

Vaishno Devi Yatra To Resume Tomorrow

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The pilgrimage to Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district will resume on Wednesday, subject to favourable weather conditions, shrine board said.

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.

"Jai Mata Di...Vaishno Devi Yatra shall resume from September 17, 2025 (Wednesday) subject to favourable weather conditions. Devotees are requested to stay updated through official communication channels," Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) said in a post on X.

The decision to resume the yatra comes two days after a group of pilgrims staged a protest at Katra base camp in support of their | [More on P10](#)

Over 2,200 Fruit Trucks Cleared Via Mughal Road

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Tuesday said that over 2,200 fruit-laden trucks were successfully evacuated through the Mughal Road in the past 24 hours.

Taking note of the distress faced by orchardists due to delays, Garg personally visited Peer Ki Gali along the Mughal Road to review the situation on the ground | [More on P10](#)



LMVs Permitted One-Way on Sep 17

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) has been partially restored at Tharad, Udhampur, where single-lane traffic continues due to uneven road conditions

and intermittent rains. Traffic Police Headquarters Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday said light motor vehicles (LMVs) will be allowed to ply one-way from Srinagar towards | [More on P10](#)

Gadkari Reviews Jammu-Srinagar Highway Status CM Flags Growers' Woes, Seeks Backlog Clearance Before Roadworks

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the status of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44), which has remained shut for heavy vehicles following massive damage caused



by last month's rains and flash floods in Jammu and Kashmir.

Participating virtually in the | [More on P10](#)

Conviction In Narcotics Cases Must Improve: IGP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Inspector General of Police (Kashmir Zone), V.K. Birdi, on Tuesday directed officers to step up night patrolling, strengthen investigations, and maintain strict vigilance on anti-national elements.

Addressing senior officers, including SSPs and DIGs, IGP Birdi emphasized the need to build robust cases to ensure higher conviction rates in terrorism and narcotics-related cases. He also called for enhanced market checking to curb unlawful activities.

The IGP chaired a security review meeting at PCR Kashmir to assess the overall security situation across the Kashmir Zone. The meeting was attended by all Range DIGs, district SSPs of the Kashmir Zone, and other senior officers, who briefed him on the law and order scenario in their respective areas.

During the meeting, Birdi stressed strengthening investigations, | [More on P10](#)

Tourism Revival Post-terror Attack Parliamentary Panel On Commerce Visits Pahalgam

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A delegation of the Parliamentary Committee on Commerce, led by Chairperson Dola Sen, met with tourism stakeholders in Pahalgam on Tuesday to discuss the challenges facing the sector following the terror attack in April this year.

Speaking to reporters after

the meeting, Sen, according to the Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the committee has been visiting various parts of Jammu and Kashmir to assess the ground situation firsthand.

"We are in Pahalgam today after meeting stakeholders in Srinagar yesterday, and tomorrow we will be in Leh to continue our discussions. Our main goal is to | [More on P10](#)

Rotten Meat Sellers In Kashmir Face Jail, Fines, Licence Loss

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Rotten meat sellers in Kashmir are facing harsh legal action under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 and the Food Safety and Standards Act, with authorities treating the offence as a direct crime against public health rather than a routine market violation. Police have begun invoking multiple provisions of the



new penal code that bring both custodial sentences and

financial penalties into play.

A police official said that under the BNS, the sale of meat known to be noxious or unfit for consumption is punishable with imprisonment that may extend to six months along with fine. Where traders are found negligent in allowing such stock to reach consumers, they may be booked under sections dealing with negligent acts likely to | [More on P10](#)

Iltija Mufti Meets LG, Flags Apple Industry Crisis

Observer News Service

Srinagar: PDP leader Iltija Mufti on Tuesday met Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan, urging immediate intervention to address the ongoing crisis in the apple industry caused by the prolonged closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway. She also demanded an interim relief package to compensate



growers for the heavy losses suffered.

Mufti informed the LG about the severe disruption faced by fruit-laden | [More on P10](#)



A NATIONWIDE CELEBRATION OF SEWA (SERVICE), SAMARPAN (DEDICATION) & SANKALP (RESOLVE)

SEWA PARV

17th September, 2025 - 02nd October, 2025

Key Activities

- Cleanliness & Plantation Drives
- Health & Blood Donation Camps
- Awareness Campaigns on Government Schemes
- Art & Cultural Events
- Social Outreach Programs
- Workshops for Vulnerable Groups, Disaster Preparedness

Let's unite for Sewa, Strengthen our resolve, and dedicate ourselves to the progress of the nation!

Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K

@informationprjk | Information & PR, J&K | @diprjk | @dipr_jk



Chronic Illness Deaths Spike In India, Women Affected More: Lancet Study

Press Trust of India

India is among the countries where chances of dying from a chronic disease such as cancer and heart disease have increased among both men and women, even though the rates have shown a decline in four out of every five countries in the last decade, a global analysis published in The Lancet journal shows. Among men and women in India,

women have been affected by a bigger increase in risk compared to men, researchers, led by those from the UK's Imperial College London, said. "Deaths from most causes of chronic disease increased in India, with heart disease and diabetes contributing heavily," they said. The team worked with researchers from the World Health Organization (WHO), among others, to estimate the risk of dying from chronic diseases for 185 countries

and territories. "From 2010 to 2019, the probability of dying from an NCD (non-communicable disease) between birth and 80 years of age decreased in 152 (82 per cent) of 185 countries for females and in 147 (79 per cent) countries for males; it increased in the remaining 33 (18 per cent) countries for females and 38 (21 per cent) countries for males," the authors wrote. They added, "Among the largest

countries — regions other than high-income western countries — non-communicable diseases mortality declined for both sexes in China, Egypt, Nigeria, Russia and Brazil, and increased for both sexes in India and Papua New Guinea." Across most countries, deaths due to cancer and heart disease — including heart attacks and strokes — had reduced, which were the biggest contributors to declines in death rates from chronic disease, the researchers said.

However, increase in deaths from dementia, neuropsychiatric conditions such as alcohol use disorder, and cancers of the pancreas and liver counteracted gains, they said. The team said that nations have pledged and planned to improve treatment of chronic diseases, including the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal of reducing premature mortality from the conditions by one-third by 2030.

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Regular 2012 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Neelofar Rasool
S/o: Ghulam Rasool Malik
Roll No: 404269
Year & Session 2012 Regular



Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

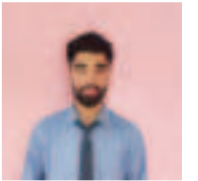
Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Board Of School Education
Sub Office Bandipora

fko

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 113006102 Session: Annual Regular Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by self - error against my name as Akeel Hussain instead of Akeel Hussain Dar



Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Akeel Hussain Dar
Father's name: Ashiq Hussain Dar
Mother's Name: Kulsuma Begum
DOB: 10-04-2008
Residence: Rakhi Asham Nowgam Sumbal Bandipora
Mobile no: 8825056292

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that we have changed the title of our firm from M/S Changa Timber Traders prop. Tariq Ahmad Changa to M/S Urban Groove. In this regard if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Tariq Ahmad Changa
7889489678

IKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Particulars has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as given below

	Name	Father's Name	DOB
Wrong	Mateena Jan	Manzoor Ahmad Shah	25/04/2000
Correct	Shazia Yaqoob	Mohd Yaqoob Ganie	25/04/1999

Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned adhaar centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shazia Yaqoob
D/o Mohd Yaqoob Ganie
R/o Awneera Shopian

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my Adhaar card as Khalida Banoo While my correct name is Khalida Nazir. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Khalida Nazir
W/O Mehmood Ahmad Ganie fko
R/O Reshnagri Distt Shopian

fko_r

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Haji Ghulam Hassan Malik S/o Haji Mohammad Abdullah Malik, R/o Sonim, Kunzer, Baramulla - 193101, am applying for a Wholesale Fertilizer License under the name Malik Fertilizers and Pesticides. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may report the same to the Joint Director, Agriculture Extension, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, within one week.

rskt

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. Application of Naseema Begum w/o Abdul Hameed Sheer Gojree R/o pattan for issuance of dependent certificate..

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT is inform to general public that applicants husband dependent certificate is under process in this office in this matter report was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants husband namely Abdul Hameed Sheer Gojree s/o Mohd Ismail sheer Gojree R/o Pattan died on 10/01/2025 and dependents of deceased are as under..

Name	Age (In Years)	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
Naseema Begum	55	Wife	Widowed
Sumaira Hamid	25	Daughter	Unmarried
Zubair Ahmad	24	Son	Unmarried
Sheer Gojree			
Adil Hamid Sheer Gojree	22	Son	Unmarried
Umar Hamid Sheer Gojree	21	Son	Unmarried

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

FKO

SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Government of Jammu & Kashmir DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE (G&P) KASHMIR

Tel-0194-2474234 Fax -2482032 - email - kash.flori@jk.gov.in

GIST of e- Tender Notice No.34 of 2025
Dated:- 16/09/2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory, J&K, bids are invited (In double cover system) from the Registered Contractors/Firms/ Bidders with J&K UT/Central Govt., CPWD for the following work:-

S. No.	Name of Work/Contract	Reserve Bid (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) @ 10 % (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender Documents in shape of Demand Draft (Non-Refundable) (In Rs.)	Validity of Contract
01.	Outsourcing of Entry Ticketing System of Mughal Garden Nishat Srinagar	3,81,70,000.00	38,17,000.00	3,000/-	One (1) year from the date of award of contract

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, BOQ (Bill of quantity) terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	16.09.2025 from 03:00 PM to 06.10.2025 up to 02:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	16.09.2025 from 03:30 PM
3.	Bid submission End date	06.10.2025 up to 02:00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	09.10.2025 at 02:00 PM

DIPK-6295/25
DATED: 16-09-2025

Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
(Member Secretary)
Floriculture Department,
Kashmir.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate as I have not received it so far. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Fatima Begum (DOB: 04-09-1968)
D/o Ghulam Mohammad Rather
W/o Fayaz Ahmad Ganie
R/o Mulla Shulla

MSL

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Discharge Certificate issued by my Govt Girls Middle School Ratson. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the above mentioned school within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Samia Akhter
D/o Ghulam Ahmad Bhat
R/o Ratsoon Beerwah

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Hafsa Zehra to (new name) Dua Zainab Mir. In future I will be known as my (new name) Dua Zainab Mir. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office Srinagar, within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Syed Sajad Rizvi, son of Syed Wali Rizvi, resident of Shri Bhat Lal Bazaar, would like to inform that the name of my father has been incorrectly mentioned as Syed Wali Shah in my PAN Card. The correct name of my father is Syed Wali Rizvi.

If anyone has any objection to this correction, they may contact the concerned authorities within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained after this period.

SYED SAJAD RIZVI
S/O SYED WALI RIZVI
R/O SHRI BHAT LAL BAZAAR

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA**
Email: rb-awantipora@k.gov.in

NOT-1/EEA/4333-37 Dated: 15/09/2025

EXTENSION NOTICE

Subject:- 1. Restoration of Awantipora Pulwama road km 1st to 7th by way of Macadamization.
2. Restoration of Pampore Shopian road from kadlabal to kandizal by way of Macadamization.
3. Macadamization of Link Road at Iqra Colony Yachnambal fristbal Pampore near Masjid Sharif Khawja Mohi ud Din Chesti.
4. Restoration of Shar Wahab Road by way of Macadamization.
5. Restoration of national highway Bottling plant via konibal to wuyan Road by way of Macadamization.
6. Restoration of interior road at Bunpora Samboora by way of Macadamization.
7. Upgradation of Khrew Tulhar Road till Culvert and Culvert to Wadejan.
8. Restoration of Bus Stand to SDH Tral Incl. Harkar Mohalla (Town Roads Tral) B.W.O of Macadamization.
9. Restoration of Bus Stand to Dara-UL- Uloom incl. old market (Town Roads Tral) B.W.O of Macadamization.
10. Upgrading/macadamization of road from Arigam main road to Tral main road via fish farm at Tral Pulwama.

Reference:- This office e-NIT NO. 54/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/4106-4116 Dated 08-09-2025
The critical dates for the above noted Works, advertised vide above referred NIT, are hereby extended as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	20-09-2025 up to 4.00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	22-09-2025 at 12.00 P.M

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.

DIPK-6283/25
DATED: 16-09-2025

Sd/- Technical officer

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora.

IDARA FALAH-I-AAM WAQF (IFAW)
H.O: Alamgari Bazar Srinagar 190011 Kashmir India
Phone: 0194 4058203, 8082456634

Idara Falah-i-Aam Waqf (IFAW) Dedicates Two Housing Units to Needy Families

Idara Falah-i-Aam (Wakaf), dedicated two housing units for underprivileged families at Anderkote, District Bandipora, and Devar, District Baramulla. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was jointly done by Mirza Mohammad Mehdi, President Imamia Education & Welfare Trust, Bangalore and Chairman IFAW in presence of Trustees of IFAW, local wellwishers and community leaders.

The constructed houses, each comprising of two rooms, a kitchen and a washroom with running water, electricity, and sanitation, was fully funded by Imamia Education & Welfare Trust, Bangalore. Beneficiaries, previously living in tin sheds, expressed deep gratitude for the dignified homes. The Trust selected the most vulnerable families, including Orphan and single-parent households.

"The inauguration of these houses is more than a milestone; it is the fulfillment of a promise and the dawn of a new life for these families," said the President of Imamia Education & Welfare Trust. IFAW is grateful to our donors and partners whose unwavering support made this achievement possible.

The team IE&WT and IFAW also reviewed ongoing Two housing projects in Bemina, ensuring completion before winter. Sponsors praised the dedicated efforts of the IFAW Chairman and team.

Publicity Wing IFAW

Idarafalahaam@gmail.com | Idarafalahiaamwaqf | Idarafalahiaam

Elderly Kerala Tourist Dies At Srinagar Hotel

Agencies
SRINAGAR: A 72-year-old male tourist from Kerala was declared dead at SMHS Hospital in Srinagar on Tuesday after being found unconscious at a hotel in Rajbagh area of the city. Officials said that the tourist, identified as PJ Joseph, son of Josipah, a native of Kerala, was discovered unconscious at a private hotel located in Rajbagh Kursoo. He was immediately shifted to SMHS Hospital by hotel staff and locals, where doctors declared him brought dead. Hospital sources confirmed that Joseph was brought without any vital signs and despite efforts, he could not be revived.

Doctors have listed the cause of death as yet to be ascertained pending medico-legal procedures. Police have taken cognizance of the matter and initiated proceedings under section 174 of the CrPC, first-aid and immediate response facilities. Authorities have urged tourists, particularly elderly travelers, to undergo routine health checkups before embarking on long journeys to high-altitude destinations like Kashmir, where weather and travel exertion can take a toll. As of now, police are awaiting the post-mortem report to ascertain the exact cause of death. [KNT]

DLSA Holds Awareness Prog On Juvenile Justice Act

Observer news Service

SRINAGAR: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar in collaboration with School Education Department Tuesday conducted an awareness programme on 'Juvenile Justice Act and Drug Abuse' at Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School Jawaharnagar Srinagar. The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Chairman DLSA (Principal District and Sessions Judge) Srinagar, and was conducted under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar. Students, Teaching Staff and PLVs of DLSA Srinagar attended the programme. Session on the Juvenile Justice Act was conducted by Zeenat Nazir, Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel Srinagar. Addressing the participants, she defined the role of Child

Welfare Committees, District Child Protection Units and Juvenile Justice Boards and other stakeholders. In her speech she gave a detailed description about the provisions of Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and also discussed the terms and conditions of the Juvenile Justice delivery system, especially for the Children who are in conflict with law. Furthermore, she highlighted the role of DLSA in providing Legal aid to the juveniles. Asstt. Legal Aid Defence Counsel Srinagar addressed the gathering on drug abuse and sensitized the students about the legal protection available to minors and the harmful impact of substance abuse. Speaking on the occasion, she said that drug abuse is a great challenge for the society to tackle, as it has engulfed the whole generation. It is need of the hour to have a strict watch on the children, so that they will not indulge in this menace.

Rana Reviews Measures To Address Water Woes In Habbakadal



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jal Shakti Minister Javed Ahmed Rana on Tuesday convened a meeting with senior officials of the Jal Shakti Department to address the ongoing water supply challenges in Habbakadal Constituency and its adjoining areas. During the meeting, Rana emphasized the need for urgent and sustained interventions to improve water distribution and service delivery. He directed officials to prepare and implement a structured water supply roster aimed at ensuring timely and predictable distribution of water supply to all areas within the constituency. To provide immediate relief in water-stressed areas, the Minister directed to install ten new hand pumps, particularly in localities where piped water supply remains inconsistent. The Minister also underscored

6 RANA DIRECTED OFFICIALS TO PREPARE AND IMPLEMENT A STRUCTURED WATER SUPPLY ROSTER aimed at ensuring timely and predictable distribution of water supply to all areas within the constituency.

the importance of upgrading critical water infrastructure, including ageing pipelines, pump stations, and filtration systems. Rana reaffirmed the Omar Abdullah Government's committed to strengthen water services and infrastructure across Jammu & Kashmir, particularly in urban areas like Habbakadal facing supply constraints. Officials were instructed to identify existing bottlenecks and submit a phase wise plan for infrastructure modernization to ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply system.

The meeting also agreed on the construction of a new water reservoir in Habbakadal, aimed at enhancing storage capacity and bolstering the area's water security. In response to the damage caused by recent floods, the Minister also directed immediate desilting and restoration of the ghats at Nawakadal and Alikadal. During the meeting, MLA Habbakadal, Shamim Firdous conveyed the concerns of the local residents, particularly in light of recurring water shortages and the damage to water infrastructure caused by recent floods.

- 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
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

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

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

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4:50
ZUHR	12:36
ASR	4:53
Magrib	6:42
ISHA	8:02

HIJRI CALENDAR
23 Rabi-ul-Awwal
1447

This Day In History

- 642 - Arab forces under Amr ibn al-'As conquer Alexandria
- 1462 - The Battle of wicino (or Battle of arnowiec) is fought during Thirteen Years' War.
- 1598 - Dutch sailors discover island of Mauritius
- 1644 - French troops occupy Mainz
- 1678 - France & Spain sign Treaties of Nijmegen
- 1778 - 1st treaty between the US & Indian tribes signed (Fort Pitt)
- 1809 - Peace between Sweden and Russia in the Finnish War. The territory to become Finland is ceded to Russia by the Treaty of Fredrikshamn.
- 1862 Battle of Mumfordsville, Kentucky, US Col J Wilder surrenders city
- 1862 - American Civil War: The Allegheny Arsenal explosion results in the single largest civilian disaster during the war; 78 workers killed.
- 1899 - 1st British troops leave Bombay for South Africa
- 1916 - WWI flying ace The Red Baron of the German Luftstreitkräfte, wins his first aerial combat near Cambrai, France
- 1924 - Italy signs treaty of Rapallo
- 1934 - USSR joins League of Nations (Netherlands, Switzerland & Portugal vote no)
- 1939 - German U-29 sinks British aircraft carrier Courageous, 519 die
- 1939 - Soviet Union invades Eastern Poland allowing Germans to advance West, taking 217,000 Poles prisoner, without a formal declaration of war
- 1940 - Adolf Hitler indefinitely postpones Operation Sealion, the planned German invasion of Great Britain
- 1941 - World War II: A decree issued by the Soviet State Committee of Defense, restoring Ysevobuch "Universal compulsory military training of the citizens of the USSR" in the face of the "Great Patriotic War"
- 1943 - World War II: Soviet city of Bryansk is liberated from Nazis.
- 1944 - Dutch begin railroad strike against German occupiers
- 1959 - Transit 1A, 1st navigational satellite launched; failed to orbit
- 1959 - Typhoon kills 2,000 in Japan & Korea
- 1962 - US space officials announce selection of 9 new astronauts
- 1968 - Zond 5 completes circumnavigation of Moon
- 1970 - Jordan launches offensive against guerrilla army
- 1972 - Tanzania troops march in to Uganda
- 1975 - Rollout of 1st space shuttle orbiter Enterprise (OV-101)
- 1976 - Amnesty International receives Erasmus-prize
- 1976 - NASA publicly unveils space shuttle Enterprise in Palmdale, California, named after Star Trek Enterprise with cast attending
- 1978 - Anwar Sadat, Menachem Begin and Jimmy Carter sign the Camp David Accords, frameworks for peace in the Middle East and between Egypt and Israel

From KO Archives

CM Strips Ministers Of Security

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The State Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah has ordered his ministers and senior officers of the administration not to use pilot jeeps, except when they are on tour outside Jammu and Srinagar cities. The Chief Minister also ordered the measures to economise manpower and to reduce inconvenience to general public. The CM's order states there shall be only one escort jeep for ministers and chief secretary while other senior officers shall be given only a PSO and a gunman for their security. "Sirens on official vehicle would not be used henceforth," an official press release said here this evening. The ministers and senior officers have been asked not to use flags within Jammu and Srinagar cities. Only the vehicles of ministers and chief secretary would use red lights. The CM has also directed to ensure smooth flow of traffic in the interest of general public with due regard to security aspect. (Kashmir Observer, September 17, 1998)

Form No 3
(See Regulation -15 (1) (a)/(16)(3))

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT I)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35
Sector-17 A, Chandigarh
Case No. TA/226/2023

Summons under Sub Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

Exh. No: 29055

CANARA BANK VS M/S J.K GOLD JEWELLARY

To:
(1) M/S J.K Gold Jewellery
Alamdar Colony Kanipora Nowgam Srinagar (Through) its Proprietor Khaleel Ahmed Mughal Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir
(2) Khaleel Ahmed Mughal
S/o: Mohammad Shafi Mughal R/o: Gambeer Mohalla Rajouri (Jammu) at Present Alamdar Colony, Kanipora Nowgam, Srinagar

SUMMONS

Whereas, TA/226/2023 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 11.07.2025

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 8639969.65/- (application along with copies of documents etc, annexed).

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

- to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
- to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
- you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
- you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
- you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 24.09.2025 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 16.07.2025

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

Sgr Airport To Celebrate 'Yatri Seva Diwas' Today

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As part of Yatri Seva Diwas, the Officiating Director of Srinagar International Airport, Anil Kumar Gupta, announced on Tuesday that the airport will celebrate the day tomorrow with a host of passenger-focused initiatives aimed at enhancing traveller experience. During a media briefing at the Airport Ceremonial Lounge, Vinod Jeldi, DGM Operations said the airport, under the motto "Suraksha Sahit Seva", is organizing a special program in line with government guidelines to improve passenger facilitation. Gupta said this year's celebration will feature cultural programs, quizzes and painting competitions with a patriotic theme, highlighting the spirit of the day. "Passengers arriving at the airport will be welcomed with gestures of hospitality, while health camps, blood donation drives and awareness initiatives will also be



organized," he said. He added that a tree plantation drive will be conducted with participation from local dignitaries and senior citizens. "Photo booths will be installed at strategic locations for travellers to capture memorable moments. Passenger feedback will be collected to further improve airport services and ensure smoother journeys," Gupta said. He noted that these initiatives reflect AAI's commitment to passenger comfort, safety, and satisfaction, while strengthening the connection between the airport

and the community. He added that the day will also serve as a platform to showcase AAI's ongoing efforts to make Indian airports inclusive, sustainable and traveller-friendly. It is worth mentioning that Yatri Seva Diwas is an annual initiative by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), celebrated on September 17, to enhance passenger experience and reinforce its commitment to traveler-centric services. Srinagar Airport is among several airports across India participating in the observance—(KNO)

Annual Tech Event TechKnow 2025 Concludes At DPS Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 12th edition of Encash Mahindra TechKnow 2025, the annual technology festival of Delhi Public School (DPS) Srinagar, concluded on Tuesday with wide participation and innovative showcases. Organized by CyberCrew, the school's technology club, the two-day event brought together over 330 students from 30 schools across the Valley. The festival featured hands-on workshops on Artificial Intelligence, App Development, Robotics, Programming, Web Development, Graphic Design, Game Development, Digital Marketing, and Video Editing. Each session blended presentations, practical demonstrations, and DIY activities, encouraging peer-to-peer learning. The closing ceremony was graced by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who served as Chief Guest, alongside SKUAST-K Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganaie. A key highlight was the unveiling of a humanoid robot, Shafat, built in the ATAL Robotics Lab of DPS Srinagar under the mentorship of Mr. Shafat Majeed Lone. The humanoid delivered an opening address, underscoring the enduring importance of human creativity in the age of machines.



The Chief Minister also inaugurated the school's newly built Indoor Stadium and Learning Resource Centre, visited workshops, and interacted with participants. In an interview with Radio DPS, he emphasized the need for ethical use of artificial intelligence and praised DPS Srinagar for including government schools in the event. "By opening its doors, the school is contributing not just to its students, but to the wider community," he remarked. The Principal, in her address, highlighted how the festival fosters teamwork, collaboration, problem-solving, and confidence among students. The Chairman stressed the need for private schools to support government institutions to ensure inclusivity

and growth. Teachers accompanying the students lauded the event's organization. Tahir Javid of MEI Pampore said the festival gave students "a chance to explore new technical skills in an enjoyable way," while a teacher from Radiant Public School praised the "exceptional teamwork and leadership of DPS Srinagar students." Qurat ul Ain of Govt. Middle School Ferozpora, Bandipora, called it "a fulfilling and joyous experience that deepened students' interest in digital innovation." Students also reflected positively, with one from Shemstar International School, Qazigund, saying the video editing workshop inspired them to pursue further learning in film and VFX.

Brazil's Lula Defies Trump 'Democracy Not On Table'

Associated Press

Brasilia—Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on Sunday pushed back against a 50 per cent tariff on Brazilian imported goods to the United States, arguing that it was "political" and "illogical."

Lula said in a New York Times op-ed that his government is open to negotiating anything that can bring mutual benefits. "But Brazil's democracy and sovereignty are

The trial came to an end on

Thursday after a panel of Supreme Court justices ruled that Bolsonaro had attempted a coup after his 2022 electoral defeat to Lula, sparking fears of further US measures against Brazil.

not on the table," he said.

US President Donald Trump imposed the tariff on Brazil in July, citing what he called a "witch hunt" against former President Jair Bolsonaro, who at the time stood accused of trying to illegally hang onto power.

The trial came to an end on Thursday after a panel of Supreme Court justices ruled that Bolsonaro had attempted a coup after his 2022 electoral defeat to Lula, sparking fears of further US measures against Brazil.

Lula said he was proud of the Supreme Court for its "historic decision" which safeguards Brazil's institu-

tions, the democratic rule of law and is not a "witch hunt."

"(The ruling) followed months of investigations that uncovered plans to assassinate me, the vice president and a Supreme Court justice," Lula said.

Lula added that the tariff increase was "not only misguided but illogical," citing the surplus of USD 410 billion in bilateral trade in goods and services the US has accumulated over the past 15 years.

The op-ed is a sign that Brazil is bracing for more possible sanctions after the Supreme Court's decision.

After Thursday's ruling, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio posted on X that Trump's government "will respond accordingly."

Brazil's Foreign Ministry called Rubio's comments an inappropriate threat that wouldn't intimidate the government, saying the country's judiciary is independent and that Bolsonaro was granted due process.

Bolsonaro on Sunday briefly left his home in Brasilia where he is under house arrest to undergo a medical procedure at a nearby hospital, his first public appearance since Thursday's ruling.

Escorted by police, Bolsonaro went to the DF Star hospital in Brazil's capital in the morning for procedures related to skin lesions—a temporary release granted by Justice Alexandre de Moraes on Sep 8.

He was later discharged, doctors from the hospital said in a statement. Medical staff removed eight skin lesions that will be sent for analysis to establish a definitive diagnosis and assess the need for further treatment.

The 70-year-old far-right politician was placed under house arrest in early August, after de Moraes said that Bolsonaro had violated precautionary measures imposed on him in the context of the coup trial. He had already been wearing an ankle monitor.



UN Inquiry: Israel Committing Genocide in Gaza

Associated Press

New York: In its most damning conclusion yet, a United Nations independent inquiry has found that Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza and that senior leaders, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, incited the crimes.

The 72-page report, released by the UN Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry, marks the first time a UN body has directly accused Israel of genocide—calling it "the most authoritative UN conclusion to date."

The commission determined that Israel's actions since the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack—including mass killings, forced displacement, starvation, and the destruction of essential infrastructure—met four of the five acts defined as genocide under international law. It further cited statements by Netanyahu, President Isaac Herzog, and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant as "direct evidence of genocidal intent."

"Genocide is happening in Gaza and it continues," said Navi Pillay, chair of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI) on Gaza. "We have identified three people in this report—Prime Minister Netanyahu, former Defense Minister Gallant and the President of Israel—whose statements inciting genocide have been recorded," she continued.

According to Gaza's health authorities, nearly 65,000 Palestinians have been killed since the war began, most of them women and children. Israel, which rejects the findings as "false" and "politically motivated," maintains it is acting in self-defense against Hamas and has accused the commission of bias.

In the 72-page report, published today and picked up by major international media outlets, the Commission—established by the UN Human Rights Council (HRC)—found that Israel has "committed acts of genocide" in the Palestinian enclave since October 7, 2023, when Hamas carried

out deadly attacks on Israel and Israel launched its military campaign. These acts include the killing of Palestinians in Gaza, causing them "serious bodily and mental harm," "deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part," and "imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group," according to the report.

The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory was established by the UN Human Rights Council in 2021 to investigate all alleged violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. The three-member expert panel is chaired by Navinethem Pillay, a South African former UN human rights commissioner who was president of the international tribunal on Rwanda's genocide. The other two members are well-known human rights specialists, India's Miloon Kothari and Australia's Chris Sidoti.

Trump Files USD 15 Billion Defamation Lawsuit Against The New York Times

Associated Press

New York—President Donald Trump filed a USD 15 billion defamation lawsuit against The New York Times and four of its journalists on Monday, according to court documents.

The lawsuit filed in US District Court in Florida names several articles and one book written by two of the publication's journalists and published in the lead up to the 2024 election, saying they are "part of a decades-long pattern by the New York Times of intentional and malicious defamation against President Trump."

"Defendants published such statements negligently, with knowledge of the falsity

of the statements, and/or with reckless disregard of their truth or falsity," the lawsuit says.

The New York Times did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment early Tuesday.

In a Truth Social post announcing the lawsuit, Trump accused The New York Times of lying about him and defaming him, saying it has become "a virtual mouthpiece" for the Radical Left Democrat Party.

Trump has gone after other media outlets, including filing a USD 10 billion defamation lawsuit against The Wall Street Journal and media mogul Rupert Murdoch in July after the newspaper published a story reporting on his ties to wealthy financier Jeffrey Epstein. (AP)

Efforts On To Divert Water From IWT Rivers To Meet Shortage: Centre

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi—Jal Shakti Minister C R Paatil on Monday said the government is making all efforts to divert water from the rivers under the now-suspended Indus Water Treaty to meet shortages in Indian states.

He added that the matter has international implications and therefore he would not speak at length, but assured that "the decision taken by PM Narendra Modi is being implemented with the involvement of the Home Ministry and the Ministry of External Affairs. This will bring a major advantage to the country."

"We are making every possible effort so that very soon this water is diverted, and the states facing scarcity in our country get water.



Farmers there will prosper and people's water problems will be resolved," Paatil said while addressing a session during the Aadhar Infra Confluence 2025.

India suspended the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan after 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam by Pakistani terrorists on April 22.

Speaking on river rejuvenation, Paatil highlighted the achievements of the Namami

Gange programme.

He said that despite nearly 60-70 lakh devotees taking a holy dip during the Kumbh, the river remained clean due to the treatment of wastewater.

"From Haridwar to Bengal, 211 sewage treatment plants are operational. Within the next one to one-and-a-half years, major drains like those in Kanpur and Varanasi will also be fully treated, further improving the quality of Ganga water," he noted.

New York Moves to Ban Addictive Social Media Feeds for Kids

Associated Press

New York—New York's attorney general on Monday proposed regulations for its crackdown on addictive social media feeds for children, including rules for verifying a user's age.

The Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) for Kids Act, passed last year, prohibits social media companies from showing feeds personalized by algorithms to users under 18 unless they have a parent's consent. Instead, feeds on apps like TikTok and Instagram would be limited to posts from accounts young users follow.

The law also bars companies from sending notifications to users under 18 between midnight and 6 a.m.

The proposed rules for implementing the provisions include standards for determining a user's age and parental consent.

"Companies may confirm a user's age using a number of existing methods, as long as the methods are shown to be effective and protect users' data," Attorney General Letitia James' office said.

Options for confirming a user is at least 18, for example, include requesting an uploaded image or verifying a user's email address or phone number to check against other information, the office said.

Users under 18 who want to receive algorithmic feeds and nighttime notifications would have to give the companies permission to request

Companies may confirm a user's age using a number of existing methods, as long as the methods are shown to be effective and protect users' data

consent from a parent.

Supporters of the law said curated feeds built from user data are contributing to a youth mental health crisis by vastly increasing the hours young people spend on social media.

"Children and teenagers are struggling with high rates of anxiety and depression because of addictive features on social media platforms," James said in releasing the rules, which are subject to a 60-day public comment period.

Online age check laws—on the rise in the U.S.—have garnered opposition from groups that advocate for digital privacy and free speech. More than 20 states have passed age verification laws, though many face legal challenges.

The New York attorney general's office noted Instagram and other social media platforms themselves have been implementing various forms of age assurance in recent months.

Chronic Illness Deaths Spike In India, Women Affected More: Lancet Study

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi—India is among the countries where chances of dying from a chronic disease such as cancer and heart disease have increased among both men and women, even though the rates have shown a decline in four out of every five countries in the last decade, a global analysis published in The Lancet journal shows.

Among men and women in India, women have been affected by a bigger increase in risk compared to men, researchers, led by those from the UK's Imperial College London, said.

"Deaths from most causes of chronic disease increased in India, with heart disease and diabetes contributing heavily," they said.

The team worked with researchers from the World Health Organization (WHO), among others, to estimate the risk of dying from chronic diseases for 185 countries and territories.

"From 2010 to 2019, the probability of dying from an NCD (non-communicable disease) between birth and 80 years of age decreased in 152 (82 per cent) of 185 countries

for females and in 147 (79 per cent) countries for males; it increased in the remaining 33 (18 per cent) countries for females and 38 (21 per cent) countries for males," the authors wrote.

They added, "Among the largest countries—regions other than high-income western countries—non-communicable diseases mortality declined for both sexes in China, Egypt, Nigeria, Russia and Brazil, and increased for both sexes in India and Papua New Guinea."

Across most countries, deaths due to cancer and heart disease—including heart attacks and strokes—had reduced, which were the biggest contributors to declines in death rates from chronic disease, the researchers said.

However, increase in deaths from dementia, neuropsychiatric conditions such as alcohol use disorder, and cancers of the pancreas and liver counteracted gains, they said.

The team said that nations have pledged and planned to improve treatment of chronic diseases, including the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal of reducing premature mortality from the conditions by one-third by 2030.

NEWS MAKERS

Taliban Bans Wi-Fi in Afghan Province to 'Prevent Immorality'

Associated Press

Jalalabad: The Taliban leader banned fibre optic internet in an Afghan province to "prevent immorality", a spokesman for the administration said Tuesday.

It's the first time a ban of this kind has been imposed since the Taliban seized power in August 2021, and leaves government offices, the private sector, public institutions, and homes in northern Balkh province without Wi-Fi internet. Mobile internet remains functional, however.

Haji Attaullah Zaid, a provincial government spokesman, said there was no longer cable internet access in Balkh by order of a "complete ban" from the leader Hibatullah Akhundzada. "This measure was taken to prevent immorality, and an alternative will be built within the country for necessities," Zaid told The Associated Press. He gave no further information, including why Balkh was chosen for the ban or if the shutdown would spread to other provinces. One Balkh resident noticed connectivity issues

a few days ago at home and contacted his service provider, which said it was a technical issue that would be resolved.

"Blocking the internet is beyond my comprehension in such an advanced era," said the resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of Taliban reprisals.

He told The Associated Press that he rarely used mobile internet because it was slow and expensive. There were six people in his household, including a student, and they all used and needed Wi-Fi. A fast and stable internet connection was also important for his work, which involved dealing with people and companies located outside Afghanistan.

"If this ban continues, it will not only be detrimental to my business but also to others because all our business is done on the internet," said the resident. "We do business with people in the outside world and maintain relationships through it. I might have to move from Mazar-e-Sharif (the capital of Balkh) to another province because I cannot afford the loss."

Rs 2.4 Crore Cash, Jewellery Seized from Assam Officer's Home

Press Trust Of India

An Assam Civil Service (ACS) officer, arrested for allegedly possessing wealth disproportionate to her income, had amassed assets 400 times more than her known sources of income, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Tuesday.

He said penal measures beyond suspension or dismissal from the job are being pursued to ensure that the officer is held accountable as per law.

ACS officer Nupur Bora was arrested by the CM's Special Vigilance Cell after searches at her residences



led to the recovery of over Rs 92.50 lakh in cash and ornaments worth nearly Rs 1.5 crore on Monday.

Bora was posted as Circle Officer in Goraimari in Kamrup district at the time of her arrest.

"She had amassed wealth 400 times more than her

known sources of income. We think that not just suspension or dismissal from the job would suffice. We have to ensure penal measures through the legal process," Sarma told reporters on the sidelines of a programme in Baksa district.

Several others were also

involved, and they are being questioned, the chief minister said.

"It is my request to the public to be vigilant and inform us if any official asks for bribes," he added.

Sarma said Bora had been under surveillance for the last six months when she had authorised an illegal land transfer deal while posted as Circle Officer in Barpeta, for which she was shifted out of the district later.

Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent of Police, CM's Special Vigilance Cell, Rosie Kalita, said in Guwahati that Bora has been arrested on the basis of a preliminary inquiry.

Highway Blockade Deepens Crisis for Apple Growers: Tarigami

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam, M. Y. Tarigami, on Tuesday said the prolonged closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway has pushed Kashmir's apple industry into crisis, compounding the destruction caused by the recent floods.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, Tarigami said September's devastating floods caused heavy losses to lives, property, and standing crops across J&K.



"Despite repeated assurances by the National Highway Authorities, the highway remains uncertain at a time when apple produce must urgently reach markets outside the Valley," he said, urging the Centre to ensure hassle-free passage for fruit trucks.

He added that intermittent rains had damaged orchards, with leaves and apples falling prematurely. "SKUAST should have guided growers with timely advice on preventive measures," he noted.

Tarigami criticized the government for ignoring the recommendations of the Dr. Swaminathan Commission,

pointing out that apple growers in J&K, Himachal, and Uttarakhnad remain outside the ambit of Minimum Support Price (MSP). He further said that despite the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) in 2016, apple-Kashmir's main crop—has not been covered, while insurance companies like Reliance, IFFCO, Bajaj, and AIC continue to earn huge premiums without extending support to growers.

He demanded re-introduction of the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) so that rotten apples could be procured for juice and jam production. "If the Centre fails, the UT administration must fund it under the CAPEX Budget," he said.

Tarigami also flagged the acute shortage of cold storage facilities in the Valley, despite tall claims of land availability for the purpose.

"The government cannot remain indifferent. Protecting horticulture means protecting livelihoods. Relief must be announced for flood victims and apple growers who have suffered immensely due to floods, weather vagaries, and the highway blockade," he stressed.

Kashmir's Apple Season Turns Sour

Freight Costs Triple, Boxes Rot In Mandis

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The air inside Soppore fruit mandi is heavy, not with the usual chatter of auctioneers or the sweet smell of fresh harvest, but with silence and the stench of ripening apples left too long in the sun. Crates are stacked like barricades, truck drivers nap on their bumpers, and growers sit cross-legged on empty wooden boxes, staring at their unsold produce.

"This place should be roaring by now," said Faisal War, who manages transport at the mandi. "Instead, it feels like a graveyard. Our apples are dying a slow death here."

Freight charges for apple consignments have tripled from ₹100 to over ₹350 per box, as transporters divert trucks through the longer, hilly Mughal Road. Thousands of boxes are still lying in the mandi, unable to move.

Growers say the delay is catastrophic. "Delicious apples that sold for ₹1,200 a box are now fetching barely ₹600," said Tajamul Tantry, a seasoned orchardist from Soppore. "American apples meant for Bangladesh export are rotting."

Low shelf-life varieties such as Galla and Kiser have been hit hardest, as prolonged storage and chemical ripening have cut their shelf life nearly in half.

Reyaz Ahmed, a grower from Rafiaband, blamed poor packaging for worsening losses. "The silicon-coated cardboard boxes trap heat when stacked for days, accelerating ripening and spoilage. Much of our produce gets ruined before it even leaves the Valley," he said.

The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, suffered extensive damage at several places, especially between Nashri and Udhampur, in the aftermath of record rainfall on August 26 and 27, leading to its closure for vehicular movement.



THE SILICON-COATED CARDBOARD BOXES TRAP HEAT WHEN STACKED FOR DAYS, accelerating ripening and spoilage. Much of our produce gets ruined before it even leaves the Valley,"

The traffic on the highway was partially restored last week, but hundreds of trucks, including those carrying apples to different markets within and outside Jammu and Kashmir, remained stranded for days, causing extensive damage to the produce.

The Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers-Dealers Union has pegged the losses so far at ₹1,200 crore, but traders fear it could cross ₹5,000 crore if the highway is not cleared soon.

The frustration has spilled into protest. Fruit markets across the Valley remained shut earlier this week, with growers accusing the government of mismanagement and warning that the industry faces its worst-ever crisis.

Truckloads of rotting apples dumped by the roadside have become a grim symbol of the crisis. The images, widely shared on social media, have drawn sharp criticism of the administration and triggered demands for urgent restoration of highway traffic.

For many families, the apple harvest is their single biggest

source of income. "This is not just about a few trucks — it's our year's hard work going to waste," said Tajamul, a grower at Soppore mandi.

Political parties have begun turning up the heat. Former CM Omar Abdullah called the situation "criminal negligence" and urged the Centre to clear the backlog before resuming highway repairs. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti accused the government of "orchestrating the collapse of Kashmir's apple economy."

On Monday, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari chaired a review meeting with officials and J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on the situation. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who joined the meeting virtually, reportedly flagged the massive backlog of fruit trucks and urged that clearance of perishable goods be prioritized before roadworks resume.

But back in the orchards, growers say assurances are no longer enough. Many have already halted plucking for fear of further losses.

MMU Urges Protection Of Waqf Institutions

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), the largest conglomerate of religious organisations in J&K headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq while commenting on the interim order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 has said that while certain provisions have been stayed, the wider constitutional and religious concerns raised by this Act remain unaddressed, leaving the community anxious and dissatisfied.

The MMU stresses that Waqf is not merely about property but about religious trust and service to Allah. Any attempt to dilute Muslim control over these sacred endowments or to erode their historic protection is unacceptable to the community and is against the principles enshrined in the constitution, which grants every religious denomination the right to manage its own religious affairs.

The Court has provided interim partial interim which is a good indication, but they do not go far enough.

Many provisions of the Act remain a cause of grave concern. The abolition of the long-recognized principle of "Waqf by user" threatens centuries-old mosques, shrines, graveyards, and community institutions that have functioned as waqf based on continuous use, even without deeds. The mandatory requirement of a waqf deed disregards historical realities where documents were lost or never existed, and risks stripping these properties of their sacred status. The transfer of survey powers from independent commissioners to district collector's compromises neutrality and gives the state excessive control over religious trusts.

The MMU believes the amendment as a whole is a deliberate move to weaken and seize waqf properties rather than to protect them. Encroachers may be legitimized, while genuine community institutions will suffer. Such measures are discriminatory, for no other religious community is subjected to similar interference in its internal religious management.

The MMU therefore demands that the Supreme Court urgently

take up the matter for final hearing and safeguard the constitutional and religious rights of Muslims. The Act in its present form is concerning and the original protections of the Waqf Act be should be restored. The Government must desist from undermining the sanctity of Waqf and instead work to preserve, protect and develop these endowments for the social and religious welfare of future generations.

Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema Jammu and Kashmir includes Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid, Mufti Azam's Muslim personal law board, Darul Uloom Rahimiyah, Anjuman Shari'ee Shian, Jamiat Ahle Hadith, Karwan-e-Islami, Moulana Masroor Abbas Ansari, Anjuman Himayat-ul-Islam, Jamia Sabeel-ul-Huda Bemina Srinagar, Anjuman Tabligh-ul-Islam, Jamiat Hamdania, Anjuman Ulama-e-Ahnaaf, Darul Uloom Qasmiya, Darul Uloom Bilaliya, Anjuman Nusrat-ul-Islam, Anjuman Mazhar-ul-Haq, Jamiat-ul-Aima wal Ulama, Anjuman Aima wa Mashayekh Kashmir, Darul Uloom Naqshbandiya, Darul Uloom Rashidiya, Ahlul Bait Foundation, Madrasa Kanz-ul-Uloom, Idara Gousia Saribalab, Kahkahi-Hyderia Aishmuqam, Pirwan-e-Wilayat, Auqaf Islami Khirama Sirhama, Bazm-e-Tauheed Ahle Hadith Trust, Anjuman Tanzeem-ul-Makati, Muhammad Yateem Trust, Anjuman Anwar-ul-Islam, Karwan Khatm-e-Nabuwat, Darul Uloom Syed-ul-Mursaleen, Anjuman Ulama wa Aima Masjid, Madrasa Zia-ul-Uloom Poonch, Falah-e-Darain Trust Welfare Society Islamabad, Ashraf-ul-Uloom Hyderpora, Darul Uloom Dawoodiya Batamaloo, Darul Uloom Furqaniya Nowshera, Darul Uloom Darwaziyah Khanayir, Jamiat-ul-Ulama, Siraj-ul-Uloom, Idara Wahdat-ul-Makati, Darul Uloom Imdadiya Natipora, Darul Uloom Jamia-tur-Rashad Awantipora, Khanqah Muradiya Jamia Masjid Kreeeri, Darul Uloom Saut-ul-Quran Gulshanabad, Awami Rahat Center, Imamia Federation Kashmir, Alnoor Trust Bemina, Shaheen Syndicate social Trust, Jamiat Ulema Wa Aima Masjid Jammu and Kashmir, Darul Uloom Syed ul Mursaleen Kulgam and other contemporary religious, milli social, and educational institutions.

CS Reviews Implementation Of Flagship Schemes Of Key Departments



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo convened a high-level meeting to review the progress of flagship schemes being implemented by major departments including Housing & Urban Development (H&UD), Rural Development (RDD), School Education, Social Welfare, Health & Medical Education (H&ME), Revenue, Skill Development (SDD), Industries & Commerce (I&C), and Cooperatives.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Planning Development & Monitoring Department; Administrative Secretaries of the concerned departments; Director General, Planning; Director Planning; and other senior officers.

During the review, the Chief Secretary took a detailed appraisal of both physical and financial progress under each scheme, assessed achievements vis-à-vis the set objectives, and examined timelines for completion.

For Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UD) projects under AMRUT 2.0 including 65 Water Supply Schemes, 3 Sewerage & Septage Management projects, and 22 projects for rejuvenation of water bodies were reviewed.

Progress on preparation of GIS-based master plans for major towns, the Jal Hi Amrit initiative, PMAY-U 2.0, and sanitation projects under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) also came up for discussion.

With respect to the Rural Development Department (RDD) the review covered livelihood generation under Rural Livelihood Mission, with special focus on converting potential groups into "Lakshpati Didis." Progress under SBM-G (Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen) was also discussed, including Solid & Liquid Waste Management, Grey Water Management, construction of IHHLs and Community Sanitary Complexes, Plastic Waste Management, Faecal Sludge Management, and establishment of Gobardhan units.

SKUAST-K, KVK Ganderbal Empower Tribal Farmers With Awareness



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Ganderbal Tuesday organized an Input Distribution Ceremony for tribal farmers of the district here at Naranag.

The initiative was undertaken as part of KVKs mission to uplift tribal farming communities through scientific interventions, capacity building and equitable access to agricultural resources.

Mian Altaf Ahmad Larvi, Member Parliament (Anantnag & Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency) presided over the event as chief guest, while Mian Meher Ali, MLA Kangan was the guest of honour. Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganie, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-K; Prof. Raihana H. Kanth, Director Extension- SKUAST-K & Dr. Ajaz Ahmed Malik, Senior Scientist & Head KVK Ganderbal attended the programme.

Scientists & Supporting Staff of KVK Ganderbal, officials from line departments & members of civil society were also present.

In his keynote address, Mian Altaf commended KVK Ganderbal's efforts at the grassroots level to connect tribal farmers with various government schemes and facilitate the distribution of essential inputs among them. He encouraged the farmers to move beyond subsistence farming and take advantage of training & skill development programmes offered by SKUAST-K for their empowerment.

Mian Mehar applauded the efforts of the KVK Ganderbal for their impactful work in bringing farmer-focused initiatives to far-flung tribal areas.

Prof. Nazir highlighted the role of economic empowerment of tribals through sustainable farming practices. He motivated the farmers to take up Organic Farming practices & focus on climate resilient crops for better returns.

Prof. Raihana shared valuable insights regarding the outreach programmes of SKUAST-K.

Dr. Ajaz gave a comprehensive overview regarding the programme and emphasized that access to modern farming tools & high yielding varieties will play a key role in making tribals self-reliant. He reiterated the commitment of KVK Ganderbal in reaching out to the far-flung areas of Ganderbal for the socio-economic upliftment of farmers.

Sakeena Ito Reviews Power Sector Scenario In Kulgam District



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here and conducted an extensive review of the electricity supply and distribution framework in Kulgam district.

The meeting was attended by MD KPDCCL, Mehmoos Shah; Special Secretary Power Development department; Chief Engineer KPDCCL, SE KPDCCL Bijbehara; Executive Engineer KPDCCL Kulgam; all Assistant Executive Engineers of Kulgam and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Minister took detailed assessment of ground-level challenges, gauge the adequacy of power infrastructure and address consumer grievances, besides measures taken for augmentation of power infrastructure in the district.

Speaking during the meeting, Minister Sakeena expressed serious concern over arbitrary and unjustified hikes in electricity bills of common masses, particu-

larly belonging to lower income families, causing acute distress among households. She stressed upon the officers to ensure reliable power supply, affordability and transparency in billing.

The Minister impressed upon the Chief Engineer KPDCCL to conduct load survey in the district before any hike in power tariffs is made. She also asked the Executive Engineer to submit a detailed report regarding load revisions carried across the district in last three years.

The Minister also asked the officers to organise grievance camps in D.H Pora, Malwan, Khull and other far off areas having maximum disputes related to arbitrary hike in power bills. She also asked them to implement stringent monitoring mechanisms to prevent any arbitrary escalation in electricity charges. She further instructed the PDD officers to conduct thorough audits of billing systems and load sanction to ensure accuracy and fairness in consumer billing practices.

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

Ph. No. 0194-2458118 Email: lrwdsmc@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E- TENDERS

NIET NO: 34 e-Tendering/2025-26
For and on behalf of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors for the following work:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (Non-refundable)	Earnest Money (CDR)	Time of Completion in days/Weeks	Class of Contractor (Civil)	Technical Sanction/ Dated	Head of Account
1.	Upgradation of lane by way of tiling from Farouq Ahmad to Md Abdullah Kondpora Rambagh	Rs. 1.55/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 3100/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	372 Dated: 15-09-2025	CDF
2.	Construction of lane and drain from H/o Adul Rashid Khan to House of Md Khan via House of Gowhar at Zafar Colony Natipora	Rs. 7.03/-	Rs. 300/-	Rs. 14060/-	12 Days Strictly	CEE/ DEE	373 Dated: 15-09-2025	CDF
3.	Upgradation of lane and drain by way of tilling from H/o Gh Nabi Ganie to Graveyard at Chak Rawalpora	Rs. 9.15/-	Rs. 600/-	Rs. 18300/-	12 Days Strictly	CEE/ DEE	374 Dated: 15-09-2025	CDF
4.	Upgradation of lane drain by way of tilling from H/o Ab Gani Tantry to H/o Amir Tantray at Tantray Mohalla Rawalpora	Rs. 1.42/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 2840/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	375 Dated: 15-09-2025	CDF
5.	Upgradation of lane near Masjid Ibrahim Housing Colony Chanapora	Rs. 4.00/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 8000/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	376 Dated: 15-09-2025	CDF
6.	Development of graveyard by way of earth filling and raising level and reconstruction of retaining wall with mesh fencing at Biba Teng Graveyard at Gund Hassi Bhat	Rs. 4.49/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 8980/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	377 Dated: 15-09-2025	CDF
7.	Renovation of Kashmir Government Polytechnic College Gogji Bagh	Rs. 4.82/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 9640/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	378 Dated: 15-09-2025	CDF

* Accord of Administrative Approval: Available
Other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

CRITICAL DATE SHEET	
1. Publish date	15-09-2025
2. Document download date	15-09-2025 06:00 PM To 24-09-2025 04:00 PM
3. Bid submission/uploading date	15-09-2025 06:00 PM To 24-09-2025 04:00 PM
4. Bid Opening date	25-09-2025 11:00 AM
5. Submission of hard copy for successful bidder	26-09-2025 10:00 AM To 04:00 PM

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The Earnest Money (EMD) in respect of the advertised Cost of the work should be 2% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC. EMD 2% of the successful bidder will be discharged when the bidder has signed the Agreement & furnished the required Performance Security.
- The L1 contractor shall have to furnish the performance security @5% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC of the value of contract valid till DLP before issuance of LOA / LOI. In case of L1 failing to provide performance security @5% for the works within 7 days after being notified, his bid shall be cancelled and work shall be executed through other sources U/R at the risk, cost and responsibility of L1.
- In case of abnormally low bids: the successful bidder will have to provide additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the breakup given below pledged to Executive Engineer Left River Works Division SMC Sgr (Tender receiving authority) as per circular issued by J&K Finance department (Codes Division) under No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated: 08-08-2025. Moreover, the additional performance security percentage shall be rounded off the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.

S.No.	Percentage of unbalanced bid via advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional Performance Security
1.	Upto and including 10% below	NIL
2.	>10% upto and including 20% < below project cost Example: if the bid is 12% below project cost, that's 2% below the 10% limit additional security = [0.1% * (12-10)] = 0.2% of bid price.	Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of the bid below 10% of project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
3.	>20% or more below project cost. Example: If the bid is 25% less than project cost, that's 5% below the 20% limit Additional Security = [1%*(0.2% * (25-20))] = 2% of bid price.	Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price

- In Case of Holidays/office happens to be closed on the date of opening of bids. Bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The intending tenderer/bidder should attach sales tax clearance certificate with upto date Validation without which no tenders/bids will be entertained.
- The bid shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer LRWD, SMC at Old Funds office Building Karan Nagar near National School Municipal Park on 25-09-2025 at 11:00 AM.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Bank Receipt/ e- Challan pledged in favour of Chief Accounts Officer SMC in the Municipal Account No: 021601020000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch. Scanned copy of the same with mention of NIET No. & Serial no. to be uploaded along with all other documents. The bidder shall be barred / black list as per law for tender fee in form of Bank Receipt, tender fee receipt and other relevant documents including Bid Security (CDR/FDR/BG) duly filled up, if found with any ambiguity or unattended, correction / overwriting for any work, such tender / bid shall be considered as invalid bid and shall be out rightly rejected and action U/R shall be initiated. The Bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the Bid due date.
- Name of the Bank- Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Branch:- Balgarden, Srinagar
Bank Account No:- 02160102000000007
IFSC Code:- JAKA0GARDEN
MICR Code: 190051008
- Any payment for Tenders fees through online mode shall necessarily mention the following information. (Sender Name, Account No of Sender/Beneficiary, Transaction ID, Reference ID, Transaction date and time, The Remarks should necessarily mention NIET NO, SNO and LRWD). Further use of pencil in writing (NIT No and S. No) on tender fees and EMD must be avoided.

No.SMC/ELRWD/1731-40
Dated: 15-Sep-2025.
DIPK-NB-1963-25
DT: 16/09/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Left River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
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KO VIEW

Pahalgam Tourism Setback

Few sectors reveal the fragility of Kashmir's peace as starkly as tourism. A single incident can undo years of patient work to restore confidence. The April 22 attack in Pahalgam was one such blow. Soon after hotel bookings collapsed, shikaras went empty, and livelihoods tied to the summer season disappeared. National Conference president Dr. Farooq Abdullah summed up the despair when he said that "tourism has suffered a severe setback" and that Kashmiris "depend on it for survival." His words cut to the heart of the matter: in a region where winters shut down activity for half the year, the summer tourist season is the lifeline. True, snow being the novelty for the most Indians brings thousands of visitors but in recent years even snow has become scarce.

On a positive note, Kashmir's story is equally one of resilience. As Dr. Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah both noted, the valley has tried hard to push back against fear. Festivals, golf tournaments, and public campaigns have all been part of an effort to project normalcy. By September, most destinations had reopened. Tourists, especially domestic ones, have begun returning but rather tentatively.

Still, this cycle of disruption and recovery cannot continue indefinitely. As Dr Farooq acknowledged, "these things will continue to occur; we have suffered since 1947." But that does not mean the valley should accept permanent uncertainty. We need stronger infrastructure, better connectivity, and more diversified sources of income. The lessons from states like Kerala are instructive. Through strategic planning and sustained branding, they have made tourism resilient even in the face of floods or global shocks. Kashmir, with its natural beauty and cultural richness, has a stronger starting point. What it needs is a coherent policy that marries security with development, and political stability with economic opportunity.

The NC leader Tanvir Sadiq pointed to apple farmers struggling with distribution, even as tourism falters. But freight trains and improved transport links could cushion shocks by ensuring agriculture does not collapse alongside tourism.

Equally, there is a political dimension that cannot be ignored. Both Dr. Farooq and Omar Abdullah underlined the need for restoring statehood. However, after Pahalgam attack, chances of the early restoration of statehood have further receded. But this doesn't mean we stop focussing on what matters to us: employment, development and, of course, tourism which alone is responsible for the generation of employment.

The people of Kashmir have shown time and again that they are ready to welcome visitors despite adversity. What they now need is for their leaders, in Delhi and Srinagar, to ensure that this welcome is not derailed by every recurring incident. Tourism is not just about hotels and shikaras, it is about livelihood, peace, and hope.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

The Havells Paradox

It's time to rethink how we spend, save, and invest in Kashmir.

Irshad Mushtaq

Kashmiris have long embraced Havells. We spend lakhs every year on the company's essentials; fueling comfort and convenience. Yet when we look closely, the wealth created by our spending flows straight into the pockets of shareholders.

Havells' stock tells a remarkable story. A 1.89 investment in 2001 is today worth 16.13 crore. While we power our homes, someone else's financial future brightens. Why aren't Kashmiris part of this prosperity?

Our culture celebrates grand homes, modern appliances, and the latest tech innovations. Traders and distributors take pride in supplying top-tier brands like Havells. But Deepak Parikh's advice remains striking: our house value should not exceed five times our annual income.

Kashmiris often blur the line between consumption and investment. Every wire laid, every lamp fixed adds comfort but depreciates over time. Land, however, appreciates steadily. Historically, after three decades, land outpaces the built structure in value.

The challenge lies in mindset. Financial literacy isn't just about stock tips or bank balances. It's about making conscious choices: investing in assets that grow, saving for the future, and consuming what truly matters.

We must shift focus from immediate display to long-term well-being. Imagine a Kashmir where prosperity doesn't just light up homes but enriches lives across generations. That future begins when we choose to be owners, not merely consumers.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.



Kashmir's Lost Pages

With rising costs and shifting habits, print newspapers are slowly disappearing from Kashmir, leaving a gap in how the region remembers itself.



Madhat Bin Hashmat

Mornings in Kashmir once had a familiar start. A soft knock at the door, and the newspaper would arrive, sometimes damp from the morning mist. The ink smelled fresh, the pages crisp, and every edition carried the day's stories.

In many homes, reading the newspaper was a ritual, a spark for conversation, and a way to make sense of the world.

Now, that ritual is fading. Print newspapers are disappearing from the doorsteps of Kashmir. It's not happening in a sudden, dramatic moment. There are no headlines screaming "The End of Print." Instead, it's a slow eclipse, almost invisible to most.

The disappearance is gradual, silent, and it carries consequences far deeper than missing news.

This is not just a matter of technology replacing tradition. Across the world, digital platforms have changed the way we consume news. But in Kashmir, where political uncertainty, difficult terrain, and unreliable internet connectivity are part of daily life, the retreat of print carries a unique cost.

For decades, newspapers were more than just news sources here. They were a record of life's small details: the opening of a school in a remote village, the progress of a

local development project, the celebrations of a regional festival, or the poetry of a young writer struggling to be heard. These were stories about us.

Print offered permanence. A story, once printed, could not be edited or deleted. Newspapers became a public archive in Kashmir, where every memory is often contested. They stood as witnesses to our collective history, a history that risks being erased in the digital age where stories disappear into the scroll.

Reading a newspaper was a slow, reflective process. Families gathered around it. Parents discussed editorials, youth read job and exam notices, and children spent time with cartoons and features. These pages fostered discussion, encouraged critical thinking, and connected generations.

Unlike the quick, fragmented consumption of social media, a newspaper invited reflection.

The challenges facing print in Kashmir are real and immediate. Rising costs of paper, printing, and distribution eat into already thin margins. Advertisers, drawn by the promise of wider digital reach, have withdrawn their support. Remote delivery is a logistical nightmare, especially when mountain roads close during winters or heavy rains block access.

Internet penetration is growing, but many villages remain poorly connected. For those places, the absence of newspapers leaves an information void.

Yet, even today, local newspapers persist. Editors and journalists continue to publish, often at personal cost. Their work is driven by dedication rather than profit. They represent an act of defiance, a refusal to let local sto-



Print newspapers are disappearing from the doorsteps of Kashmir. It's not happening in a sudden, dramatic moment. There are no headlines screaming "The End of Print." Instead, it's a slow eclipse, almost invisible to most.

ries disappear.

This phenomenon is not unique to Kashmir. India's biggest national dailies have scaled back print editions or pivoted entirely to digital. But Kashmir's relationship with print is different.

Surveys show readers still trust printed news far more than anything online. The digital space is crowded with unverified information, while newspapers built credibility over decades.

Beyond news, print newspapers nurtured culture. Urdu weeklies provided a platform for poets, writers, and thinkers. They preserved language, heritage, and

public discourse. Losing print means risking the disappearance of this cultural space. An Urdu column in a regional paper was often the only outlet for a young poet to share their voice. The same goes for reports on local environmental issues, tribal matters, or grassroots activism, topics rarely covered by larger outlets.

The way forward requires integration, adaptation, and collective effort. Citizens must support local journalism by subscribing to print editions. Schools should bring newspaper reading back into classrooms to teach analytical thinking. Advertisements need fair distribution. And print and digital must work together, rather than compete.

Community newspapers should receive more attention and support. Publications focused on the specific needs of towns like Shopian or Baramulla have long served as the only reporters of local affairs. Their survival means keeping the voices of the region alive.

Ultimately, the future of print in Kashmir depends on the choices we make. Do we consider newspapers relics of the past? Or do we see them as pillars of democracy, memory, and identity?

The story of print newspapers in Kashmir is far from over. Publishers and journalists continue their work, driven by purpose rather than profit. Their survival depends on readers, institutions, and policymakers coming together. It is time to care before it's too late.

The author is pursuing a Bachelor's in Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry. He can be reached at mmadhat88@gmail.com. Views expressed are personal.

Letter to Editor

Are Kashmir Campuses Falling to Cyberbullying and Distraction?

Kashmir's education system is undergoing a profound transformation as digital technology makes its way into classrooms. In remote villages of the valley, students now access online courses, virtual classrooms, and interactive learning platforms. This shift breaks barriers of distance, offering a flexible, personalized approach to learning that was unthinkable a decade ago.

The promise of digital education lies in its potential to democratize access, develop essential digital skills, and streamline the learning process.

However, the bright prospects of digital education in Kashmir face a serious challenge: the uncontrolled use of smartphones by students during school hours. Reports from across the region show students increasingly distracted by social media apps, messaging platforms, and games during lessons. Rather than enhancing focus, smartphones often derail it, pulling students away from study into the endless scroll of notifications.

A UNESCO report highlights how unequal ac-

cess to technology fuels a growing digital divide. In Srinagar, students may attend virtual classes smoothly, while in Kupwara or Bandipora, poor internet speeds and device shortages leave many stranded. The hope of equal educational opportunity turns hollow when some children remain excluded from this digital revolution.

Health implications are equally troubling. Prolonged screen exposure leads to eye strain, sleep disruption, and poor posture. These issues grow worse in Kashmir, where winters are long and daylight limited, impacting students' well-being and alertness in class.

Beyond distraction and health concerns, smartphones expose students to cyberbullying and privacy risks. In several instances, children have been subjected to harmful content or data breaches, while others face peer harassment in digital spaces.

Schools have begun responding by restricting cellphone use during lessons, creating designated tech zones, and implementing digital citizenship

programs. These steps are necessary but insufficient on their own.

A balanced strategy is crucial, one that integrates technology thoughtfully, offers equal access, and teaches students how to use digital tools responsibly.

Kashmir stands at a pivotal point in its educational journey. Technology's potential to uplift should not be undermined by its unintended consequences. Thoughtful policies, teacher training, and community engagement must shape this digital evolution, ensuring the next generation learns with purpose, not distraction.

Sincerely,

Qazi Tahir
qazitahir22@gmail.com

Maamkakh's Kashmir

Some lives leave their mark through loyalty, devotion, and the steady presence that shapes family, faith, and community. For us, that life was Ghulam Mohammad Tantray, lovingly called Maamkakh.



For our family, Maamkakh remains more than a name. He is a measure of devotion, a guide for living with dignity, and a memory woven into daily life. His story shows that greatness does not require fame. It exists in loyalty, humility, and the steady presence that shapes generations without asking for attention.



Syed Majid Gilani

I remember Maamkakh as the center of our family.

Ghulam Mohammad Tantray came from Manigam, Ganderbal, a village of green fields, flowing streams, and simple lives shaped by rhythm and seasons. He joined our household in Khanqah Moulla, Srinagar, long before my father was born, and he stayed, in one way or another, for decades.

Maamkakh's life unfolded alongside ours: he saw my father grow, then me, and eventually my own children.

Over time, he became part of the fabric of our story, a presence so steady that it felt like a natural part of home itself.

Faith defined him. Rain, snow, or biting cold never kept him from his prayers. Each day, he would walk to the mosque or

shrine with unwavering devotion. During Ramzan, he observed every fast, and he often spent hours at Sufi shrines, reflecting and praying. His faith never demanded recognition. It was a silent compass guiding every action.

Maamkakh's understanding of the world balanced this inner life. Without formal schooling, he stayed aware of events beyond our doorstep.

He had a nose for news, national developments, and even international affairs. For our family, he became a reliable reporter, sharing stories in a calm, deliberate voice that drew laughter, awe, and sometimes disbelief.

Social media today carries endless streams of information. Maamkakh held the same breadth of knowledge without screens, without alerts, yet always with precision and clarity.

He carried dignity in every gesture. He spoke softly, never raised his voice, and treated everyone with respect. His presence alone made people feel comfortable. Children ran to greet him, elders smiled at his steady demeanor, and neighbours treated him with warmth because he lived with honesty and humility.

Simple pleasures brought him joy. Sugary treats, bakery pastries, neatly pressed clothes, and a short walk to visit relatives in Manigam shaped his days.

He earned his living through years of domestic service, yet he was never treated as a servant. Our family always regarded him as one of us, and he embraced that place with loyalty, careful spending, and dedication.

Neatness mattered to Maamkakh. His clothes were always tidy, his personal grooming meticulous, and he carried him-

self with a grace that reflected his inner discipline.

His ties to his birthplace never faded. Every few months, he returned to visit relatives, and each trip refreshed him. He returned with stories, laughter, and news from the village, moving among neighbours with the same calm presence he carried for decades. Though he sometimes stayed with extended relatives, Khanqah Moulla remained home, the place where he was inseparable from family life.

Even as age and illness began to take hold, his essence remained. By the last year of his life, health challenges slowed him, but he never lost the composure, faith, and dignity that had defined him.

On the night of February 8, 2017, he passed away. True to his wishes, his body was taken to Manigam for burial near Jamia Masjid, and countless people attended his namaz-e-janaza, honouring a man whose life had touched generations.

I see him still, in memory and moments. I picture him walking through snow to prayers, sitting with children sharing stories, enjoying a sweet treat, neatly dressed, upright, calm.

His life was simple yet full, humble yet deeply dignified. He carried loyalty, devotion, and respect like second nature, leaving a mark that cannot fade.

Maamkakh bridged three generations. He linked the past to the present, and in his passing, he left a reminder of what truly matters: honesty in work, dedication to family, respect for faith, and care for others.

Every small act — a smile, a story, a prayer — accumulated into a life that transformed our understanding of love, duty, and belonging.

For our family, Maamkakh remains more than a name. He is a measure of devotion, a guide for living with dignity, and a memory woven into daily life. His story shows that greatness does not require fame.

It exists in loyalty, humility, and the steady presence that shapes generations without asking for attention.

— The author is a government officer and storyteller from Kashmir. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com.

The Illusion Trap

Social media's curated lives lure young Kashmiris into risky choices, eroding dignity, values, and hope.

Sabeena Aarizo

Young Kashmiris live between two worlds. One is real, shaped by family, school, and community. The other exists on screens: flawless, curated, intoxicating.

Social media has turned everyday life into a highlight reel.

Designer clothes, luxury holidays, perfect selfies, endless achievements appear effortless and essential.

Every post sets a standard, and every like becomes a measure of worth. Young people scroll, compare, and chase, often without realizing what they are giving up. For girls, the pressure is relentless.

The images of wealth and glamour on Instagram feed insecurities. Some fall into dangerous relationships with married men, seeking financial security or the illusion of a high-status life.

These are compromises in the name of love or ambition.

Emotional exploitation, shattered self-esteem, and lifelong scars follow. The very society that seemed so desirable online can become judgmental and unforgiving offline.

This hunger to belong and to appear successful feeds other risks.

Drug abuse is rising among Kashmiri youth, driven by stress, insecurities, and the constant urge to fit into the lifestyles social media portrays.

Peer pressure, financial temptations, and shortcuts to success lure children away from values and into dangerous patterns. Addiction, depression, and isolation are becoming increasingly common.

For many, social media glamorizes lifestyles but hides the cost.

Guidance and moral grounding are under siege. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) offered advice that is more relevant than ever: "Look at those who have less than you and do not look



at those who have more, lest you should belittle the blessings of Allah you already possess."

Online, every post challenges this wisdom. Screens amplify desire, feeding the belief that happiness comes from possessions, appearances, and validation. Real contentment is eclipsed by curated perfection.

The problem extends beyond the individual. Society, schools, and families contribute to the illusion.

When material success is celebrated above all else, young people are left to fight a world that prizes appearance over integrity.

Parents, educators, and communities must teach that worth is not measured by likes, gifts, or luxury, but by character, effort, and resilience.

Schools must prepare students to handle peer pressure, online deception, and the subtle coercion of social comparison.

Education without moral guidance leaves children vulnerable to exploitation and poor choices.

The solution lies in a joint effort. Parents need to focus on moral and religious education, instilling self-respect and values before shaping career ambitions.

Teachers and schools should emphasize character alongside academics, creating awareness about the dangers of social media, including illicit relationships, addiction, and peer pressure.

Communities can restore the value of modesty, honesty, and integrity by celebrating effort, empathy, and resilience over flashy success.

Social media can be a tool for inspiration if used wisely. Young people must learn to define themselves on their own terms. Identity should not depend on followers, likes, or appearances. True empowerment comes from self-respect, education, and the courage to stand independently.

When children understand that belonging is not the same as approval, they can resist the traps set by false glamour.

The greener grass on the other side is often an illusion. Happiness grows when lives are nurtured with dignity, honesty, and character.

— The author works at the Department of Social Welfare. She can be reached at sabinaaarizo@gmail.com.

Drowning in Data

From endless forwards to breaking news alerts, Kashmiris face a daily flood of information that leaves brains exhausted and anxious.

Abid Hussain Rather

There was a time when knowledge was a silent spark. It warmed the mind, sharpened judgment, and allowed space for reflection.

It was in the stories elders told under walnut trees, in the careful columns of morning newspapers, and in the evening debates over chai.

Today, knowledge has become a torrent. Each morning begins with a digital ambush: news alerts, WhatsApp forwards, social media pings, and promotional messages.

The mind, still folding itself awake, is forced into a dozen simultaneous calculations. By the time the sun rises, mental energy is already spent.

Psychologists call this state "information overload." The mind receives more than it can process, and clarity dissolves. Truth and falsehood collapse into noise. Decision-making slows, anxiety rises, and the very tool meant to expand our minds becomes a cage.

Researchers at the University of California calculate that an average human consumes 34 gigabytes of information each day. That's the equivalent of reading 150,000 books. No mind was built for this.

Neuroscientists remind us that attention, memory, and focus are finite. When these limits are breached, the brain discards or struggles, leaving stress, confusion, and exhaustion in its wake.

The digital deluge is relentless in the valley. A single incident becomes a hundred notifications, a dozen "breaking news" banners, conflicting reports, and viral forwards.

Social media adds layers of interpretation, opinions, and memes. Ordinary viewers and readers are left adrift, unsure which version to trust, which voice to follow.

The young are hardest hit. A student preparing for exams opens YouTube for help and finds an endless chain of tutorials, each promising the ultimate method for success.

Hours vanish, clarity retreats, and anxiety creeps in. Real opportunities slip as the digital tide pulls attention in every direction. Homes, too, feel the strain. Families once



Knowledge was never meant to drown us. As Eliot asked, "Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?" By filtering, prioritizing, and stepping back, Kashmiris can transform the flood of information into light and reflection.

bound by conversation now live in parallel screens. Parents scroll, children stare at glowing rectangles. Dinner tables, once spaces for dialogue, have become silent arenas of reflected light. Connection erodes, replaced by forwarded jokes and shallow commentary.

By examining our digital habits, limiting scrolling, muting unnecessary notifications, and practicing mindful consumption, we can reclaim focus.

Parents guiding children and journalists prioritizing depth over speed can restore balance.

Knowledge was never meant to drown us. As Eliot asked, "Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?"

By filtering, prioritizing, and stepping back, Kashmiris can transform the flood of information into light and reflection.

— The writer can be reached at rather1294@gmail.com.

Stigma A 'Silent Epidemic', Hindering Access To Care For Mental Health: Experts

Press Trust Of India

Stigma and lack of awareness are among the major roadblocks towards making care for mental health conditions accessible to people who require help, experts have said, while underlining that early diagnosis is key to better treatment.

"People hesitate to even acknowledge mental illness," said Dr Neerja Agarwal, a psychologist and the founder of Emoneeds, which provides care to people struggling with mental health problems.

She said it is important to recognise mental illness as a health condition and should be treated as such, not as a personality flaw. "Just as diabetes and blood pressure need lifelong treatment, so too do conditions like schizophrenia or bipolar disorder," Dr Agarwal said.

Dr Deepika Dahima, a scientist at AIIMS, Delhi, also pointed out that stigma remains one of the greatest silent epidemics surrounding mental health in India.

"It is not the illness alone that debilitates individuals, but the shame, secrecy and silence that accompany it. In many households,

a psychiatric diagnosis is still perceived as a threat to family honour, marriage prospects, or social standing. This cultural weight deepens suffering, isolates people, and deters them from seeking timely care," she said.

Dr Agarwal emphasised the need for consistency in following medical advice for treating mental health issues. "Only then can patients live a normal life."

Her Emoneeds colleague, Dr Prerna Chaudhary, spoke of a marriage on the brink of collapse because the woman's parents stopped medication in the days leading up to her marriage. "She suffers from schizophrenia. Her husband left her soon after the wedding, citing her mental illness," the psychologist said.

"While on regular medication and treatment for one-and-a-half years, the woman's condition had been improving. But when her marriage was fixed, her family members discontinued her medicines," said Dr Chaudhary.

Soon after the wedding, her illness resurfaced with symptoms becoming visible, and she was eventually sent back to her parents.

"Schizophrenia requires lifelong treatment. She has now resumed treatment with us," the doctor said.

Dr Agarwal explained that schizophrenia can cause excessive anger, delusions, slow functioning, and poor social skills. It can be trauma-induced or hereditary.

Highlighting the importance of early diagnosis, Dr Jitender Jakhar, a consultant psychiatrist at the Sitaram Bhattia Hospital, said when it comes to mental health, psychiatrists often use the phrase "duration of untreated illness."

"It means the longer someone lives with an untreated mental health condition, the harder it becomes to recover. Just like untreated diabetes can damage organs over time, untreated depression, anxiety, or psychosis can affect the brain, emotions, and daily life," he said.

According to experts, when mental health conditions are identified early, treatment works better. People respond faster, have fewer relapses, and regain their confidence more quickly.

But if the illness goes untreated for years, the consequences are more serious, Dr Jakhar pointed out.

To Whom It May Concern
It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that I, Shabir Ud Din Dar, resident of 241, Nundreshi colony, Bemina Bypass Srinagar have become the legal owner of the property located at 241, Nundreshi colony, Bemina Bypass Srinagar.
The existing electricity connection for the said property, bearing Consumer ID0203010001350, is currently registered in the name of the previous owner Abdul Rashid Mir.
I have applied to the concerned authorities of the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC) for the transfer of the said electricity connection from the name of the previous owner, Abdul Rashid Mir, to my name, Shabir Ud Din Dar.
Any person having any objection in this regard may submit their written objection to the office of the concerned Executive Engineer, within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.
No objection will be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.
Shabir Ud Din Dar S/O Gh Mohi Ud Din Dar
241, Nundreshi colony, Bemina Bypass Srinagar jvd

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG.
FRESH NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (MACADAM WORKS) Dated: 15-09-2025

Fresh NIT No: 50/R&B of 2025-26

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Approved out-lay for Current Financial Year (Rs. in Lacs)	Project Authority	Tender Call
1	Inner links at Bunshooraa.	6.70	300/-	13400/-	20 days	Pot Hole 2025-26	D/C	7.00	R&B Deptt.	3rd
2	Reram to Astan road	9.49	600/-	18980/-	20 days	Pot Hole 2025-26	D/C	8.00	R&B Deptt.	3rd
3	Restoration of Zangam Yall road.	14.23	600/-	28460/-	25 days	Pot Hole 2025-26	D/C/B	12.00	R&B Deptt.	3rd

Position Of AAA:- Accorded
Position of T.S:- Accorded
Position of funds:- committed

1. 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 viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below--

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	15-09-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	16-09-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	16-09-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	24-09-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	25-09-2025 11:00 AM

3. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No., Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender inviting authority)

4. All the bidders must upload Earnest money/Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).

5. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) as per rule-171 (1) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP/maintenance period.

6. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority).

7. The earnest money/ Bid security in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.

8. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

9. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-

- Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Failure of successfully bidder to submit the performance security & Additional Performance Security within the time period (as per JKPWD Engineering Manual 2020) i.e 21 Days from the issuance of latter of acceptance, after that the work will be put to fresh tenders without any notice to the contractor and the EMD will be forfeited.

41. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form), NIT, GFR 2017 & JK PWD Engineering Manual 2020.

42. As per the Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated: 08-07-2025 issued by Finance Department of UT J&K "Every participating supplier/contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder".

No: R&B / Divn./ Tang/4095-4105
DIPK-6275/25 Dated: 16-09-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Tangmarg.

From Office of the Advocate Javid Ahmad Navoo

In the case of

- Nisar Ahmad Malik
- Mohammad Shafi Malik Both Sons of Abdul Jabbar Malik Both Residents of Oam Buran Pattan.
- Shakeel Ahmad Malik S/o Ghulam Hassan Malik.
- Tanveer Ahmad Malik
- Mohammad Rafi Malik (Alias Mudasir) Sons of Ali Mohammad Malik
- Shazia Bano D/o Jabbar Malik
- Mst Shazia Bano Daughter of Abdul Jabbar Malik Residents of Ganjipora Buran Pattan & District Baramulla.
- Fayaz Ahmad Malik S/o Mohammad Malik
- Bilal Ahmad Malik S/o Mohammad Shafi Malik
- Irfan Ahmad Malik S/o Fayaz Ahmad Malik
- Manzoor Ahmad Wani S/o Ghulam Mohammad Wani Residents of Singhpora Tehsil Singhpora District Baramulla.

(Caveators/Applicant's).

Versus

Public At Large.

(Non-Caveators/Non-Applicants)

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

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

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Carmakers Slash Prices up to ₹4.65 Lakh After GST Rate Cut



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Automakers across India have announced sweeping price cuts of up to 4.65 lakh after the government slashed GST on cars from 28% to 18%, a move set to boost festive season sales and make small and mid-size vehicles more affordable for buyers.

From Hyundai to Tata Motors, Mahindra, Maruti Suzuki, Renault, Kia, Toyota, Skoda, and Volkswagen, discounts range from ₹30,000 to ₹4.65 lakh, effective September 22, 2025.

The Indian government recently reduced GST on cars from 28% to 18%, making small and mid-segment vehicles more affordable. Conversely, the GST on luxury cars has risen to 40%. However, with the removal of the additional cess, even premium SUVs and high-end cars are seeing effective price drops.

The timing coincides with India's festive season, a period of peak automobile sales. Industry experts expect stronger demand, particularly in the small car segment. Maruti Suzuki, for instance,

forecasts a 10% growth in this category.

Company-wise Benefits:
Tata Motors: Discounts up to ₹1.55 lakh, with the Nexon receiving the highest cut.

Mahindra: Reductions up to ₹1.56 lakh, led by the XUV 3X0 Diesel.

Skoda: Benefits up to ₹3.30 lakh on the Kodiaq.

Volkswagen: Up to ₹3.26 lakh on the Tiguan R Line.

Toyota: Price cuts up to 3.49 lakh on the Fortuner.

Hyundai: Venue models cheaper by up to ₹1.23 lakh.

Kia: Discounts peak at ₹4.48 lakh on the Carnival.

Why It Matters:

Festive boost: Lower prices align with the biggest sales season.

Small car revival: Affordable pricing may revive mass-market demand.

Accessibility: First-time buyers gain greater access to passenger vehicles.

Commercial edge: Reduced commercial vehicle prices support fleet operators battling high fuel costs.

With GST 2.0 now live, India's auto sector braces for renewed momentum, offering buyers their best deals in years.

Maruti Slashes Car Prices by Up to ₹1.11 Lakh After GST Cut

KO New Desk

SRINAGAR: India's leading carmaker Maruti Suzuki has announced major price cuts across its entire lineup, following the reduction of GST on small cars from 28% to 18%. The new prices, effective September 22, 2025, bring substantial relief to customers, with savings of up to 1.11 lakh on select models.

The biggest beneficiary is Maruti's best-selling hatchback WagonR, with discounts ranging from 50,000 to 64,000 depending on the variant. The WagonR ZXI+ 1.2L ISS AT sees the highest cut of ₹64,000. Popular CNG models like the Tour H3 and WagonR LXI CNG also enjoy price reductions of up to ₹58,000.

Other Maruti cars also get significant slashes. The Alto K10 is now cheaper by up to ₹53,000, while the S-Presso drops by nearly ₹52,000. The Celerio sees up to ₹63,000 off, and the Eco MPV has also become more affordable.

Among the premium models, the Swift gets the biggest reduction of ₹1.06 lakh, while the Ertiga now starts at ₹9.82 lakh. SUVs and crossovers too have seen price cuts — the Brezza now begins at ₹8.39 lakh, the Fronx gets a whopping ₹1.11 lakh reduction, and the Grand Vitara is cheaper by up to ₹68,000.



The premium Invicto MUV also sees a cut of ₹61,000.

With these new prices, Maruti Suzuki reinforces its dominance in the Indian passenger vehicle market, combining affordability, reliability, and after-sales service. Experts suggest that these cuts will significantly boost sales ahead of the festive season, making cars more accessible to middle-class buyers.

Kashmir Apple Prices Nosedive In Jammu Fruit Mandi Amid Supply Chain Disruption

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU- The nearly month-long closure of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway has disrupted the supply chain between the two divisions of the Union Territory, causing apple prices to drop sharply at the Jammu fruit mandi.

With truck consignments delayed by several days, perishable apples are arriving in poor condition, forcing traders to sell at drastically reduced rates. Growers and traders alike are now grappling with heavy financial losses, raising concerns over the future stability of the region's apple trade amid continued transport hurdles.

The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, suffered extensive damage at several places, especially between Nashri and Udhampur, in the aftermath of record rainfall on August 26 and 27, leading to its closure for vehicular movement.

The traffic on the highway was partially restored last week, but hundreds of trucks, including those carrying apples to different markets within and outside Jammu and Kashmir, remained stranded for days, causing extensive damage to the produce.

"It is a difficult period for everyone...the road has done more damage than the rain. Some of the trucks, which had left Kashmir on September 1, are reaching here today (September 16)," Sandeep Mahajan, a trader at Narwal Mandi, the main terminal market for fresh vegetables and fruit in Jammu, told PTL.



I DO NOT THINK IT WILL BE MORE THAN FIVE PER CENT OF WHAT WE HAVE INVESTED. The boxes worth Rs 1,000 are selling at Rs 100 and Rs 200. The apple-laden trucks are taking more than 10 days to reach here,"

He said this is the peak apple season and "the government needs to take corrective measures to minimise the losses".

"What is the survival rate of the perishable goods when a truck takes a fortnight to reach Jammu market from Kashmir?" he said, claiming that 60 per cent of the produce is almost damaged, forcing them to sell the apples at throwaway prices.

He said the introduction of a freight train to carry apples from central Kashmir's Budgam to New Delhi via Jammu cannot be an alternative, given its limited load carriage and non-coverage of all fruit-producing areas, especially south Kashmir.

Randeer Gupta, another trader, said they are staring at the total loss of their money this time.

"I do not think it will be more than five per cent of

what we have invested. The boxes worth Rs 1,000 are selling at Rs 100 and Rs 200. The apple-laden trucks are taking more than 10 days to reach here," he added.

He said the traders have invested a lot of money with the hope of overcoming past losses. "This time, the grower as well as the trader are ruined."

Manik Gupta said he has been trading in the market for five decades, but had never seen such a situation.

"We have seen ups and downs in the past, but this time, it is total destruction. Almost 60 per cent of the crop has been destroyed," he said, adding that given the situation, the growers in Kashmir are reluctant to load their produce because they have suffered huge losses.

He said the goods reaching the Jammu market are of no value.



CM Chairs Review Meeting On Development Of Emerging Tourist Destinations In J&K

Launches J&K Tourism App

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the development of emerging tourist destinations across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob Farooq, MD JKTDC Shreya Singhal, Director Tourism Jammu, representatives from BISAG-N, and other concerned officials, both in person and through virtual mode.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister emphasized the need to initiate site-specific Tourism Development for the identified destinations with focus on Master Plan for each destination. He highlighted the importance of creating dedicated solid and liquid waste management systems to ensure environmentally sustainable tourism. He also underlined the need to have Project Management Unit in place with adequate staff to strengthen institutional mechanism. He expressed satisfaction on the

progress made with the World Bank team for multi-lateral funding of the initiative to bring about sustainable development of new tourist destinations. He called upon Tourism Department to furnish the proposals for cabinet approval in earnest.

The Chief Minister further stressed the importance of establishing multi-tiered co-ordination among tourism authorities, local bodies, line departments and between J&K Government and Government of India to ensure smooth execution of projects as per time lines.

On the occasion, a presentation was given on the tourism potential of emerging destinations and the employment opportunities they could generate for local youth.

The Chief Minister urged the concerned departments to ensure that while developing emerging destinations, a careful balance is maintained between Economy, Ecology, and Equity (the 3E principle).

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also launched the Tourism App which would help tourists and all interested to explore J&K tourism destinations, facilities available and host of other relevant information.

Branding, Packaging Of Kashmir Handicrafts Hold Key To Target Newer Markets

Handicrafts & Handloom Dept organizes day-long workshop for artisans, weavers under RAMP

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, successfully conducted another one-day Capacity Building Programme on Branding and Packaging of famed Kashmir Handicrafts here on Tuesday.

The programme, which was inaugurated by Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam, under the World Bank-aided Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme, of the Government of India.

Deputy Director, Trainings, Mirza Shahid Ali, Senior faculty from Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) were also present on the occasion.

In a press statement issued here today, a spokesman of the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, stated that the session was designed to equip artisans and weavers with practical insights and

strategies for effective product branding and modern packaging, which are the critical components in enhancing market reach and competitiveness in both domestic and international markets. "The training was conducted by experts and faculty from the JKEDI, who shared hands-on guidance, case studies, and design approaches," he added.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 100 trainees, artisans and producers, particularly those engaged in G.I./ODOP/DEH products. The programme aimed to empower grassroots craft producers by introducing them to evolving consumer preferences, branding tools, and value-added packaging techniques.

This initiative is part of a broader series of capacity-building efforts under RAMP scheme, aimed at strengthening MSMEs and the artisan community of Kashmir by improving product positioning and market access.

'Despite Greening In Crop Lands, Forest Vegetation Declining In India'

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA- A study by IIT Kharagpur has revealed that while the country is experiencing significant 'greening' (rise in green cover) in farm lands, India's forest health is steadily declining due to reduced photosynthetic efficiency which measures how effectively a plant converts light energy into chemical energy for growth.

The researchers advocated preservation of indigenous forests to reach India's target of net zero emissions by 2070.

While this green plantation drive is mostly contributed by irrigated crop lands than forests, there is a decrease in vegetation greenness in regions of high carbon uptake, according to the study, led by Prof

Jayanarayanan Kuttippurath and Rahul Kashyap of the Centre for Ocean, River, Atmosphere and Land Sciences at IIT Kharagpur.

The study, "Weakening of forest carbon stocks due to declining Ecosystem Photosynthetic Efficiency under the current and future climate change scenarios in India", emphasises the urgent need for preservation of indigenous forests, sustainable forest management practices and other measures to address the issue.

The key findings of the study were that the photosynthetic efficiency of Indian forests has declined by 5 per cent between 2010-2019 compared to the previous decade (2000-2009) and the decline is most pronounced in pristine forests of the Eastern Himalaya, Western Ghats, and Indo-

Gangetic Plains.

"Forests show low resilience to warming, drying, land and atmospheric aridity, and wildfires, with only 16 per cent exhibiting high integrity," the study noted.

"Much of the decrease in forest health is contributed by global warming. That causes reduced soil moisture and higher air temperatures. Wildfires and landslides are the other natural factors. However, deforestation, mining and other development activities also contribute to the decline in forest health," Kuttippurath, the lead researcher, explained.

The degradation of India's forests poses serious risks to biodiversity, timber production, livelihoods of forest dwellers and long-term climate resilience, the researchers said.

Committee On Public Undertakings Reviews Audit Paras Of I&C Dept

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The Committee on Public Undertakings of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Tuesday held a meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar, to review audit paras pertaining to the Industries & Commerce Department.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Ali Mohammad Sagar and attended by members including Saifullah Mir, Bashir Ahmad Veeri, and Saif Ud Din Bhat.

Also present were Principal Accountant General KP Yadav, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Vikramjit Singh, DG Expenditure Sajad Hussain, Director Handicrafts & Handloom Mussarat Islam, MD SIDCO/SICOP Pradeep Singh, MD JK Cement Vikram K



Gupta, GM SICOP Waseem Bashir Dev, and Director Finance Reyaz Hussain.

The Committee held a detailed discussion on Audit Para 5.3 relating to JK Cements Limited and examined issues such as low capacity utilization of the cement grinding-cum-packing unit at Samba.

At the outset, the Chairman called for a comprehensive report on the alleged failure of JK Cements Limited to fully utilize the Samba

unit and effectively market its cement to private parties and government departments, which had resulted in an operating loss of Rs.1.26 crore during 2017-18.

He instructed that responsibility be fixed on officers for lapses in ensuring smooth operations of the unit and directed that detailed information be submitted regarding account maintenance, asset valuation, and plans for revival of the unit.

H&H Kashmir Organizes CBP On Branding & Packaging Under RAMP

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, the Implementing Agency under the World Bank-supported Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme, Tuesday conducted one-day Capacity Building Programme on Branding and Packaging at the Conference Hall, Exhibition Ground, Srinagar.

This workshop is the 7th in the series of Capacity Building Programmes under RAMP.

The session was designed to equip artisans and weavers with practical insights and strategies for effective product branding and modern packaging, which are critical components in enhancing market reach and competitiveness in both domestic and international markets. Experts and faculty from the Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) Pampore conducted the training, and shared hands-on guidance, case studies, and design approaches.

Over 150 artisans and producers, particularly those engaged in G.I./ODOP/DEH products participated in the event. The programme aimed to empower grassroots craft producers by introducing them to evolving consumer preferences, branding tools, and value-added packaging techniques.

This initiative is part of a broader series of capacity-building efforts under the RAMP scheme aimed at strengthening MSMEs and the artisan community of Kashmir by improving product positioning and market access.

Villages In Jammu Hills Face Land Subsidence Over 3,000 Forced To Leave Homes

Press Trust Of India

Tangar: People living in majestic Pir Panjal and Shivalik ranges in Jammu region built their dream homes believing the mountains would shelter them, but now they are forced to leave their villages which have started "sinking" due to land subsidence caused by heavy rains.

Eleven villages in Ramban, Reasi, Jammu, and Poonch are facing a Uttarakhand-like Joshimath-like sinking crisis since September 5, as cracks have appeared in houses, fertile fields are disappearing and families are fleeing their ancestral homes in fear and uncertainty.

More than 3,000 people have been forced to leave their homes in these villages, officials said.

Land sinking in Ramban district's Tangar village near the Sawalakot hydel project has damaged 22 to 25 houses and a government high school, while 140 more houses across a four-kilometre area are at risk.

"It was a bolt from the blue for us. First, we lived under fear and terror due to the threat of cloudburst, flash floods, and landslides caused by heavy rains at the end of August. This was followed by sudden cracks in our houses and subsequent damage to most homes here," said Ravi Kumar, a resident of Tangar.

Ravi, whose family now lives in a tent fearing house collapse, said they have nowhere to stay. "Winters are coming, and the entire area is unsafe. The village may vanish as the land keeps sinking and cracks widen daily."

Similarly, Anil Kumar, who had entered his new house on January 1, 2024, said they are going to leave the village and shift to a safer place as their house is unsafe due to multiple



cracks in it.

"The house was built with hard-earned money after years of toil and labour. Now the dream house is lost. It can fall any time as the cracks are widening," he said.

Sunil Kumar, an engineer from the village, said that this catastrophe, first seen in Joshimath, is now affecting several villages, including Tangar, with similar land subsidence, cracks, and damage.

Ramban MLA Arjun Singh Raju, Deputy Commissioner Ilyas Khan and other officials visited the site Saturday to assess the damage.

Khan said a vast area is "sinking", with many houses developing cracks. "Schools are closed, and displaced residents are housed in NHPC quarters. The situation is under close

watch."

In the Shivalik range of Ramban district, land subsidence has been displacing hundreds of mountain dwellers for years. On April 26, 2024, Pernote village suffered a major collapse, damaging 58 houses and forcing 500 residents to evacuate. The Sangaldan area in the district also faced land subsidence few years ago.

A grave situation is unfolding in the Pir Panjal and Shivalik ranges as land subsidence devastated several villages like Kalaban of Poonch, Khari, Rah Salyote, and Barimini of Reasi, Panjnara and Badhaal of Rajouri, Piyas of Kishtwar and Jamoda of Samba.

Kalaban village in Mendhar tehsil, near the LoC, faced land subsidence on September 11,

impacting over 1,000 people and damaging over 95 houses, a graveyard, and a mosque. Residents have been relocated to safer shelters.

"Village may disappear as it is sinking. Our homes are buried. What was once a lively nallah is now dry, and the river has vanished. We believe this is the main cause of the land subsidence," said Rafeeq Ahmed, a local resident.

After the subsidence began, joint teams of the Army, SDRF, and police evacuated 700 families and provided tents and ration supplies to them.

The tragedy is seen as man-made, as villagers put blame on poor planning and neglect of ecology.

"Roads lack proper drainage in these fragile hills. Only the Almighty can now save us," said

Rafeeq, living in a tent with six family members.

Another resident Bano Begum called the situation catastrophic, saying "we once fed our families from our homes and land, but now everything has sunk into the nallah."

She added, "Nearly 100 houses and 1,000 kanals of land are affected, and a perennial spring has vanished, likely triggering the disaster."

Yasir, a local labourer, said "we live on the roads, feeding our children in fear. We need relocation and safer plots to rebuild our village. How can we live in terror, fearing the land will swallow us next?"

Minister Javed Rana, who visited the area on Sunday, said "the government has ordered temporary settlements, immediate relief, and a proposal for permanent resettlement for them."

The story is not different in the rest of hamlets facing Joshimath-like situation, which has forced over 3,000 to 3,500 people to abandon their homes.

In Reasi's Sarh and Jamslan, 70 houses were damaged by land sinking, with Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik confirming that all residents have been safely evacuated to relief camps.

Shamsher Din of Jamslan said light cracks appeared days earlier, but overnight the ground sank three-four feet, collapsing their house. "We managed to move to a safer place," he said.

Authorities are consulting geological and mining experts to determine the cause of land subsidence. A team of experts will soon inspect the site, officials said.

Due to the land subsidence, several roads in the area have caved-in, disrupting connectivity. It has also damaged agricultural fields.

Abolish Tribunals If You Can't Give Amenities To Members: SC To Centre

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday attributed the disinclination of former high court judges in taking up post retirement roles in tribunals to the lack of amenities and remarked all such quasi-judicial bodies should be abolished if the Government was unable to mitigate the situation.

A bench comprising Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan flagged the lack of proper facilities as the reason behind the retired judges feeling discouraged.

The apex court said if the Centre couldn't provide the facilities, then it should abolish all the tribunals and send all matters to high courts.

"Why are they applying and appearing for the interview and then not taking charge? One of the reasons is, they then get the reality of it, what it is to be a tribunal member. Some of them, if they are chairpersons, they were former chief justices of high courts, or former judges of the Supreme Court. No facility whatsoever is provided to them. Even for stationary they have to go on requesting. How are you treating the tribunals? The fault lies with you (union). You have created the tribunals," the court said.

The bench went on to tell Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee, "Parliament has passed the Acts. Judicial impact is not taken. No expenditure is given. They have to go on begging- give us stationary, give us housing, give us this, give us car. The most rickety car in your department is given to the Tribunal Chairman. How are you treating the former Chief Justices and Judges? Therefore, they have a reason not to accept it, because

the reality flashes to them."

The top court said the retired judges feel a lot of uncertainty about housing and other amenities after the appointment order.

"We are telling you without casting any aspersions anywhere. Please treat former Chief Justices, former Judges of the High Court who accept your posts with dignity," the bench said.

The top court added, "We don't find fault with the former justices in not joining. Have a committee of different ministries, including the DoPT, to see what are the lapses and loopholes. Have a uniform manner in which you can provide infrastructure and facilities. After all, they are former chief justices and former Judges of the Supreme Court or high courts."

Banerjee assured the bench that he would convey the message to the Centre.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by NGT Bar Association Western Zone relating to the issue of vacancies in the tribunals.

The Centre informed the Apex Court that two ex-judges, who were offered appointments, did not take charge and the appointment process would have to be started afresh, which required time.

While disapproving the conduct of retired judges in declining appointments, the bench said, "This is also not correct on the part of retired high court judges. They don't want to go here and there," the bench said.

The top court also rejected the plea of petitioner that the existing members should be allowed to continue beyond their retirement till the new members were appointed.

The matter has now been posted for December 16. (PTI)

Love swaps shake up two families in UP's Bareilly, end in quiet compromise

Press Trust Of India

In a "love swap" that could rival the plot of a television drama, a man from Bareilly district eloped with his wife's sister. A day later, his brother-in-law ran away with his sister.

But it all ended amicably as the families reached a mutual settlement.

Police said the unusual chain of events unfolded last month in Kamalapur village under Deoranian police station limits. Keshav Kumar (28), married for six years and a father-in-law, fled on August 23 with his 19-year-old sister-in-law Kalpana.

A day later, his wife's brother, Ravindra (22) quietly left home

with Keshav's 19-year-old sister.

The back-to-back elopements left both families shocked and triggered a complaint with Nawabganj police.

"We traced the couples on September 14 and 15," Nawabganj SHO Arun Kumar Srivastava said, adding that the families later met at the station to resolve the matter.

What followed, police said, was a rare moment of reconciliation rather than confrontation. In the presence of community elders, both families agreed to let the couples be and chose not to pursue legal action.

While the case is closed, the episode has become the talk of the town.

CM Tells Telcos To Focus On far-flung Villages

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday reviewed the telecom and digital communications infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, with focus on extending services to far-flung villages, dark zones and railway tunnels.

Abdullah chaired a meeting during which steps to strengthen the communication infrastructure across the union territory were discussed, an official spokesman said.

The meeting discussed the status of ongoing projects and the challenges delaying their execution, he said.

Underlining the significance of connectivity as a bridge to progress, the Chief Minister said robust mobile and internet services are essential for



effective governance, quality education, accessible healthcare, vibrant tourism and overall public welfare.

Officials from BSNL briefed the meeting on the progress of the Amended BharatNet Project (ABP) Phase-III, which aims to deliver high-speed internet to gram panchayats and rural

areas.

The chief minister directed the officials that strict timelines be maintained and stressed the need for priority coverage of uncovered and remote habitations.

Several issues were highlighted which require the intervention of the government for timely completion of projects.

These included early allotment of land for installation of telecom towers and equipment, and the expeditious grant of Right of Way permissions by various departments for the laying of optical fibre cables.

The need for uninterrupted services was also emphasized, with a focus on providing

electricity connections to all gram panchayats to operationalize BharatNet, implementing centralized billing and smart metering systems, and ensuring the availability and functionality of panchayat or alternate government buildings where digital services are to be hosted.

"Digital empowerment of our villages and towns is a cornerstone of inclusive growth. We are committed to ensuring that no part of Jammu and Kashmir remains disconnected, whether it is a remote hamlet, a dark zone, or a railway tunnel," the chief minister said.

He directed BSNL and concerned government departments to work in close coordination, resolve bottlenecks swiftly, and ensure timely delivery of connectivity projects across Jammu and Kashmir.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Over 2,200 Fruit

and ensure the unhindered movement of fruit trucks.

He later inspected the Fruit Mandi at Aglar, Shopian, where he held detailed interactions with fruit growers, traders, transporters, and representatives of the horticulture sector. Garg assured the stakeholders that the administration was committed to prioritizing the movement of apple trucks and maintaining uninterrupted supply of fuel and other essentials to the Valley.

"Coordinated efforts between the civil administration and security agencies have led to the swift clearance of fruit vehicles, bringing much-needed respite to the horticulture community," Garg said.

President of the Fruit Growers & Traders Association, Mohammad Ashraf, thanked the Chief Secretary of J&K for his timely intervention, which he said played a key role in facilitating smooth transportation.

Garg urged stakeholders to strictly follow traffic regulations and adhere to designated timings to maintain smooth movement along the Mughal Road. He also noted that restoration work on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway is being carried out on a war footing to enhance connectivity.

During his visit, Garg was accompanied by Director FCS&CA Owais Ahmad, Deputy Commissioner Shopian Shishir Gupta, SSP Shopian Anayat Ali, SSP Traffic, and senior officials from the district administration, BRO, and traffic departments. Deputy Commissioner Poonch and SSP Poonch also joined the visit to oversee coordination from the other end of the route.

Conviction In Narcotics

developing stronger cases for improved convictions, and establishing effective follow-up mechanisms for successful prosecutions. He

directed officers to intensify area domination, conduct night patrolling in sensitive zones, and maintain strict surveillance on anti-national elements.

Concluding the review, IGP Birdi reaffirmed the J&K Police's commitment to maintaining peace and security in the region and urged officers to ensure transparency, accountability, and timely resolution of cases to safeguard citizens' rights.

Gadkari Reviews

meeting, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah raised concerns over the prolonged closure, stressing that the disruption was severely impacting fruit growers and traders during the peak harvesting season.

"Blacktopping can wait for its turn. But large vehicles, especially 4-axle and 5-axle trucks, cannot be diverted through the Mughal Road. This is the only route available for them, and a huge number of trucks are stranded on the Kashmir side alone. Clearing this backlog is crucial," Omar said.

The chief minister emphasised that while small vehicles could be diverted through alternate routes, NH-44 must remain open for heavy traffic until all stranded vehicles are cleared. He warned that further delays could lead to massive economic losses for growers and traders.

An official spokesman said Gadkari assured the CM that his concerns would be addressed and that clearing the backlog of trucks would be prioritised before resuming blacktopping and repair works.

Abdullah directed the Chief Secretary to ensure lane discipline and proper regulation of traffic on the highway to facilitate smooth clearance.

Meanwhile, Minister for Agriculture Javid Dar on Monday inspected stretches of the highway to assess the situation and briefed the

CM on the road's condition.

LMVs Permitted

Jammu tomorrow, September 17.

LMVs will be permitted from the Navyug Tunnel (Qazigund side) between 6 am and 11 am, subject to fair weather and road clearance. No vehicle movement from Jammu towards Srinagar will be allowed.

The department said slow movement was observed on Tuesday and commuters were urged to maintain lane discipline to prevent further congestion.

For routes connecting Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban, LMVs from Jammu will be allowed from Nagrota between 7 am and 10 am, while vehicles from Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban must cross Nashri Tunnel before 10 am.

Traffic on Mughal Road, Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road, and Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumari road will continue under regulated timings depending on weather conditions and clearance by the concerned agencies, the advisory added.

Vaishno Devi

demand for resumption of the pilgrimage.

Earlier, the shrine board had decided to resume the yatra on September 14 but incessant rains prompted it to extend the suspension period. It had triggered protests by some devotees who also made repeated attempts to break the security cordon and undertake the pilgrimage in violation of the shrine board directive.

Parliamentary Panel

understand the concerns of all stakeholders and prepare a detailed report for submission to the relevant ministries and authorities of both the Union and local governments," she said.

Acknowledging the tragic loss of lives in the recent incident, Sen called it an unfortunate event that has deeply saddened the nation.

"While we share in the grief of the victims' families, we are committed to ensuring that such incidents do not permanently derail tourism and commerce in Jammu and Kashmir," she added.

Sen emphasized that the committee aims to act as a catalyst for the revival of commerce and tourism in the region. "We have a duty to stand with the people of Kashmir. That is why we are on the ground—to see the situation for ourselves. Based on our observations, a time-bound policy will be developed to restore tourist confidence and revive the economy as soon as possible," she said.

Reiterating the delegation's solidarity with the people of the valley, Sen assured that efforts are being made to restore normalcy and encourage tourists to visit Kashmir. "We are confident that with collective efforts, the negative impact on commerce and tourism can be overcome. As people's representatives, we stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in this challenging time," she added.

The Pahalgam meeting included local hoteliers, travel agents, traders, and tourism representatives, who stressed the need for confidence-building measures, improved infrastructure, and safety assurances to revive tourist inflow in the valley. (inputs from KNO)

Rotten Meat Sellers

spread infection. In cases where evidence points to deliberate or malicious sale of contaminated meat, the offence attracts a harsher sentence of up to two years' imprisonment besides monetary penalty.

Investigators have also used the provision relating to vitiating the atmosphere, noting that rotting meat in godowns and shops creates conditions injurious to community health. In instances where an organized network of suppliers and shopkeepers is suspected, charges of

criminal conspiracy have been pressed, making not only retailers but also wholesalers equally liable.

Beyond the criminal sections, the Food Safety and Standards Act provides for monetary penalties running into lakhs of rupees, cancellation of licences and immediate destruction of unsafe stock. Once destroyed under official supervision, the seized meat cannot return to circulation. Repeat offenders may face permanent exclusion from the food trade.

The official added that those accused will not escape with minor fines but could face jail terms, heavy financial loss, loss of licences and long-term reputational damage. [KNT]

Ittija Mufti Meets

trucks stranded for days following floods, landslides, and road closures over the past fortnight. She highlighted that while vehicles carrying steel and livestock are moving, apple consignments continue to face interminable delays.

In a memorandum submitted to the LG, Mufti emphasized the heartbreak caused to growers, with visuals of rotting produce making grim headlines. She pointed out that the narrow Mughal Tunnel has offered little relief for transporting apples out of the valley.

The PDP leader urged the Lieutenant Governor to expedite repair work on the highway and introduce an interim compensation package to support the apple growers. "Horticulture has historically sustained our economy and livelihoods during difficult times. Immediate relief is essential to end the despondency engulfing our growers," she said.

Lt Governor Sinha assured Mufti that steps would be taken to facilitate smooth movement of trucks and mitigate further losses to the apple industry.

Apollo Tyres Bags Team India Sponsorship In A Deal Worth Rs 579 Cr

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Apollo Tyres has been locked in as the new jersey sponsor for the Indian cricket team for a period of two and a half years following the exit of online gaming platform Dream 11, the BCCI announced on Tuesday.

The BCCI was left without a shirt sponsor for the team after the government banned real money gaming platforms including Dream 11 under a new legislation.

The team is currently playing the Asia Cup in Dubai without a title sponsor.

"The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) today announced a landmark partnership with Apollo Tyres, a leader in the global tyre industry, as the new lead Sponsor of Team India," said the BCCI in a statement.

"This marks Apollo Tyres' first-ever foray into India cricket, a strategic move to align with a sport that resonates deeply



with the nation.

"The new partnership, secured after a rigorous bidding process, represents a substantial increase in sponsorship value, signifying the immense and growing commercial appeal of Indian cricket."

It is reliably learnt that the deal, that will run through March

2028, is valued at Rs 579 crore, higher than the Rs 358 crore agreement with Dream 11 for the same duration. The deal with the tyre major covers 121 bilateral games and 21 ICC games.

As per the deal, Apollo Tyres will pay approximately Rs 4.5 crore per match to the BCCI, surpassing Dream 11's earlier pay-

ment of Rs 4 crore per fixture. The base price set by the BCCI was Rs 3.5 crore for bilateral matches Rs 1.5 crore for World Cup games.

"The agreement spans two and a half years concluding in March 2028. Under the terms of the deal, the Apollo Tyres logo will be featured on the jerseys

of the Indian men's and women's national teams across all formats. This partnership succeeds the previous sponsorship held by Dream11," added the BCCI.

Dream 11 shut down its real money games due to the 'Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act 2025'.

The BCCI had released the invitation for Express of Interest for the team's lead sponsor rights earlier this month, confirming that there will be no shirt sponsor for the ongoing Asia Cup.

The Board had barred companies dealing in real money gaming, cryptocurrency, tobacco, and alcohol from the process. Apollo Tyres is a multinational company headquartered in Gurugram. The tyre maker has manufacturing units in India and abroad, including Europe.

The announcement also comes ahead of the BCCI AGM on September 28 when fresh election will be held.

ICC Rejects Pak Demand To Remove Pycroft From Asia Cup

The ICC on Tuesday rejected Pakistan's demand to remove match referee Andy Pycroft from the panel of officials for the ongoing Asia Cup despite the PCB's reported threat of a pullout that would cause heavy financial loss to the country.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had filed a complaint with the ICC alleging that Pycroft asked its captain Salman Ali Agha to shake hands with his Indian counterpart Suryakumar Yadav at the time of toss in their Asia Cup match on Sunday.

"Late last night, ICC had sent a reply to PCB stating that Pycroft won't be removed and their plea has been rejected," an ICC source told PTI.

The 69-year-old Zimbabwean is due to officiate Pakistan's final group stage game against the UAE on Wednesday.

Pakistan cancelled a scheduled pre-match press conference here on Tuesday with team sources saying that it was done to "avoid" questions on the widely reported threat of a pullout. (PTI)

Pakistan Checks In For Training, PCB Awaits Govt Green Light

The top brass of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) were awaiting clearance from Islamabad on Tuesday after the handshake fiasco but their players tried to appear chirpy on the eve of the team's Asia Cup game against UAE.

The day was full of intrigue after the ICC rejected PCB's plea. It is understood that they are still trying to convince the ICC to allow Richie Richardson for the UAE game, which will be a face-saver for PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi.

If Pakistan happens to pull out of the tournament, they will lose around USD 16 million, which is a significant amount for a cricket board not rich as the BCCI.

There was a scheduled press conference in the evening ahead of the UAE game but around an hour and a half before the Pakistan team's arrival for training, it was cancelled.

Amid the buzz that the team might skip the training, the players checked in even as the Indians continued with their gruelling session, which had entered the third hour by then. (PTI)

Jasprit Bumrah Could Be Rested Against Oman In Only Change



The Indian team management is unlikely to tinker with its playing XI for the inconsequential final group league Asia Cup game against Oman except for resting pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah here on Friday.

With the Super Four fixtures lined up on September 21, 24 and 26, followed by the final on September 28, tournament favourites India could end up playing four matches in seven days if they qualify for the title clash.

The team management knows the importance of keeping their premier fast bowler fresh for the demanding stretch ahead.

Whether Bumrah himself wants to skip the game is not known, but the call is expected to be pragmatic as it's better to have him fully charged for the business end of the tournament rather than risking him in a dead rubber.

In that scenario, either Arshdeep Singh or Harshit Rana is likely to step in, with the former having the added incentive of being within touching distance of reaching 100 T20I wickets.

On the batting front, the top and middle order would welcome more time at the crease in match situations. (PTI)

J&K To Play Punjab In 2 Multi-Day Matchups, 1 To Be Held In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K senior men's cricket team will take on Punjab in two multi-day inter-state practice matches, with one to be held in Srinagar at Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium. The other will take place in Punjab, the J&K Cricket Association announced on Tuesday.

The team, led by head coach Ajay Sharma, will assemble on September 19 at SK Stadium and begin practice the next day. They will then play Punjab from September 21 till 24. The second

match will be played in Punjab from September 28 to October 1, with details like stadium yet to be revealed.

The squad list for the games has not been released by JKCA at the time of this report.

The JKCA said the games are being held to "provide adequate match practice" ahead of J&K's Ranji Trophy 2025-26 campaign, which is set to begin on October 15 with a contest against powerhouses Mumbai at Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium in Srinagar.



District Kulgam Carrom Championship 2025-26 Concludes In Quimoh



Observer News Service

KULGAM: The District Kulgam Carrom Championship 2025-26 concluded on Tuesday at Indoor Sports Complex, Quimoh, with participation from carrom players across the district.

The closing ceremony, which was originally scheduled for September 3, had to be postponed due to the recent flood threat in the Kashmir region. The final matches, along with the

prize and certificate distribution, were therefore conducted on Tuesday.

The ceremony was attended by Bashir Ahmad, Manager Indoor Sports Complex Quimoh, and Mehraj Uddin, Hall Incharge. Arif Sultan, Treasurer of J&K Carrom Association, was also present on the occasion.

During the valedictory function, Bashir Ahmad and Arif Sultan distributed medals and certificates among the winners and participants.

The championship was organised by the District Kulgam Carrom Association under the auspices of the J&K Carrom Association, as part of the J&K Sports Council's initiative, "My Youth My Pride."

The event successfully provided a platform for budding carrom players of Kulgam to showcase their skills while promoting indoor sports as a healthy recreational and competitive pursuit.

Kashmir Forward Aazim Scores As India U-17s Win 6-0 In SAFF C'ship

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir-born forward Aazim Parveez Najar was on the scoresheet as India Under-17 men's national team defeated Maldives 6-0 in their opening game of the SAFF U17 Championship on Tuesday at the Racecourse International Stadium in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Coming on as a substitute, Aazim's moment came two minutes later in the 86th minute, scoring a header after a teasing cross from the right to make it 6-0.

Apart from Aazim, two more Kashmiri football players are part of the



23-member Indian squad. Maroof Shafi, a goalkeeper, and Abrar Ali Baba, a midfielder, are also on the team. Aazim plays for Srinagar club Downtown Heroes FC, while Maroof and Abrar are graduates of Sports Council Football

Academy.

The Blue Colts are placed in Group B at the SAFF Championship. They will go up against Maldives, Bhutan and Pakistan. India won the championship last year and are the defending champions.

Srinagar Super Division League 2025-26 Kicks Off At Polo Ground Today

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar Super Division Football League 2025-26 will begin on Wednesday, September 17, at Polo Ground. The league is organised by the District Football Association Srinagar under the "My Youth My Pride" initiative of J&K Sports Council.

The opening clash of the second-tier league will witness IFC Kashmir take on New Hyderya FC at 4:00 PM. In the following days, City Gate FC will face Palapora FC (Sept. 18), Old City United FC will meet Umer Heir FC (Sept. 19) and Haroon FC will play Hamdaniya FC (Sept. 20).



"The league aims to showcase local talent and keep the spirit of football alive in Srinagar. DFA Srinagar invites all fans to come and support their teams," the association said

in a press release. Meanwhile, in the ongoing Srinagar Premier League, Sports Council Football Academy locked horns with Star Kashmir FC at Polo Ground.

Liverpool Includes Isak In Squad For CL Game v Atletico Madrid

AP

LIVERPOOL: Alexander Isak is in contention to make his Liverpool debut against Atletico Madrid in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Liverpool manager Arne Slot confirmed Isak is in the squad for the game at Anfield after not including the striker for Sunday's 1-0 win over Burnley in the Premier League.

Isak was a British record \$170 million deadline day signing from Newcastle earlier this month, but Liverpool fans have had to wait to see the Sweden international, with Slot saying he would slowly integrate the forward into his team.

Speaking ahead of the game against Atletico, Slot said Isak could play some part.

"There is definitely a chance, because he is in the squad," Slot said. "Normally

I would say 99.9% sure, but I can say it's 100% sure he will not play 90 minutes. But he is part of the squad."

Isak had a disrupted offseason in the face of his protracted move to Liverpool. His only game this term was as a late substitute in Sweden's World Cup qualifier against Kosovo last week.

He became one of the most sought-after players in Europe last season after scoring 32 goals for club and country and helping Newcastle win the English League Cup.

He will form part of a new look Liverpool forward line after the defending Premier League champion also spent heavily on France striker Hugo Ekitike and Germany attacker Florian Wirtz.

Curtis Jones is unlikely to play after the midfielder also missed the Burnley game, Slot said.

Liverpool leads the Premier League with four straight wins to start the season.



Gurugram-Six Held in ₹40 Cr Fraud Exploiting MobiKwik App Glitch

Press Trust of India

Gurugram— Six people have been arrested for allegedly defrauding MobiKwik of more than Rs 40 crore by taking advantage of a technical glitch in the digital payments company's mobile app, police said on Tuesday.

The Gurugram police have also frozen 2,500 bank accounts having a total of Rs 8 crore in connection with the case. According to the police, an authorized representative of One MobiKwik Systems Limited filed a complaint alleging that on September 12, certain suspicious transactions were noticed which were done by various MobiKwik registered merchants as well as some unknown persons.

"Normally any user makes payment from his MobiKwik wallet via UPI, or transfers funds by scanning QR code which are credited to MobiKwik registered merchants' accounts only



when customer transaction is successful. But due to a technical glitch, some failed transactions were also being shown as successful in favour of the merchant. "Some registered merchants took undue advantage of this technical glitch and illegally transferred Rs 40,22,32,210 to different bank accounts," the complainant said.

Following the complaint, an FIR was registered on September 13 under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at Sector 53 police station.

After preliminary inves-

tigation, the police arrested six accused on Monday.

The accused were identified as Rehan, resident of Rewasan village in Nuh district, Waqar Yunus, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Ansar, residents of Nuh's Kameda village, Wasim Akram of Nuh's Maroda village and Mohammad Sakil of Utawad village in Palwal district, said the police.

"During interrogation, the accused revealed that due to some technical glitch in the MobiKwik app, all the transactions done through the app were getting com-

pleted successfully irrespective of whether there was any balance in one's bank account or MobiKwik wallet or not. Even after entering the wrong password in the app, the transactions were being completed successfully," a spokesperson of the Gurugram police said.

"The accused committed fraud to earn unfair profits. The bank accounts of about 2,500 people in whose accounts the money was transferred were frozen," said the spokesperson.

The accused were produced on Tuesday in a city court which sent them to judicial custody, police said.

Some people in Nuh also received money in their bank accounts through MobiKwik app, prompting the Nuh police to issue an advisory regarding the same.

The cyber cell of Nuh police with the help of MobiKwik also organized a special camp for such people, officials said.

Centre Garner Rs 3,300 Cr from Disposal of Office Waste

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, Sep 16: The Centre has earned a cumulative revenue of nearly Rs 3,300 crore through the disposal of office waste during the cleanliness campaigns conducted by it across the country since 2021.

A dedicated web portal for the forthcoming fifth edition of the special campaign, aimed at further institutionalising swachhata (cleanliness) and reducing pendency across government offices, was launched on Tuesday by Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh.

Highlighting the achievements of the campaign over the last five years, the minister said that a cumulative revenue of Rs 3,296.71 crore has been generated through the disposal of office waste, which also resulted in the freeing of 696.27 lakh sq ft



of office space across ministries and departments.

In addition, 12.04 lakh cleanliness sites were identified and 137.86 lakh files were closed or weeded out, thereby creating both financial and administrative efficiency, he said.

Calling it a "hallmark of the government that foundational issues have been brought into focus", Singh said the special campaign reflects Prime Minister Na-

the qualitative impact and sustainability of the measures adopted, a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

Weekly reviews will be carried out by all secretaries and nodal officers, and consolidated reports will be submitted to the Cabinet Secretariat and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

V Srinivas, Secretary DARPG, underlined the scale of achievements under the campaign, noting the freeing of 696.27 lakh sq ft of office space and identification of 12.04 lakh cleanliness sites, while stressing the institutionalisation of swachhata as a governance priority.

The campaign's thrust areas will be closely monitored through a single digital platform.

A third-party evaluation will be undertaken from November 15 to 30 to assess



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