There is no dearth of context in the contest with a T20 World Cup set to be played in India in four months' time. But for the first time in many years, a cricket match between India and Pakistan, that too scheduled on a Sunday, lacks the kind of high-pitched narrative that always comes with the territory.

There are batters like Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Abhishek Sharma, a pacer like Jasprit Bumrah, spinners of Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarthy's calibre in the Indian playing XI. The Indians look way more menacing on paper compared to Pakistan, who are trying to find their feet under new skipper Salman Ali Agha.

However, considering the fickle nature of the format, there



is always the chance of an upset but against this Indian team, the probability remains low.

One of the most talented batters in Pakistan's line-up, opener Saim Ayub, middle-order wily low-wielder Hasan Nawaz and the troika of spinners in Abrar Ahmed, Sufiyan Muqem and Mohammed Nawaz would love to

prove a point in a new look team that dumped the philosophy of depending heavily on Babar Azam and Muhammad Rizwan.

With thousands of tickets still available and very few fans turning up at the India practice on Friday, the festive excitement surrounding the match is missing.

The social media calls for a

boycott by India has found resonance to an extent and as a result, no one knows how many BCCI officials, who otherwise make a beeline during marquee events, will turn up on Sunday.

The travelling media is also aiming to spice up things but predictably representatives of both nations have dead batted

any probing queries which even remotely touch on politics.

Normally, an Indo-Pak match has been about Indian batters locking horns with Pakistani pacers but this time around, the spinners of both sides will have a significant role to play considering that Jasprit Bumrah and Shaheen Shah Afridi are the only specialist pacers who will be seen in action on Sunday.

Teams (from):

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

Pakistan: Fakhar Zaman, Hasan Nawaz, Khushdil Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Agha, Husain Talat, Faheem Ashraf, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Harris, Sahibzada Farhan, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Salman Mirza, Shaheen Afridi, Sufiyan Muqem, Mohammad Wasim Jr.

Match starts at 8 PM.

Gateball Coaching Camp, Selection Trials Conclude At DPMS Gasoo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Gateball Coaching Camp and Selection Trials were conducted at Delhi Public Montessori School (DPMS) Gasoo, Srinagar. The event was organised by Jammu and Kashmir Gateball Union (JKGU) under the aegis of the Indian Gateball Union (IGU).

Around 30 enthusias-

tic students participated in the camp, receiving hands-on training and learning the fundamentals of the sport. At the conclusion of the camp, Participation Certificates were distributed among all participants by the Chairman of DPMS Gasoo, Mudasir Dar, along with Sahil Ali Beigh, Secretary JKGU.

Following the trials, 10 students were selected

to represent Jammu and Kashmir in the upcoming 11th Indian Open Gateball Tournament 2025, scheduled to be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, during November-December.

The initiative was lauded by parents and sports enthusiasts, who appreciated the efforts of JKGU and IGU for promoting Gateball among youth in the valley.



Tyndale-Biscoe Invitational Football Tournament From September 15



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Tyndale-Biscoe and Mallinson Society is set to host the 4th Canon C.E. Tyndale-Biscoe Invitational Football Tournament from September 15 to 21, bringing together school teams from various institutions in a week-long sporting event.

Organisers said the tournament has been designed to encourage young players to showcase their talent in

the true spirit of competition, while also instilling values of discipline, teamwork and sportsmanship. Matches will be held at the Tyndale-Biscoe School grounds, where participating teams will compete for the prestigious title.

According to TBMS Administrative Officer and PRO, Aftab Hussain, the annual tournament has emerged as a much-anticipated fixture in the school sports calendar. "This event

not only provides a platform for students to demonstrate their footballing skills but also reinforces the importance of holistic development through sports," he said.

The Canon C.E. Tyndale-Biscoe Invitational Football Tournament, named after the founder of the institution, has over the years attracted strong participation from local schools and continues to grow in stature. [KNT]

Ganguly, Harbhajan, Saikia In Draft Electoral Roll Ahead Of BCCI AGM



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Former captain Sourav Ganguly, ex-India spinner Harbhajan Singh, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia and IPL chairman Arun Singh Dhumal were on Saturday confirmed as the representatives of the Full Members of the BCCI, ahead of the board's AGM and general election here on September 28.

The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) named Ganguly, a former BCCI president, as their representative in the AGM to be held at the board's headquarters, while Harbhajan will represent the Punjab Cricket

Association.

Saikia and Dhumal will be representing Assam Cricket Association and Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association respectively.

Similarly, BCCI treasurer Prabhtej Singh Bhatia will represent the Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh while the board's joint secretary Rohan Gauns Dessai will be the nominee for the Goa state body, according to the list released by electoral officer AK Joti on Saturday.

BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla will represent the Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association while Sanjay Naik and Rohan Jaitley were named by the

Mumbai Cricket Association and Delhi and District Cricket Association as their respective representatives.

As per the election schedule, the state associations had a deadline of 8:00pm Friday, September 12, to name their representatives following which the BCCI released the draft electoral roll on Saturday evening.

Submission of objections, if any, against the names in draft electoral roll can be made on September 14 and 15 between 11am and 3pm. After examination of any possible objections and decisions, the release of final electoral roll will be done on

September 19.

The BCCI AGM will have the election of its president as a key agenda as the post has been lying vacant following the exit of Roger Binny earlier this month.

Even though the election is supposed to take place for all key posts in the board, it is effectively only for one position as the others are expected to continue in their roles. Saikia and Bhatia were elected as the secretary and the treasurer in January this year while Dessai was elected as the joint secretary in March.

The date for its AGM was conveyed by the BCCI to the state associations on September 6.

'Players Aware Of Public Sentiment On Playing Pak, Told To Focus On Cricket'

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: The Indian players are aware of the public sentiment against their Asia Cup match against Pakistan in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack but head coach Gautam Gambhir has advised them to focus on the big game in a team meeting, fielding coach Ryan Ten Doeschate said on Saturday.

The Indian government has allowed the national team to play against Pakistan at multi-national events like the World Cup and Asia Cup but has barred any bilateral engagement across sports.

"We obviously are aware of the sentiments and the strong feelings. And Gauti's (Gambhir's nickname) message has just been very professional, about not worrying

about things that are not in our control," Ten Doeschate revealed in the pre-match press conference.

"I have no doubt the players share the compassion and feeling of the vast majority of the Indian public. The Asia Cup was in limbo for a long period of time and we were just waiting," he said.

Gambhir, at an ABP Conclave, had stated that in his personal opinion, there should not be any sporting engagement with the neighbours until terror attacks stopped. The match on Sunday has drawn sharp criticism on social media and there have been calls to boycott the game.

Ten Doeschate said the public mood was discussed in a team meeting where Gambhir asked players to follow the government and BCCI's directive on sporting



ties with Pakistan.

"We didn't think we were going to be coming at one stage. But obviously, you know what the government stance is. Now the team, particularly the players, have to put their sentiments and emotions behind. It's actually something we

addressed in the team meeting today," the Dutch coach revealed.

Often sport has been used as a mark of protest at global events, including the Olympics, and Ten Doeschate was asked if the team would be doing something to register its view.

"I guess the other side of the argument is that you separate sports from politics and people have got different opinions on that. Hopefully, the way we play can represent how we feel about the country," he reasoned.

Asked if the team has been kept insulated from the outside noise, Ten Doeschate said, "...once we knew we were going to be here and playing, we have tried to get on with it. Just trying to be emotionless when approaching the cricket side of things.

"The guys are professional enough now. I'm sure individuals have different levels of feelings on the spectrum of where they feel the whole situation is. But the messaging has been to just focus on the cricket and try to just focus on the one game tomorrow."

Sub-Junior Football Selection Trials On Sept 16 & 17

The J&K Sports Council said Saturday it will conduct open selection trials for raising J&K Football Team (Boys) for Sub-Junior National Football Championship 2025-26. The trials will be held on September 16 and 17 at 3:00 PM onwards at Synthetic Turf Football Field TRC Srinagar and Mini Stadium Parade Ground Jammu.

The trials will be held under the supervision of Selection Committee members selected by the Sports Council.

The selected players will undergo a coaching camp before their participation in the Sub-Junior National Football Championship, which is scheduled to begin from October 16.

Interested footballers must meet the Sub Junior (Boys) criteria:

Born on or after January 1, 2012.

Born on or before December 31, 2013.

"For any queries please feel free to contact following Coach/Mentor: Javed Ahmad Sofi, Football Coach, (Nodal Officer) J&K Sports Council (Kashmir Division) 7006037351. Ricky Kumar, Mentor Football (Jammu Division) 9086310017," the JKSC said in a notification. (Observer News Service)

Jersey Sponsors Will Be Finalised In 15-20 Days: Shukla

BCCI vice president Rajiv Shukla on Saturday said the new jersey sponsor of the Indian cricket team will be finalised in the next two to three weeks, with bids scheduled to close on September 16.

Team India is without a shirt sponsor in the ongoing Asia Cup after the BCCI's deal with online gaming company Dream11, worth Rs 358 crore per year, was cut short following the enactment of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, which banned real-money gaming applications.

The BCCI has since floated a new tender that bars companies involved in real-money gaming, betting, cryptocurrency, or alcoholic products from bidding.

"The tender process has been released and there are a lot of bidders. We will tell you after it's finalised. I think it will be finalised in 15-20 days," said Shukla at an event organised by realtors' apex body CREDAI here.

Asked if any name had emerged as a frontrunner, Shukla added: "No, there is no name yet. There are a lot of bidders. We will tell you after it's finalised." (PTI)

English Cricket Figure Under Probe For Sexual Assault

A prominent personality in English cricket is under police investigation over allegations of drink spiking and sexual assault involving two women.

According to a report in The Daily Telegraph, the man, said to be in his 40s, was interviewed under caution by Scotland Yard in June following a complaint linked to an incident at a pub in south-west London's SW6 district, which includes Fulham and Parsons Green.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is yet to comment.

"Two women are believed to have been spiked with one also allegedly sexually assaulted. A man in his 40s was interviewed under caution on Thursday, 5 June. Enquiries remain ongoing and no arrests have been made at this stage," the Metropolitan Police said in a statement.

The case has emerged at a time when cricket's authorities are under pressure to address misconduct in the game. (PTI)

England Smash T20 Records At South Africa's Expense

Phil Salt's fastest and highest Twenty20 hundred for England launched the third biggest ever men's total and a smashing 146-run win over South Africa on Friday.

Salt's 141 not out and Jos Buttler's 83 propped up England's 304-2, which included 18 sixes and 30 boundaries.

South Africa followed with resolve but was 64-3 after the powerplay and lost captain Aiden Markram for a team-high 41 off 20 in the eighth over when the result became inevitable. The Proteas were all out for 158 in the 17th over.

It was their heaviest T20 loss by runs and England's biggest win by runs.

"That was really good fun," Salt told broadcaster Sky Sports. "A personal milestone but the fact we got 300 and won by such a big margin, I can't have asked for much more."

The three-match series goes to a tiebreaker on Sunday in Nottingham. (AP)

Arsenal Wins 3-0 To Spoil Postecoglou's Debut As NFO Coach

Angel Postecoglou got a harsh reintroduction to the Premier League with new team Nottingham Forest as Arsenal's new signings Martin Zubimendi and Viktor Gyokeres combined to secure a 3-0 win on Saturday.

Zubimendi, the Spain defensive midfielder recruited from Real Sociedad, volleyed home spectacularly from the edge of the area in the 32nd minute to put Arsenal in front before Gyokeres tapped in a cross from Eberechi Eze — another summer signing — to double the lead inside the opening minute of the second half.

Zubimendi headed in the third in the 79th minute to complete a miserable return to English soccer for Postecoglou, the former Tottenham manager who was hired by Forest on Tuesday as a replacement for the fired Nuno Espirito Santo.

Arsenal has won three of its first four games, losing the other to likely title rival Liverpool. (AP)






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