

Highway Blockade

5,500 Fruit Trucks Cleared In 2 Days

Petrol Shortage To End Today: Div Com



Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a major relief to growers and residents, the authorities on Friday said that nearly 5,500 fruit-laden trucks have been cleared for movement in the past two days, while the petrol shortage that hit the Valley this week is likely to end by this evening.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, said that restoration work on the

Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, which was blocked by landslides following heavy rains, has been completed to a large extent.

"In the last two days, nearly 5,500 fruit trucks have been allowed to move. Similarly, the movement of vehicles carrying essential commodities is also being allowed," Garg told reporters.

He said that fresh stocks of essentials, including petrol, have | More on P6

JKRTC Trucks Rolled Out to Major Mandis

Agencies

After weeks of anxiety for Kashmir's apple growers, the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) has rolled out 55 trucks to major fruit mandis in Sopore and Shopian after weeks of crisis marked by a shortage of | More on P6

Katra-Banihal, Katra-Budgam Special Trains Rolled Out

Press Trust Of India

Twin trains began a fortnight-long service between Katra-Banihal and Katra-Budgam sections of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link as an alternative to ensure safe and efficient travel for the public following the disruption of traffic due to the | More on P6

RESTORATION WORK ON THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY is in full swing and has been completed to a large extent."

Rotting Apples On Roads Reveal Why Kashmir Needs More Cold Storage

Dumped apples in Kashmir countryside reveal a fragile farm economy struggling with storage gaps

Irshad Mushtaq

Srinagar: On a damp September morning in Shopian, the road leading out of town looked less like a highway and more like a dumping ground.

Crates of discarded apples lay shattered in the mud. Crows picked at the softening skins, while flies buzzed above the rot.



COLD STORAGE DOESN'T COME CHEAP. RENTING SPACE COSTS AROUND

₹180 PER 20KG BOX for three month, manageable for big traders, but crushing for small orchardists. Many large dealers reserve entire chambers in advance, locking out smaller growers.

The smell of fermenting apples carried through the air, sour and heavy, reminding passersby of another wasted season.

For weeks, farmers had been arriving with truckloads of fruit only to discover that markets were already flooded due to disrupted highway. With nowhere to store their harvest, many did what they had done in | More on P6

Over 5,000 Rural Houses In J&K To Get PMAY Support: Minister

Assures Full Crop Insurance Payout, Rs 1.3 Lakh Aid For Damaged Houses

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Union Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday announced a comprehensive relief package for Jammu and Kashmir, promising swift assistance to families and farmers affected by recent floods, landslides and heavy rains in rural areas.

Chouhan said over 5,000 houses damaged in the calamity will be rebuilt under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), with each rural household eligible for 1.30 lakh along with a toilet and 40,000 worth of MGNREGA wages for labour costs.

"Right now, the list that has come to me of houses being damaged is 5,101. After returning



from here, I will approve these houses. Those whose houses are broken will get this amount so that they can reconstruct their houses," he said.

On crop losses, the minister assured that nearly 7,000 insured cultivators will receive full compensation after a proper ground survey. "Any

negligence or irregularity will be an injustice to the affected farmer, and committing this injustice will be a very big sin," he said, adding that a central team has been deployed to work directly with insurance companies.

The package also includes 17,000 per hectare for vegetable losses under the NDRF, and compensation for livestock — 37,000 per milch animal and 32,000 for horses and oxen swept away in the floods.

In a major boost to rural livelihoods, Chouhan announced 76 crore for NGOs and women's self-help groups to revive their activities, and an increase in MGNREGA workdays from 100 to 150 to generate more employment.

"We have | More on P6

'Your Pain Is Our Pain': Chouhan To Jammu Farmers

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday visited flood-hit farms in the Basmati-rich R S Pura border area of Jammu and Kashmir and assured the affected farmers that with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's blessings, the central and state governments would take all necessary steps to restore their livelihoods and bring them out of this disaster.

Thousands of hectares of land in Jammu, particularly in R S Pura area, were badly affected | More on P6

Pahalgam Attack

NIA Court Extends Custody Of 2 Accused

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A special NIA court in Jammu has extended by 45 days the custodial remand of two men accused of harbouring Pakistani terrorists involved in the deadly Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, mostly tourists, on April 22 this year.

Special NIA Judge Sandeep Gandotra, while allowing the extension beyond the stipulated 90-day period, directed the investigating officer to complete the probe at the earliest. The remand and investigation period for Bashir Ahmad Jothat of Baisaran, Pahalgam, and Parvaiz Ahmad of Batkote, Pahalgam, was due to expire on Friday.

"Accordingly, the extension for a period of 45 days is given to the investigating officer... with direction to complete the investigation of the case as | More on P6

JKBOSE 10th,12th Exams Rescheduled

KO WEB DESK

Srinagar: The examinations of Secondary School Examination (Class 10th) and Higher Secondary Examination Part 1st (Class 11th), Session Annual (Private)/Bi-Annual 2025 which were earlier scheduled on 10th of September, 2025 (Wednesday) in the datasheets notified by Jammu and Kashmir Board of | More on P6

Hindi Serves As A Bridge Across Linguistic Backgrounds: LG

Asks Youth To Eliminate Every Trace of Colonial Mindset

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that India will achieve robust development in an atmosphere of peace and stability by fostering a strong collective identity and shared national consciousness. He was speaking at a national seminar on Integration in Indian Languages organised jointly by the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar and Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti.



"With peace and stability, with the spirit of unity and common goals, and by fostering a strong collective identity, India will achieve robust

development," the LG said. Highlighting the country's rich linguistic landscape, Sinha said hundreds of languages and dialects have helped

build a cohesive society that is driving transformation and development. "Despite diverse backgrounds, languages, dialects and ideas, a common national identity and shared consciousness unite us all. We must harness the power of unity in diversity for nation-building," he said.

Sinha stressed that Hindi must continue to serve as an essential bridge connecting people from different linguistic backgrounds, | More on P6

Tribunal Upholds Ban on JKIM, AAC Under UAPA

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Two separate Tribunals of the Delhi High Court, headed by Justice Sachin Datta, have upheld the Union Government's decision to ban the Awami Action Committee (AAC), led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, and the Jammu and Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen (JKIM), headed by Shia cleric Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari, under the

provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA).

Delivering identical orders, Justice Datta held that there was 'ample justification' to declare both organisations as 'unlawful associations' under Section 3(1) of the UAPA. The Tribunal, after independently assessing the material and evidence produced, concluded that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) | More on P6

LEGITIMATE RELIGIOUS PRACTICES undertaken in personal capacity would remain unaffected by the ban."

CBI Nabs JKAS Officer For Rs 20K Bribe

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday arrested a Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officer while allegedly accepting a bribe in Srinagar.

Officials said that the accused has been identified as Sargaraz Ahmad Bhat, currently posted as State Sales Tax Officer at the Silk Factory office in Solina, Srinagar. He was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting an amount of Rs 20,000.

According to sources, the trap was laid following a complaint, and sleuths of the CBI moved swiftly to apprehend the officer inside his office premises. "The officer was taken into custody immediately after the transaction, and the bribe money was recovered from him," an official said.

The CBI has registered a formal case and further investigations are underway to ascertain whether the | More on P6

PARAS HEALTH Presents

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Tropical Rainforests May Be Warming Planet Instead Of Fighting Climate Change: Study

Press Trust Of India

Important for fighting climate change, tropical rainforests could instead be contributing to the planet's warming by releasing vast amounts of carbon dioxide, potentially accelerating a feedback loop, according to a new study. Considered critical in the world's fight against climate change, tropical rainforests are equipped with natural systems to absorb excess carbon and cool the planet. However, a continued warming of the planet is causing soils of these forests to release enormous amounts of carbon dioxide, essentially flipping the script, researchers including those from the US' Chapman University said. The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, looked at the rates of soil respiration in a Puerto Rican rainforest in response to a global warming of 4 degrees Celsius. Findings show "soil respiration rates



were 42-204 per cent higher in (experimentally) warmed (plots) relative to ambient plots, representing some of the highest soil respiration rates reported for any terrestrial ecosystem". "This research shows that as the planet warms, tropical soils may begin to amplify that warming," author Christine Sierra O'Connell, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, said. The study's results position below-

ground ecosystems as critical players in the global climate crisis, the researchers said. The findings are also significant because soils store more carbon than the atmosphere and land plants combined, and soils releasing this carbon could amplify warming globally, they added. "We are witnessing a troubling shift. The very systems we rely on to stabilise

the climate may now be pushing us in the opposite direction," O'Connell said. "If these patterns persist across time and regions, we may be drastically underestimating the extent to which tropical forests will lose carbon and accelerate climate change," the author added. Tropical regions of the world are projected to experience the worst effects of climate change, should current trends in emissions and warming continue. The researchers said that rainforests acting as carbon sources, instead of carbon sinks which absorb more carbon dioxide than they release, could accelerate global warming far faster than previously predicted. This can affect everything from sea-level rise and extreme weather to food security and public health, the team said. Understanding the feedback loop is essential if we are to prevent the worst impacts of a rapidly changing climate, they added.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in Name in data to the Registration Certificate No.JK04A 7507 issued in favour of FAROOQ AHMED BHAT Parentage GHULAM MOHI UD DIN BHAT Whereas an application has been received by one FAROOQ AHMED BHAT Parentage GHULAM MOHI UD DIN BHAT wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as FAYAZ AHMAD BHAT Parentage GHULAM MOHI UD DIN BHAT Which needs to be changed as FAROOQ AHMED BHAT Parentage GHULAM MOHI UD DIN BHAT Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.
 Assistant Regional Transport officer
 Budgam Kashmir
 mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my daughter the name is entered as AFSHANA JAVID while her actual name is IFSHANA JAN. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
 GULSHANA AKHTER
 M/o IFSHANA JAN
 R/o KENOORA KHANSAHIB CELL. 9541345972
 mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my Son the name is entered as TAHA HUSSAIN while his actual name is TAHA HUSSAIN DAR. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
 MOHAMMAD YOUSUF DAR
 F/O TAHA HUSSAIN DAR
 R/o PALLAR BUDGAM
 CELL. 7006677960
 mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohd Mahroof Khan, S/o Allah Ditta Khan, Proprietor of M/s Mohd Mahroof Khan, am the holder of BEE Class Contractor Card bearing Registration No. SE/HYD/1/BEE/43/2020-21, dated 19-08-2020, valid up to 31-03-2026, issued by the Superintendent Engineer, Hydraulic Circle, Jammu. I hereby intend to upgrade the aforesaid Contractor Card from BEE Class to A Class. For the said purpose, I have entered into a partnership with Mr. Zahid Ali Khurram for carrying out the business. Consequently, the name of our firm shall stand changed from "M/s Mohd Mahroof Khan" to "Skylime Engineering Group." Accordingly, if any person has any objection to the aforesaid change, the same may be submitted in writing to the Chief Engineer, Civil Investigation Wing, JKPOC, Bemina, Srinagar within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Mohd Mahroof Khan
 S/O Allah Ditta Khan
 Cell No: 9055021766
 bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

My daughters name has been wrongly written as FARHAT SHOWAT D/O SHOWAAT AHMAD MALIK in her date of Birth certificate while her correct name is FARHAT SHOWKET D/O SHOWKET AHMAD MALIK R/O WAGILLA which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of TEHSILDAR Wagoora/ BDO Wagoora Within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name: SHOWKET AHMAD MALIK
 F/O FARHAT SHOWKET
 R/O WAGILLA
 ZONE ...WAGOORA
 fko

COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS PATTAN

Case File No.	Date of Institution	Date of Order	CNR No.
44/N.I.Act	18.04.2024	15.09.2025	JKBA110002612024

In the case of:
 A.K. Deserts Foods Pattan
 Through its Proprietor
 Kaleemullah Dar
 Son of Abdul Ahad Dar
 R/o, Wangan Payeen, Pattan
 Complainant along with his counsel Adv Mohammad Imran Gajree
 Versus
 1. Tariq Ahmad Bhat
 2. Adil Ismail Bhat (Proprietor of Bhat Traders)
 Sons of Mohammad Ismail Bhat
 Both Residents of Eidgah Mazare Shuhada Road
 near Masjid Ali Sani Srinagar, Tehsil Srinagar
 Accused

In the matter of:- Complaint in terms of Section 138 N.I.Act
 PROCLAMATION UNDER SECTION 82 OF CR.PC
 Coram: Altaf Hussain Khan U.ID No JK00187
 The above captioned complaint under section 138 N.I.Act has been presented before this court by the complainant named above. Same is pending adjudication before this court. You have remained absent despite issuance of notice, as such this court issued warrant against you. The warrant issued against you has been returned unexecuted with the report that you are concealing your presence or in order to avoid execution of warrant. This court satisfied that you are willfully concealing yourself in order to avoid the execution of the warrant issued against you. As such, through this proclamation you are directed/required to appear before this court on before this court 31-09-2025.

Issued today on 15th of September, 2025
 Under the seal of this court
 fko
 Judicial Magistrate
 1st Class Pattan

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Health & Medical Education Department

Civil Secretariat, J&K.

Subject: Compassionate appointment of Mr. Abhishek S/o Late Parshotam Kumar (Ex-Ambulance Driver) R/o VPO Krimachi Udhampur, as MTS, District Cadre Udhampur, under Jammu & Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022.

Reference:
 i. Minutes of the meeting of evaluation committee held on 13.12.2024 in Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar.
 ii. Form No. 130101 dated 12.08.2025 received from Criminal Investigation Department (CID), J&K.

Government Order No. 619-JK(HME) of 2025
 Dated:- 10.09.2025

In exercise of the powers conferred under Clause-3 of Jammu and Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme, 2022 notified vide S.O. 429 dated 6th September, 2022 read with S.O. 397 dated 16th of August, 2024, sanction is, hereby, accorded to the appointment of Mr. Abhishek S/o Late Parshotam Kumar (Ex-Ambulance Driver) R/o VPO Krimachi Udhampur, as MTS, District Cadre Udhampur, Directorate of Health Services Jammu in the Pay Level SL-1 (14800-47100). The appointee shall report to the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu, within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this order, failing which he shall forego his right to appointment and the same shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio without any further notice

The appointee shall be allowed to join only on the production of the following certificates (in original) to be verified subsequently:-
 a) Academic Qualification Certificates.
 b) Date of Birth Certificate.
 c) Health Certificate from the concerned Chief Medical Officer of the District.
 d) Domicile Certificate.
 e) All other relevant documents as are required under the J&K Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022.

The appointment of the appointee shall further be subject to the following conditions:-

- The applicant shall give an undertaking in writing as per format prescribed in the Scheme that he shall maintain properly the other.
- Family members who were dependent on the deceased and in case, it is proved subsequently, at any time that the family members are being neglected or are not being maintained properly by him, appointment shall be terminated forthwith.
- Any claim for transfer of appointment to any other family member shall invariably be rejected.
- The appointee shall be adjusted against appropriate category to which he belongs. In case the appointee fails to produce any valid category certificate, he shall be adjusted against General category.
- That he shall give an undertaking in the shape of an Affidavit to the effect that if on verification, his Qualification/Date of Birth/Category Certificates, if any, from the concerned issuing authority are found to be fake/forged, the claim of the appointee for appointment as Class-IV/Multitasking Staff (MTS) shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio and legal action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against him.
- That he shall give an undertaking in the shape of an Affidavit duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, to the effect that the applicant is unemployed as on date and none of the family members other than the applicant has taken benefit of compassionate appointment under J&K Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022. In case, it turns out that the applicant is already appointed or the benefit of compassionate appointment under the Scheme has already been extended to the family of the deceased, then the instant appointment shall be deemed to have been withdrawn ab-initio without any further notice.
- That if the candidate has taken loan for self-employment from District Industries Centre (DIC) / Employment Department, to be ascertained from the DIC and District Employment & Counselling Centre of the domicile District, he shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self-employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government service. He shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his salary. The DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes, if any, in such a self-employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery.
- The salary of the appointee shall not be drawn and disbursed to him unless a satisfactory report in respect of genuineness of Qualification/Date of Birth/Category Certificate, if any, is received from the concerned authorities.
- The appointee shall be on probation for a period of two years.
- The appointment of the candidate shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as notified vide SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24.12.2009.
- The appointment of the appointee shall be subject to outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending before competent Court of Law.

By order of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.
 Sd/-
 (Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah) IAS,
 Secretary to the Government.

No: HD-NJ-G/227/2023-02 (CC No. 7260913)

DIPK-6390/25
 Dated: 19.09.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh want to change my Daughters name in her Aadhar card bearing no 4852 1481 5695 from Mudaber Fayaz (old name) to Mudabir Fayaz (new name) . 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.

Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh
 F/o:- Mudabir Fayaz
 R/o :- shangas Anantnag
 jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Ali Mohd kathu to (new name) Ali Mohd kuthoo. In future I will be known as (New Name) Ali Mohd Kuthoo. 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.

jvd

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ELECTRIC DIVISION-IV Khanyar, SRINAGAR.

Email: aee0-pdd@jk.gov.in

E-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE
 e-NITNo. 05 /EDIV, Dt:17.09.2025

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Executive Engineer, Electric Division-IV Srinagar invites e-bids from reputed Contractors having Valid A-Class Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspector of J&K PDD/Relevant issuing authority/registered Firms/Bidders enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways for R and M of Distribution Sub-Station of ED IV Khanyar (Under UT capex 2025-26 PDDSS2526100106)

S.No Particulars Funds Estimated cost (Rs in Lacs)
 1. Rand M of Distribution Sub-Station of ED IV Khanyar (Under UT capex 2025-26 PDDSS2526100106) Available 14.27
 The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenderers may view/download three-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

SR No	Advertised Cost	14.27 Lacs
1	Date and Time of downloading/Sale (Start) of Tender Document	20.09.2025 ; 10:00 Hrs
2	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/Clarifications	20.09.2025 11.00 HRS to 22.09.2025 16.00 HRS
3	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start)	22.09.2025 16:30 Hrs
4	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (End)	13.10.2025 16.00 HRS
5	Online Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	14.10.2025 15.00 Hrs
6	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders.
7	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Office of Executive Engineer, Electric Division IV, Khanyar, Srinagar.
8	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.1000(Rupees One Thousand Only) (Non-refundable)
9	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.28500 (Rupees Twenty Eight thousand Five hundred Only)

The Bidder needs to upload all the following documents to avoid cancellation in Technical Evaluation Process.

- Cost of e-Bid Document, amount specified in the table (Only offline Treasury Challan shall be accepted).
 (Note: - The Bidders shall mention the e-NIT No. and name of the Firm on Treasury Challan and EMD in order to avoid using the same multiple times for different works.)
 - PAN Card along with latest ITR.
 - Valid Registration Card with validity up to date.
 - GST Registration along with return.
 - SBD Signed.
 - Earnest Money Deposit.
 - Experience as per Conditions (as per SBD)
- The bidder must have successfully completed similar/electrical works during the last seven (07) years (i.e., up-to ending previous Financial Year) any of the following manners:
 Three similar Electric completed works costing not less than the Amount equal to 40% of estimated cost in aggregate.
 OR
 Two similar Electric completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 50% of estimated cost in aggregate.
 OR
 One similar Electric completed work costing not less than the amount equal to 80% of the estimated cost.
- Affidavit as per SBD (Latest)
 - Labour License along with Insurance.
 - Certificate/ Documents of qualified Engineer/Supervisor
 - The bidder must have an Average Annual Financial Turn Over of not less than 30% of the estimated tender value during the last three (03) years. Documents certified by Chartered Accountant regarding the same, should be submitted

DIPK-NB-1984/25
 dated: 19-09-2025

-Sd-
 Executive Engineer
 Electric Division IV, Srinagar



SMC Enforces 'Strict Livestock Taxation' At Bypass Toll Post

Agencies

Srinagar: With the aim of streamlining livestock taxation and ensuring public health safety, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has intensified enforcement at its Bypass toll post, Dr. Fazil Bashir, a senior official overseeing the department said.

He said that under the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000, a toll post was established earlier, where vehicles are required to pay taxes upon entering Srinagar city.

"The tax rates are specified as Rs 400 per truck for poultry items, Rs 600 for sheep, and Rs 1,000 for cattle such as cows and oxen. These measures aim to regulate the movement of livestock and ensure compliance with health and safety standards," he added, noting that a drive was recently conducted to strengthen livestock monitoring and health inspections.

Dr. Fazil said the toll post has been operational

for years and all trucks entering the city are mandated to stop, pay the requisite tax and undergo inspection. "However, recent incidents where some vehicles bypassed the checkpost prompted the SMC to establish mobile checking units near Tengpora Bypass and impose penalties on defaulters," he added.

"At our checkpost, we also inspect for dead or unfit animals such as poultry and sheep. Any such carcasses are scientifically disposed of in our facilities," Dr. Fazil said, mentioning that defaulters are only allowed to proceed after payment of fines.

Moreover, officials said that in addition to SMC inspections, departments such as Sheep Husbandry conduct health checkups of livestock to ensure compliance with safety and health standards.

They say this collaborative effort aims to prevent the entry of diseased or unsafe animals into the market, thereby safeguarding public health—(KNO)

NIT Committed To Promoting Linguistic Unity: Director

Agencies

Srinagar: Director National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia on Friday said the institute is honoured to host a seminar of national relevance at a time when preserving linguistic heritage is critical.

He was speaking at the inaugural session of the national seminar on "Bhartiya Bhashaon Mein Ekaamata", organised by the Rajbhasha Cell of NIT Srinagar with academic support from Shiksha Sanskriti Utthaan Nyas, Bhartiya Bhasha Manch Nyas and the Department of Hindi, University of Kashmir.

"Indian languages are not just a means of communication but also a reflection of our collective history, culture and identity. This seminar will serve as a platform to deepen our understanding of linguistic unity and strengthen the values of national integration," Prof. Kanaujia said.

He stressed the seminar provides an opportunity for

scholars and students to engage in meaningful dialogue on how language diversity can be harmonised to reinforce national solidarity.

Prof. Kanaujia also highlighted that NIT Srinagar has made significant progress in promoting Hindi and other Indian languages on campus. "We have enhanced the use of bilingual documentation under Section 3(3) of the Official Languages Act, 1963, rising from 0.05 percent to 75 percent," he said.

He further noted that the institute has been advancing digital initiatives such as e-office systems and the establishment of an innovation hub, reflecting its commitment to modernisation, inclusivity, and cultural integration.

Prof. Kanaujia lauded the Rajbhasha Cell for organising various events during Hindi Pakhwada (September 14-28) including essay writing, poetry recitation, debates, workshops and quizzes aimed at promoting the use of Hindi in official work and everyday communication. (KNO)

Back-To-Back Road Tragedies Spark Concern Over Reckless Driving

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Srinagar has been left shaken after two fatal accidents within 48 hours claimed three lives and left several others injured, rekindling concerns over reckless driving, disregard for traffic rules, and the growing menace of mobile phone use at the wheel.

The first tragedy struck Rainawari on Wednesday afternoon when 14-year-old schoolgirl, Madiha Farooq Bhat, daughter of Farooq Ahmad Bhat of Gurpora, was killed in the Jogi Lanker locality. Witnesses said an Eco van (registration number DLCAS 1744) lost control and rammed into pedestrians walking along the roadside. Madiha was critically injured in the crash and succumbed to her injuries shortly after being shifted to JLNH Hospital. Five others, including children and women, were injured in the incident, with two reported to be in critical condition.

The grief in Rainawari was overwhelming as Madiha's body was brought home later in the evening. Relatives, classmates, and neighbours gathered in large numbers, with heart-rending scenes unfolding.

Even before the shock of this tragedy could subside, another grim accident followed on Thursday evening at Umerabad HMT. A middle-aged couple, identified as 50-year-old Fahmeeda and her husband Bashir Ahmad, residents of Umerabad, were hit by a speeding vehicle while crossing the road. Fahmeeda was declared dead on arrival at JVC Hospital Bemina, while Bashir, who had sustained critical head injuries, was referred to SKIMS Soura. Despite doctors' efforts, he succumbed to his injuries on Friday morning.

According to family members, the couple was attempting to cross the road when they were struck by the vehicle, which sped away from the scene. Police, however, said that prompt action by their team resulted in the driver's arrest and the seizure of the vehicle involved in the accident.

The back-to-back fatalities have renewed public anger and worry over the deteriorating driving culture in Srinagar. While traf-

fic laws explicitly ban the use of mobile phones while driving, residents say the practice continues unabated and often in plain sight.

"Every day I see drivers scrolling through their phones while driving buses or private cars. It's shocking how casually they risk so many lives," said Imtiyaz Ahmad, a commuter from Lal Bazar, creating daily chaos.



While traffic laws explicitly ban the use of mobile phones while driving, residents say the practice continues unabated and often in plain sight.

Another commuter, Shazia from Bemina, said: "Accidents are happening because people have made driving a game. Speeding, overtaking from the wrong side, and using phones while driving have become the norm. Nobody fears consequences anymore."

Locals argue that reckless driving is not limited to private car owners. "Even bus drivers can be seen talking on the phone while carrying dozens of passengers. It's a disaster waiting to happen," remarked Hilal Ahmad, a resident of Hawal.

City dwellers also link the problem to the growing number of vehicles on Srinagar's narrow and congested roads. According to traffic department data, vehicle density in Srinagar has multiplied over the past decade, while the road infrastructure has remained largely stagnant. With thousands of new vehicles being registered every year, the roads are increasingly overcrowded,

For commuters, the result is a mix of long jams, frayed tempers, and unsafe overtaking — often ending in tragic accidents. "Driving in Srinagar has become a gamble. You never know if the person behind you is scrolling through WhatsApp or racing to overtake from the wrong side,"

said Tariq Hussain, a shopkeeper from Dalgate.

Although SSP Traffic Ajaz Ahmad Bhat was not immediately available for comment, he had earlier told Kashmir Observer in an exclusive interview that the department has been consistently taking action against violators. However, he acknowledged that the magnitude of the problem makes it challenging to ensure compliance across the city.

"Wherever possible, our traffic cops fine drivers whenever anyone is found violating traffic norms and regulations. But when the traffic flow is huge, it becomes nearly impossible to stop every violator on the spot," he said.

He added that enforcement alone cannot solve the problem. "We can't put all the blame on the government. People must obey traffic laws and drive responsibly. Unless citizens themselves change their driving habits, accidents will continue."

Policeman Found Dead In Hotel Room

Agencies

Srinagar: A policeman was found dead under mysterious circumstances inside a hotel room in Srinagar on Friday afternoon, officials said.

The deceased has been identi-

fied as Constable Mohammad Iqbal Lone, son of Abdul Rehman Lone, a resident of Kupwara. He was posted in Baramulla and had checked into Heena Hotel at Court Road, Amirakadal, on Thursday night, staying in room number 107.

According to hotel staff, when Lone did not wake up until around 12:50 pm, they went to check his room and discovered him lying unconscious. Police were immediately informed, and he was later declared dead. (KNT)

Literary Organisations Mourn Demise Of Zahoor Jaipuri

Son of famous Urdu poet Akbar Jaipuri remembered for his boundless warmth and literary passion.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir is in mourning following the passing of Syed Zahoor Hussain, popularly known as Zahoor Jaipuri. The beloved son of the renowned Urdu poet Akbar Jaipuri, he breathed his last in the early hours of the Friday morning after a courageous

battle with a prolonged illness. Zahoor Jaipuri was widely cherished as a central figure within Kashmiri society, known for his affectionate nature and generous spirit. For many, his home in Goa was a cherished haven, a place where any Kashmiri far from their homeland could find a warm welcome, heartfelt

conversation, and a profound sense of family.

His loss is felt most deeply by his close family and friends. In a heartfelt tribute, Azhar Hajini, Media Secretary of Kashmir's oldest literary organisation Halqa e Adab Sonawari and a noted broadcaster, remembered him as a fatherly figure.

Jaipuri, Al-Hussaini Al-Hamdani Family of Hassan-Abad Bereaved



We deeply regret to announce the passing of Syed Zahoor Jaipuri, son of Syed Muhammad Akbar Jaipuri Al-Hussaini Al-Hamdani, of Hassan-Abad Rainawari. After a prolonged illness, he departed from this world peacefully at his residence in Hassan-Abad in the early hours of Friday morning.

Remembered for his gentle nature, humility, and compassion, his demise has left an irreplaceable void among family, friends, and all who knew him.

The funeral prayers (Namaz-e-Janaza) were offered at Imam Bara Hassan-Abad, and he was laid to eternal rest in the ancestral graveyard alongside members of his noble family.

The Chaharum (fourth-day congregation prayers) will be held on Monday, 22 September 2025, at 6:30 a.m. at the graveyard near Imam Bara Hassan-Abad. Condolences will be received throughout the day at the family residence.

- 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: +919484100200

AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

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

PRAYERS FAJR 4: 53 ZUHR 12:24 ASR 4: 48 Magrib 6:35 ISHA 7: 55
HIJRI CALENDAR 26 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1447

This Day In History

- 622 Islamic Prophet Muhammed (SAW)/Abu Bakr (RA) arrives in Jathrib (Medina)
1066- Battle of Fulford, Yorkshire: Harald III Hardrada of Norway defeats Northern Saxon Earls Edwin and Morcar
1187- Saladin begins the Siege of Jerusalem.
1378 - Robert de Geneve, "butcher of Cesena" crowned anti-pope Clemens VII
1519 - Spanish expedition led by Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan sets off on the 1st successful circumnavigation of the globe (Magellan killed on route)
1530- Luther advises protestant monarch compromise
1565- Spaniards capture Fort Caroline Florida & massacre the French
1596 - Diego de Montemayor founded the city of Monterrey in New Spain
1602- Spanish held city of Grave surrenders to Maurice of Orange during Eighty Years' War
1604- Spanish army under Spinola recaptures Oostende
1643 - First Battle of Newbury (English civil war): King Charles I's forces beaten by a parliamentary army led by the Earl of Essex and Philip Stapleton
1688 - French troops occupy Palts
1854 - Battle of the Alma: first major battle of Crimean War. British and French alliance defeat the Russians.
1861 - Battle of Lexington, MI-captured by Union
1863 - Battle of Shepardstown VA
1863 - Civil War Battle of Chickamauga, near Chattanooga Tenn, ends
1909 - The British Parliament passes the South Africa Act; it calls for union of Cape Colony, Natal, Orange River Colony, and Transvaal; and both English and Dutch as official languages.
1932 - Gandhi begins hunger strike against treatment of untouchables
1939 - British navy captures German U-27 boat
1954 - 1st FORTRAN computer program run
1954 - 1st National People's Congress adopts Chinese constitution
1960 - UN General Assembly admit 13 African countries & Cyprus (96 nations)
1963 - JFK proposes a joint US-Soviet voyage to the moon
1966 - US Surveyor B launched toward Moon; crashed Sept 23
1967 - Benin separates from Nigeria
1970 - Soviet spacecraft Luna 16 lands on Moon's Mare Fecunditatis, drills core sample
1972 - Libya acquires a 50 percent interest in two ENI oil concessions
1972 - The Social Democratic and Labour Party issues a document entitled "Towards a New Ireland", proposing that the British and Irish governments should have joint sovereignty over Northern Ireland
1979 - NASA launches HEAO 3
1979 Lee Iacocca is elected president of the Chrysler Corporation.
1979 - The Punjab wing of the Unity Centre of Communist Revolutionaries of India (Marxist-Leninist) formally splits and constitutes a parallel UCCRI(ML).
1982 - Jalaluddin takes a one-day hat-trick Pakistan v Australia
1984 - Suicide car bomb attacks US Embassy annex in Beirut, kills 23
1992 - Space shuttle STS-47 (Endeavour 2) lands
1994 - Space shuttle STS-64 (Discovery 20), lands
2010 - The National Bureau of Economic Research state today that the US left the recession in June 2009, with managing director Lakshman Achuthan of the Economic Cycle Research Institute saying GDP recovered to 70% of the pre-recession level
2012 - 50 people are killed and dozens injured after a gas station is bombed by the Syrian Army in Ain Issa
2013 - 46 soldiers are killed in army-base attacks in Shabwah Governorate, Yemen

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR ZAINGEER Email: tehsildarofficezaingeer@gmail.com Subject:- Furnishing of One and Same person certificate PUBLIC NOTICE One candidate namely IQRA FAROOQ D/o Farooq Ahmad Pir R/o Tujar Sharief has submitted correction case through JK BOSE against mothers name From Mehbooba Bano to Mehbooba Begum. In this regard if anyone has any objections he/She can file objections in this office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, after the said date no objections if any will be entertained. fko Tehsildar Zaingeer

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE Sr. DEE/G/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below listed Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Tender No. Name of Work App. Cost (in ₹) Earnest Money (in ₹) Completion Period Opening of Tender Website Particulars 251-J-Elect-T-10-2025-26 Breakdown Maintenance contract for window/split ACs & CAMC for water coolers of different makes at various station and service buildings for a period of 2 years over Jammu Division. Rs. 1,02,34,099.73 Rs. 2,01,200.00 24 Months 10.10.2025 after 15.00 Hrs. www.ireps.gov.in No.: 251-J-Elect/T-Notice No. 10-Elect/2025-26 Dated: 18.09.2025 2883/2025 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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KO VIEW

Kashmir Needs Eco-Design

Kashmir's celebrated beauty is disappearing fast. Lush meadows, turquoise lakes, and historic landmarks are giving way to haphazard construction and concrete walls. Roads carve through valleys, tourist spots are boxed in by bulky gates, and once-scenic views are lost to unsightly development.

These changes harm ecosystems and affect the well-being of residents and visitors alike. Eco-engineering offers a way to reconcile growth with nature, guiding development that protects the environment while enhancing human experience.

The problem starts in classrooms. Engineering students acquire technical knowledge but rarely absorb the responsibility that should accompany it.

Sustainability is often confined to a single optional semester, covering familiar topics like deforestation, noise pollution, and soil degradation. Such superficial treatment leaves future engineers ill-equipped to weigh environmental consequences in real projects. Sustainability must be integrated across all subjects, teaching students to balance design, function, and ecological impact from the start.

Making environmental code books as central as design manuals would turn theoretical knowledge into everyday practice. Students exposed to these standards early would naturally factor ecological costs into their decisions.

Small changes in perspective can also have real impact. Urban transport, for example, could prioritize panoramic bus windows over Wi-Fi screens, connecting commuters to their surroundings. Rewarding cyclists with data incentives encourages green mobility.

Such interventions show that eco-conscious thinking is practical and achievable.

Design itself shapes human experience. Concrete gates at tourist sites may impress, but they sever the connection with the environment. Tree-canopy entrances or structures that blend with the landscape evoke awe while protecting ecosystems.

Students must learn to integrate architecture, psychology, and engineering, guided by educators who emphasize ethics. Collaboration and conscious design can turn every project into an opportunity to harmonize human life with nature.

Environmental degradation and poorly planned growth reveal the cost of neglecting moral and ecological responsibility in the valley.

By embedding sustainability into engineering education, we can cultivate professionals capable of designing a Kashmir where development enhances rather than erodes natural beauty.

Next Deluge Won't Be Natural

Lost channels, filled lakes, and blocked spillways mean the next heavy rainfall could be catastrophic.

Hidayat Bukhari

Floods in Kashmir are not accidents of nature. They are the visible outcome of how rivers, lakes, and wetlands have been treated over generations.

The Jhelum was once a lifeline, carrying snowmelt and rain through Srinagar into Wular Lake. Canals spread its waters, irrigating fields and replenishing marshes. The Flood Spill Channel, cut over a century ago, protected the city by diverting excess flow.

Today, this system exists mostly in memory. Wetlands have been claimed for housing, canals buried under roads, and flood channels blocked by construction. Every heavy rain is now a gamble between survival and disaster.

The Jhelum's geography makes it both a lifeline and a threat.

Between Sangam and Wular, the river drops barely a centimetre per 100 metres, one of the flattest gradients in South Asia. Water does not drain quickly. It spreads across the floodplain.

Until the 1990s, the Srinagar stretch of the Jhelum could carry roughly 45,000 cusecs, with the Flood Spill Channel adding another 12,000. Wular Lake, Asia's largest freshwater lake, acted as a giant sponge.

Together, these systems absorbed floods, released them slowly, and protected the city.

But now, these numbers tell a different story: the Jhelum's capacity is down by a third. The FSC discharges half its historical load. Wular has shrunk by 70 square kilometres. Dal's littoral wetlands are one-third smaller. Hokersar, once the largest marsh in the valley, has halved in size. Anchar, a key lake in the flood chain, continues to disappear.

These figures are drawn from government reports, remote sensing studies, and Ramsar site inventories. They show hydrology stripped of its buffers and explain why Srinagar floods so easily.

The decline is not only statistical. A hundred years ago, Srinagar had over 13,000 hectares of wetlands. By 2004, that had halved.

Khushalsar, stretching from Zoonimar to Aali Masjid, is now a fragmented pond of 0.75 square kilometres. Dal's edges have been replaced by hotels, houses, and debris mounds. Hokersar, protected under Ramsar, has been drained and degraded by roads and waste dumping. Satellite images show losses far beyond official figures.

Canals face a similar fate.

Tsoont Kol still regulates Dal's outflow, but Kutte Kol has narrowed under encroachments. Nallah Mar has been buried under roads, severing connections between Dal and Anchar. Sonar Kol exists mostly in history books.

From Parimpora to Panthachowk, flood channels have been paved over, creating neighbourhoods that collect water during even moderate rain.

Government interventions often worsen the



“A century ago, Kashmir's rulers built canals and spillways to live with floods. A century later, these safety valves lie buried under concrete. Unless rivers and wetlands are given space, the next flood will not be nature's wrath. It will be our own making.”

situation. Machines were driven into Hokersar without hydraulic planning. Dredgers in Wular dumped spoil back into the lake. Around Dal and Khushalsar, debris blocked reed beds. Mechanised weed harvesting killed fish by removing oxygen from water.

Between 2020 and 2025, over 580,000 trees were felled from embankments. RTIs confirm that no dredging has been done on the Jhelum or the Flood Spill Channel since March 2020. The river's buffers weaken further with each mismanaged intervention.

The 2014 floods remain a stark reminder. Over 280 people died, 2.5 million were affected, and damages crossed 1 trillion.

Srinagar drowned because floodplains had been filled, wetlands destroyed, and channels blocked. Decades of warnings remain mostly unheeded.

In September 2025, Srinagar narrowly avoided disaster. The Jhelum breached embankments near Pampore, inundating villages and forcing nearly 10,000 evacuations. South Kashmir's apple orchards were devastated, adding economic loss to human displacement. Srinagar's core

survived, but suburbs bore the brunt. Luck was the only shield, not strategy.

The roadmap for survival is simple. Bottlenecks in the Flood Spill Channel must be cleared. Lake connectors such as Tsoont Kol and Kutte Kol should be reopened. Building permits in floodplains need suspension. Wetlands must be legally demarcated, dredging institutionalised, and telemetry installed on river gauges.

Within three years, Srinagar should have a fully functional flood-spill system, modernised bridges, restored drainage corridors, and a wetland-banking programme to fund marsh restoration.

A century ago, Kashmir's rulers built canals and spillways to live with floods. A century later, these safety valves lie buried under concrete.

Unless rivers and wetlands are given space, the next flood will not be nature's wrath. It will be our own making.

The author is a US-based Proposal Development and Business Strategist of Kashmiri origin. He can be contacted at hidfan@gmail.com.

Apples vs. Pills

A single drug company makes more than all of Kashmir's farms combined. The gap shows how fragile the valley's economy has become.

Irshad Mushtaq

Sun Pharma was born in 1983 with a handful of products and two salesmen. Four decades later, it has become India's biggest pharmaceutical giant, earning more than 52,000 crore a year. Its profits alone, 15,000 crore, outstrip the entire agricultural income of Kashmir.

That contrast is hard to ignore. Agriculture here supports 3.5 million people. Orchards, fields, and walnut groves are central to life in the valley. Yet all that work generates about 11,000 crore a year, less than what one company produces in profits with a workforce of 43,000.

This imbalance says a lot about where Kashmir stands.

Farming still employs nearly 70 percent of the population, but its share in the region's economy has fallen from 28 percent fifteen years ago to 20 percent today.

Families may still depend on apples and pears, but the sector's weight is shrinking, and the income it creates is far from enough.

Apples remain the star crop. They account for around 10 percent of Kashmir's economy and brought in nearly 10,000 crore last year.

In 2023-24, fruit exports touched 1.3 million metric tons, feeding markets in Delhi, Mumbai, and beyond.

On the surface, it looks like a success story. But ask any grower, and you hear about delayed trucks

“Apples will always be Kashmir's pride. They carry culture, memory, and survival. Yet the Sun Pharma comparison reminds us of a difficult truth: pride is not enough.”

stuck on the Srinagar-Jammu highway, fruit rotting in transit, and buyers who dictate prices. Cold storage is scarce, packaging is outdated, and loans often trap farmers instead of helping them. Government schemes promise help, but the basics remain unresolved.

A better road system, efficient supply chains, and processing units that can add value to fruit would make a real difference.

Without them, farmers carry the risks while middlemen and outside markets take the rewards.

At the same time, pharmacies in Kashmir are busier than ever. Stress, unemployment, and fragile work cultures have turned the valley into a heavy consumer of medicines.

Sun Pharma, with its 10 percent share of India's drug market, is a familiar name here. The irony is painful: the orchards cannot match the earnings of one pharmaceutical company, but households across the valley spend heavily on the pills it makes.

The GST numbers tell another

part of the story.

Jammu and Kashmir adds only about 6,000 crore to India's 22 lakh crore GST pool, mostly from services rather than agriculture.

That small contribution reflects the limited value generated by farming despite the millions who rely on it.

The comparison with Sun Pharma shows how little farming here has been modernized, and how vulnerable the economy is when one sector holds so much weight.

Apples may be part of Kashmir's soul, yet they cannot carry its future alone.

The choice ahead is clear. We need to invest in better infrastructure, support farmers with real market access, and build industries that can process, brand, and export Kashmiri produce at higher value.

And at the same time, we must create new opportunities in technology, services, and manufacturing so that the valley isn't bound to orchards alone.

Apples will always be Kashmir's pride. They carry culture, memory, and survival. Yet the Sun Pharma comparison reminds us of a difficult truth: pride is not enough.

Without reinvention, the valley's economy risks staying stuck, while the world races forward.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Sour Taste of Season

From orchard to market, Kashmiri apples face an annual battle against blocked roads and lost opportunities.

Aamir Wani

Every autumn, as the orchards of Shopian, Pulwama, and Sopore glow with red and gold apples, Kashmir prepares for its most important season.

Families gather to pluck fruit, pack wooden crates, and load them onto trucks bound for markets in Delhi, Mumbai, and beyond.

This is the moment when months of labour meet the promise of reward.

But, year after year, that promise is broken on the narrow bends of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway.

The highway, Kashmir's fair-weather road to the rest of India, has become the most fragile link in the region's economy.

Some years, rain triggers landslides near Ramban. Other years, roadwork or tunnel blasting brings long closures.

Whatever the official explanation, the result is painfully familiar. Truckloads of apples sit for days, sometimes weeks, until their cargo spoils. The fruit shrivels, the price collapses, and farmers return home with losses instead of earnings.

Apples are not a side business here. They are the backbone of Kashmir's rural economy. The industry supports nearly 3.5 million people and contributes close to 10 percent of

Jammu and Kashmir's GDP.

For a family in a village orchard, the season's earnings can mean exam fees for a child, repayment of a loan, or money for healthcare.

When the crop fails to reach the market in time, everything else in their life falters too.

The losses ripple across the valley.

Delayed fruit floods local mandis at bargain prices. Cold stores overflow. Traders and truckers absorb heavy deficits. Middlemen swoop in to buy bruised produce at exploitative rates.

What begins on a blocked road soon spreads to households, classrooms, and clinics.

The damage is not just financial. It also corrodes hope.

Young Kashmiris see their parents' toil end in frustration and wonder whether farming has a future. Many choose city jobs or migration over the uncertainty of the orchard. That shift endangers not only livelihoods but also a cultural identity that has long defined Kashmir as the country's orchard.

Growers ask questions that deserve clear answers. Why do the closures always collide with harvest season? Why are fruit trucks not given priority passage? Why has Mughal Road not been developed into a reliable alternative? Why is the rail line that reaches Banihal not extended to connect Kashmir's

produce with national markets?

The government cites Himalayan terrain, unpredictable rains, and security concerns. Farmers hear excuses while their fruit rots.

The solutions are neither new nor mysterious.

Stronger cold-chain storage could shield perishable crops from delays. Alternate roads could carry some of the traffic burden. Rail freight could transform the industry, moving apples more quickly and safely than any truck.

What is missing is the urgency to act.

Each September, the same story plays out. Trucks line the mountain highway, tarpaulins sagging under rain, wheels sinking into slush.

Inside are apples that once glistened in village orchards, now softening with every lost day.

Their journey mirrors the struggle of Kashmiri farmers: hard work undone by fragile infrastructure, a harvest sacrificed to poor planning.

Until long-term steps are taken, every autumn will bring the same cycle of promise and despair.

And with each season, more families will wonder if their future lies in the orchard or far away from it.

The author is a medical graduate (MBBS) based in Srinagar. He can be reached at iamamirwani@gmail.com.

A Kashmiri Woman's Fight for Dignity

In the orchards of Wahibugh, Shaista transforms years of abuse into courage, education, and a voice that inspires others.

Gowher Bhat

I arrived in Wahibugh, a small village in Pulwama, just as the afternoon sun turned the apple orchards golden.

The air smelled of damp earth and blossoms, a scent full of life. Children ran down narrow lanes, their laughter bouncing off mud-brick walls, mingling with the braying of goats and the clatter of metal from a nearby courtyard. Women called to one another across yards, their voices weaving through the village like a steady rhythm.

Amid this everyday bustle, Shaista sat by her window. A stack of worn notebooks and scattered pens lay before her, sunlight catching the edges of the pages.



Silence has limits. Patience has limits. If you are treated as less, you have the right to stand up. Courage is acting even when you are afraid. If I can do it, so can they.



She looked up as I approached. Her eyes were calm and steady, carrying a weight I could feel in the air.

Her voice was simple, but the gravity behind it was unmistakable. I asked her to tell me about the journey that had brought her here. She traced the outline of an apple branch outside the window with her finger before speaking.

"When I married, I imagined a life of partnership and respect," she said. "I thought my home would be warm, full of love. But my in-laws expected me to work from dawn until night: cooking, cleaning, serving endlessly. My husband enforced their rules instead of supporting

me. I was treated like a servant, not a wife. Every day, they reminded me my worth depended on how silent I stayed."

Her family and neighbours had told her to be patient. "Things will change. He will change." Shaista waited five years. Nothing changed. "Patience cannot cure cruelty," she said.

The deeper pain, she told me, went beyond endless labour.

Shaista could not have children, and in her household, this became a weapon.

"I was reminded every day that I was not a good woman," she said, voice softening. "My mother-in-law once said, 'What use is a woman who cannot even give a child? You

sap rising through the roots of an apple tree. Shaista kept meticulous notes, saved messages, and silently prepared herself for a moment she could no longer delay.

"One morning, I looked in the mirror and saw the life I could not endure," she said. "My eyes were tired. My face older than my years. I thought: this is not the life I de-

felt seen. I walked out lighter, as if a heavy mountain had lifted from my chest."

Since then, Shaista has returned to her passions. Her desk by the window is her sanctuary, a small fortress of study guides, notebooks, and pens arranged in neat stacks. I watched her flip a notebook open. The lines of her handwriting were small, precise, and alive.

"I lost years, but I will not lose my future," she said. "Books make me alive. Writing gives me back my voice. When I open a book, I feel like Shaista again."

Later, we walked through the village. Children ran past, calling her name with playful shouts. Women paused mid-chores to nod, acknowledging her presence.

I asked if she wanted her story to guide others.

"Yes," she said. "Silence has limits. Patience has limits. If you are treated as less, you have the right to stand up. Courage is acting even when you are afraid. If I can do it, so can they."

Her sister Shugufra added, "Shaista was always strong, but now she believes in herself. She doesn't just save herself, she inspires others to rise."

The orchards surrounding Wahibugh endure season after season, rooted and resilient. Shaista has endured the same way.

"I was hurt, silenced, made to feel small," she said, as the scent of apples drifted in the air. "Now I reclaim my life, dreams, voice. Every girl should know: you are not weak. You are not alone. Your value is defined by what you choose to become."

Her words drifted through the orchards, mingling with children's laughter and the wind in the leaves.

Shaista showed that even the softest voice can reshape the world.

— The author is an educator from Pulwama.



I was hurt, silenced, made to feel small," she said, as the scent of apples drifted in the air. "Now I reclaim my life, dreams, voice. Every girl should know: you are not weak. You are not alone. Your value is defined by what you choose to become."

serve. I cannot waste another day." Her hands trembled slightly as she remembered walking to the police station.

"I told them, 'I cannot live like this anymore. Please help me. I want justice.' For the first time, I

are a burden.' Those words stayed with me for years."

I asked how she endured the daily humiliation. Her eyes softened, and she spoke of her sister, Shugufra.

"She was my lifeline," Shaista said. "I would call her at night, crying, saying, 'I don't think I can survive this. They make me feel like nothing.' And she said, 'Shaista, listen. You are everything. You are educated, kind, deserving of respect. Even a bird with broken wings can fly again. Courage is inside you. Don't let them kill your spirit.' Each conversation reminded me I was not alone."

Her courage grew slowly, like

Begging in Our Name

Some people manipulate empathy in mainland India for personal gain, eroding trust and leaving honest Kashmiri students and professionals to bear the stigma.

Aamir Altaf

I came to Hyderabad with the same hopes as anyone leaving home: to study, work, and build a future. But on the streets of this city, I came across a side of our own people I had never imagined.

Men and women from the Pir Panjal region, the Chenab Valley, and the Kashmir Valley were not here for education or employment. They were here to beg.

They slept on footpaths, huddled outside shops, and waited near places of worship. Their pleas were carefully crafted, invoking hunger, oppression, and faith.

"We have no food at home," they said. "The state has left us helpless." They begged "in the name of Allah," twisting our community's values of empathy into a tool for manipulation.

It is not a scattering of desperate individuals. This is an organized network. In conversations with some of them, I learned that almost fifty people from a single village in Pir Panjal are operating this way in Hyderabad.

They are practiced, fluent in their deception, and remarkably persistent.

The scams go further. Strangers are offered saffron, walnuts, or dry fruits, Kashmiri goods that carry trust and authenticity. Money is taken, promises are made, and then the sellers vanish.

These acts are systematic, and they're eroding trust in Kashmiris in the mainland. Friends have shared similar stories from Delhi, Mumbai, and Uttar Pradesh.

For students like me, the consequences are deeply personal.

Shame and frustration are constant companions. We have to work really hard to prove our intentions are honest.

Recently, a friend broke his finger while playing cricket. We visited a doctor for help, and he met us with suspicion. "You Kashmiris," he said, "are always coming to beg."

We explained we were seeking medical care, not charity. He apologized, but his initial judgment



Speaking out is not about condemning our own. It is about protecting the dignity and honour of the community we carry wherever we go.

left a sting.

Then he told his own stories of being scammed by people from the valley. One encounter can cement a stereotype, and the actions of a few are making every Kashmiri suspect.

The crisis goes beyond individual fraud. It challenges our collective

identity. Some of those on the streets come from relative comfort driven by calculated exploitation.

They leverage our community's struggles for personal gain, betraying the trust of strangers and tarnishing the reputation of every student, professional, and artisan striving to live honestly.

Every Kashmiri bears the weight of these acts. Each doubtful look, whispered suspicion, and question about our integrity feels like a wound we did not deserve.

This is a problem that demands scrutiny. Deliberate exploitation has no place in our society.

Speaking out is not about condemning our own. It is about protecting the dignity and honour of the community we carry wherever we go.

The way Kashmiris are perceived across India hinges on our ability to uphold honesty, integrity, and accountability.

— The author is a student of political science and international relations. He can be reached at aamiraltaf16@gmail.com

The Mother I Lost As a Child

A Kashmiri son remembers the mother he lost as a child, and how her silence has shaped every season of his life.

Umair Ul Umar

I was a boy with a four-line notebook on the window sill, drawing crooked letters as the sun poured across the page. Outside, the day looked like any other. Inside, the air thickened with whispers, sobs, the shuffling of too many feet.

I could not name it then, but my life was breaking. That was the afternoon my mother left.

The memory is fractured: half sharp, half fading. I can still feel her lap, hear the trace of her voice. Everything else slips through my hands.

I grew up counting memories of her on my fingers, guarding them as if they were relics. The most important presence in a child's world was taken before I had the words to call it loss.

Twenty-seven years have passed since that day. I grew taller, studied, and worked. Grief, however, does not obey time. It moves at its own pace, sometimes soft, sometimes heavy, but always there.

On September 20th, when the date returns, the silence sharpens again.

Kashmir has always understood the weight of mothers. We speak of them in prayers, stories, and the way communities are held together by their hands.

Without one, a child grows up half-anchored. I often felt that drift.

The verses I read in the Qur'an about kindness to parents, the Hadiths that name the mother three times before the father came to me as truths I had to imagine rather than experience.

I came to know her through other people. Neighbours told me she was gentle, pious, the kind of woman who made others feel welcome. Elders still pause in the lanes to speak of her kindness.

From their voices, I have pieced together the outline of a woman I barely knew, a figure whose absence has been more powerful



Now, as a father myself, I live with that ache differently. I named my daughter Say'yidah Kashaf Us Saarah, so that her grandmother's memory could live inside the next generation.

than her presence ever had the chance to be.

Her leaving taught me how fragile life is, how quickly love can vanish. And it gave me a tenderness for others who carry unseen wounds.

For years, I searched for her reflection in other women: an

aunt's affection, a teacher's care, the warmth of strangers. Yet they were only glimpses. Nothing could replace her.

I often imagine the conversations we might have had. Would she have smiled at my small achievements, worried over my mistakes, reminded me to be patient when I rushed through life? Would she have rested her hand on my shoulder when storms gathered?

These questions stay suspended, as if waiting for a voice that never comes.

Now, as a father myself, I live with that ache differently. I named my daughter Say'yidah Kashaf Us Saarah, so that her grandmother's memory could live inside the next generation.

When I hold my child, I think of the love I missed and the love I must now give. Perhaps that is the inheritance of loss: to take what you longed for and pour it into others.

— The author is an educator at GGHSS Yaripora, Kulgam. He can be reached at umairulumar77@gmail.com.

Indian Railways, SHRM Organize Seminar On HR Trends & Best Practices



Observer News Service

New Delhi: The Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), in collaboration with Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) on 19th September 2025 (Friday) organized a seminar at Northern Railway Headquarters, Baroda House, New Delhi.

The seminar deliberated upon contemporary issues, best practices, and emerging trends in Human Resource Management with special focus on Indian Railways.

The program was attended

by Director General/Human Resource, Additional Member/Staff, Additional Member/HR, Principal Executive Director/Industrial Relations, Principal Chief Personnel Officer/NR, dignitaries from SHRM, and all IRPS officers posted in Delhi, while officers posted outside Delhi joined the seminar virtually. Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) also gave a presentation on the occasion, elaborately on the progress and implementation of Human Resource Management System (HRMS).

India to Saudi: Consider Mutual Interests on Pak Defence Pact

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India on Friday said it expects Saudi Arabia to keep in mind "mutual interests and sensitivities" in the bilateral strategic partnership in the wake of Riyadh sealing a strategic defence pact with Pakistan.

The "Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement" signed on Wednesday by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman states that "any aggression against either of the two countries shall be considered as an aggression against both".

"India and Saudi Arabia have a wide-ranging strategic partnership that has deepened considerably in the last few years," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"Our expectation is that our strategic partnership with

Saudi Arabia will be pursued keeping in mind mutual interests and sensitivities, within the framework of this partnership," he said.

Jaiswal was responding to a question at his weekly media briefing.

In its initial reaction to the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia pact, the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday said it will take all steps to protect the country's national interests and ensure comprehensive national security.

Jaiswal, responding to a separate question about the possibility of other countries such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar becoming party to the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia pact, said India has wide-ranging ties with both these countries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had recently spoken to the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani,

and that UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs, Reem Al Hashimi, visited New Delhi for talks with foreign secretary Vikram Misri, he said.

India's relations with the UAE and Qatar are "expansive", Jaiswal said.

The Pakistan-Saudi Arabia joint statement said the new defence agreement reflects the "shared commitment of both nations to enhance their security" and it "aims to develop aspects of defence co-operation between the two countries and strengthen joint deterrence against any aggression".

Pakistan has been a key ally of Saudi Arabia and both sides have a long-standing relationship in the defence sector.

While the US provides the overall security framework to Saudi Arabia, in many cases Pakistan has provided manpower and expertise to it.

US Vetoes UN Resolution Calling For Gaza Ceasefire

Agencies

United Nations- The United States once again vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution Thursday that had demanded an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the release of hostages after saying that the effort did not go far enough in condemning Hamas.

All 14 other members of the United Nations' most powerful body voted in favour of the resolution, which described the humanitarian situation in Gaza as "catastrophic" and called on Israel to lift all restrictions on the delivery of aid to the 2.1 million Palestinians in the territory.

"Colleagues, US opposition to this resolution will come as no surprise," Morgan Ortogus, a senior US policy adviser, said before the vote took place. "It fails to condemn Hamas or recognise Israel's right to defend itself, and it wrongly legitimises the false narratives benefiting Hamas, which have sadly

found currency in this council." She added that other council members "ignored" US warnings about the "unacceptable" language and instead adopted "performative action designed to draw a veto."

The outcome further highlights US and Israeli isolation on the world stage regarding the nearly two-year war in Gaza. The vote came just days ahead of the annual gathering of world leaders at the UN General Assembly, where Gaza will be a major topic and where major US allies are expected to recognise an independent Palestinian state. It is a largely symbolic move that is vehemently opposed by Israel and the US, dividing the Trump administration from close allies, including the UK and France.

The resolution, drafted by the council's 10 elected members who serve two-year terms, goes further than previous drafts to highlight what it calls the "deepening of suffering" of Palestinian civilians.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

5,500 Fruit Trucks

started arriving in the Valley and fuel supply is expected to normalise by this evening. "I urge people not to panic as all the essentials will be made available for them," he added.

The highway closure had led to a severe shortage of petrol across the Valley and left several fruit trucks stranded for days, triggering concerns among growers at the peak of the apple harvest season. Officials said clearance operations are continuing to ensure smooth flow of both essentials and produce.

Rotting Apples On

past years: they tipped the rotten boxes onto the roadside and drove away.

"Each box feels like a part of you," said Bashir Ahmad, an orchardist in south Kashmir, standing by the remains of his orchard's produce. "When you see it rotting there, it breaks your heart. We spend all year working the trees, and in the end, this is what happens."

These scenes, grim and repetitive, have turned into a pattern across south Kashmir. In bumper harvests, the region's 20 lakh metric tons of apples overwhelm markets, leaving growers stranded with perishable fruit. The apple industry, worth 8,000 crore annually and supporting over three million people, remains at the mercy of market gluts and fragile supply chains.

A short drive from the dumpsites, however, a different scene unfolds. In Lassipora, a sprawling industrial estate in Pulwama, trucks queue up outside massive cold storage facilities. Forklifts move with precision, carrying crates into chilled chambers where temperature and humidity are controlled to the decimal. Inside, the air is crisp and clean, with boxes stacked to the ceiling.

"Earlier, farmers had to sell in panic within ten days," said Mohammad Yousuf, who manages one of the facilities. "Now apples last up to six months. Farmers can wait for January or February, when demand rises, instead of throwing their produce away."

Kashmir's cold storage capacity has expanded to 4 lakh metric tons with the help of 85 operational units across Shopian, Pulwama, Anantnag and Srinagar. Still, that covers only about 12 percent of the harvest.

Each autumn, as apples ripen, farmers scramble for space. "It's like a race," Bashir Ahmad explained. "If you manage to book a chamber, you are safe. If not, you sell cheap or lose your crop."

Cold storage doesn't come cheap. Renting space costs around 180 per 20kg box for three months, manageable for big traders, but crushing for small orchardists. Many large dealers reserve entire chambers in advance, locking out smaller growers.

"Cold storage has helped farmers," said Abdul Rashid, an orchardist from Sopore. "But access is unequal. The bigger players dominate. Without fair regulation, the small farmer remains vulnerable."

The government has tried to offset costs. Across India, subsidies for cold storage stand at 30 percent. In North India, including Kashmir, they rise to 50 percent, recognizing the valley's dependence on horticulture and the long winters that choke transport.

"These stores are capital-intensive," a senior horticulture official explained. "Farmers cannot build them on their own. Without subsidies, private investors would not come in."

Even with subsidies, experts warn that cold storage alone cannot solve the crisis. Hoarding by traders, holding back stock to drive up prices, remains a risk. Surpluses in bumper years often exceed storage capacity, forcing roadside dumping to continue.

"Juice concentrate plants could absorb the excess and prevent waste," said Dr. Waseem Ahmad, a post-harvest expert at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K). "We need a mix of solutions: more storage, better processing, and cooperatives to give smaller farmers bargaining power."

Outside a Lassipora chamber, Bashir Ahmad waited as his boxes were finally lifted inside. His relief was visible. Each crate represented months of care, and the money needed for his children's school fees and his family's survival through the long winter.

"The roadside rot taught us a lesson," he said. "Without cold storage, our future is only loss."

Over 5,000 Rural

brought the message of the prime minister

that in every possible way we will serve you. The pain that I have seen here, I will also present to the prime minister. We will rise again, stand up again and start walking again," he said, reassuring the affected communities.

'Your Pain Is Our

due to floods triggered by heavy rains at the end of August.

"I have come here to tell you that the central government, together with the state government and with the blessings of the prime minister, will pull the farmers out of this disaster. Your pain is our pain, your suffering is our suffering," Chouhan told farmers in Gram Badyal Brahmin in RS Pura.

Flanked by a high-level team of his ministry, Chouhan went from one area to another to inspect the crops and fields in the border belt and said, "I have come to say, do not shed tears. Whenever there were tears in your eyes, we too were pained."

"We will work hard together again. Not only Rajnath Ji or Amit Ji have come, but the teams of the central government have also reached out to you here."

Asserting that he had come to share their pain, the minister said, "I have not come here as a minister to meet you formally. I have come as a humble servant. When a farmer's crop is destroyed, it is not only the crop that is lost but his future and his children's future too. We will pull you out of this disaster."

Chouhan, who inspected fields where sand deposits had flattened standing crops, said teams from the Centre and the state had carried out surveys and would submit reports to determine losses. "We saw fields covered with layers of sand where crops once waved - vegetables, basmati, maize - everything has been buried," he said.

"You can understand the concern of the prime minister. You know what he feels for you. Many ministers have already come here; recently Rajnath Singh Ji and Amit Shah Ji also came, and today, as the Agriculture Minister, I have come before you," he said.

The minister said the Centre would not spare any effort to provide relief once assessment reports from central teams were received.

The team of the central government, which included officers from all departments, has come here and conducted a survey, he said, adding, "After conducting the survey, the team will give its report. The state government's own report will also come. The assessment of losses is ongoing."

He further added that after the report comes, the central government will leave no stone unturned in providing relief, because Jammu and Kashmir is the forehead of this country. "We will fight the trouble and bring you out of this crisis."

He maintained that there are some tasks which the state government has to do, and in times of disaster, politics should not be done. "Our first task will be to take the farmers out of this trouble and restore their normal lives," he added.

The Union minister said that the state government must decide that wherever sand has been deposited in people's fields, that sand should be given to the person owning that land. "I will also discuss this with the chief minister. The sand should be given to the farmer himself, so that the farmer can sell it or remove it and once again make the land cultivable."

Chouhan noted that the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has provisions to remove sand and the Centre would coordinate with the state to implement that plan.

He also said he would discuss the matter with the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and other state officials to fast-track relief measures.

Acknowledging immediate relief already announced by the state, Chouhan said he was aware that the chief minister had released Rs 10 crore as prompt aid. He added that the state also had schemes and funds - amounting to Rs 2,499 crore as mentioned by authorities - which could be tapped for rehabilitation.

"I salute the people of Jammu and Kashmir. No one left any shortcomings in giving help. Some brought food, some brought blankets, some brought other things, and they all gave great help," he said.

During the visit to Gram Badyal Brahmin, Chouhan repeatedly urged farmers not to lose hope and stressed that both governments were working together to address the damage to crops and farmland caused by the recent floods

and sand deposition. (PTI)

NIA Court Extends

soon as possible," the court said in its order on September 18.

The accused were produced through virtual mode before the court, which held there was a prima facie case for continuing their detention, noting that witness statements, forensic reports, and DNA profiling results were still pending.

Public Prosecutor Chandan Kumar Singh, appearing for the NIA, argued that crucial evidence - including forensic analysis of arms and ammunition seized during a July 28 encounter in which three LeT terrorists were killed - was awaited. Mobile phone data linked to Pakistani numbers, as well as DNA profiling of blankets and shawls recovered from the hut where the accused allegedly sheltered the terrorists, were also under examination.

According to the NIA, the accused disclosed the identities of the three armed terrorists, confirming they were Pakistani nationals affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba. The agency alleged that Parvaiz and Bashir knowingly harboured them in a seasonal 'dhok' (hut) in Hill Park, Pahalgam, prior to the April attack.

The case was re-registered by the NIA after the attack, which left 26 people dead and 16 injured. The two accused have been in judicial custody at Amphalla Jail since their arrest on June 22.

JKBOSE 10th,12th

School Education on 4th of September, 2025 but were postponed due to unavoidable circumstances have now been rescheduled on 25th of September, 2025 (Thursday) for Class 11th & on 26th of September, 2025 (Friday) for Class 10th vide notification no. F(Acad-C)/PP/Ann(Pvt)/BA/X/XI/2025, dated 16-09-2025 issued in this regard. The timing and venue of the examinations as notified earlier shall remain unchanged.

The revised date schedule is available on the JKBOSE website www.jkbose.nic.in.

JKRTC Trucks

vehicles and soaring freight charges. General Manager, Loads & Cargo, JKRTC, Bashir Ahmed Sofi said the deployment followed direct instructions from the government after persistent appeals from growers.

"The minister instructed us to ensure there is no shortage of trucks for fruit transportation. Today, we have mobilised 55 vehicles, including 14 big trailers and other small trucks, to Sopore mandi and 10 trucks to Shopian. These will carry fruit to Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and other stations," he said.

He said concessional freight had been fixed to protect growers. "For Delhi, the charge is Rs 130 per box and Rs 120 for Punjab, compared to the usual Rs 240-250. A margin of Rs 10 has been left so that labourers can be paid directly," GM explained.

Weeks of transport shortage and soaring freight

For the past several weeks, apple growers had struggled with no transport availability, as frequent closures of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway left thousands of fruit-laden trucks stranded. With RTC absent from the scene, private transporters exploited the situation by hiking freight abnormally. Freight to Delhi and Punjab nearly doubled, forcing many growers to sell their produce at throwaway rates or risk losses as apples piled up in mandis.

The President of Asia's second-largest, Sopore Fruit Mandi, Fayaz Ahmed Malik @ Kaka Ji, said the relief came late but was welcome. "Thousands of apple boxes were lying stranded here with no vehicles to lift them. Private truckers were charging at will. The 40 RTC trucks that have come today will help, but our requirement is at least 200-300 trucks daily to clear the backlog," he said, urging the government to prioritise horticulture transport the way it does during the Amarnath Yatra.

Growers speak Orchardists voiced relief but stressed that the crisis was far from over.

"At least now there is some support from RTC. But unless trucks are deployed consistently every day, our losses will continue," said Ghulam Rasool, a grower from Rafiabad.

Similarly, Abdul Majid, another grower, said they cannot afford highway closures. "When fruit doesn't reach Delhi or Kolkata on time, buyers turn elsewhere, and it is the grower who bears the loss," he said.

Daily monitoring assured

General Manager Sofi said the corporation will closely monitor the situation and increase the fleet as more vehicles become free from food supply duty.

"The minister has instructed that strict action be taken against any private trucker found overcharging. RTC will continue deputing trucks daily so that the fruit industry, which is the backbone of our economy, is not made to suffer," he said.

Govt warns of strict action against overcharging

Private Secretary to Minister Satish Sharma, Sanjeev Sharma, said the government has issued strict directions to prevent any exploitation of fruit growers during the apple season.

He said private truckers will face action if found overcharging, particularly during highway closures when freight rates often shoot up. "The minister has made it clear that strict action will be taken against such practices," he said.

Sanjeev said the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) will inspect trucks to ensure fair freight charges and to keep transport accessible to growers.

With apple harvest at its peak, growers have appealed to the government to ensure uninterrupted transport availability and smooth highway connectivity, warning that any delay could devastate the Valley's horticulture economy and the livelihood of lakhs of orchardists.(KNO)

Katra-Banihal

closure of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, officials said.

While a special Vastodum train operated from Budgam to Katra till next 15 days, another train ferried passengers between Katra railway station and Banihal station and will continue for the next fortnight, the officials said.

Both the trains ran to and fro on their respective destinations and ferried passengers amid enthusiasm and happiness, they said.

With this, three flood-relief trains are running on this track in Jammu and Kashmir.

On September 8, the Northern Railways started a special local train service between Katra and Sangaldan to facilitate stranded passengers in the wake of the closure of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Udhampur district.

The decision to operate the special trains was taken under the guidance of Divisional Railway Manager Vivek Kumar, and with the support of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal and Senior Divisional Operations Manager Arish Bansal, the officials said.

The train departed from Banihal at 11 am and arrived at Katra at 1.30 pm. It stopped at Reasi, Bakkal, Dugga, Sawalkot, Sangaldan, Sumer and Khari stations along the route. Similarly, the train returned to Banihal at 4.10 pm, they said.

Speaking on the operation of these special trains, Bansal said, "The safety and convenience of passengers is our top priority in the division. With road services suspended in the Banihal and Katra areas, these special trains will provide an important alternative to ensure safe and efficient travel for the public."

This step has been taken in the wake of road traffic disruptions in the Jammu division of the Northern Railways due to heavy rains and waterlogging.

"The division had previously operated a special train for passengers between Katra and Sangaldan. However, due to damage caused by heavy rains, road traffic has currently been disrupted," he said.

Following the demand of residents and the state administration, the special train service has been approved.

Hindi Serves As

motivating them to learn other languages and enhancing mutual cooperation and economic integration.

"Our effort should be to ensure that Hindi continues to serve as an essential bridge, connecting people from different linguistic backgrounds, motivating people to learn other languages, enhancing mutual cooperation and economic integration," he said, urging all sections of society to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage embedded in Indian languages.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the youth to transcend linguistic differences and unite to transform India into Viksit Bharat. "You have to create a glorious and developed India by completely eliminating every trace of

colonial mindset," he told students, adding that the entire world is looking towards India with hope for future prospects.

"The 21st century is India's century. It is written in stone. Consistent growth and productivity will make India a dominant global power," Sinha said, encouraging students to learn new languages, broaden their perspectives, and drive innovation.

The LG also commended NIT Srinagar for establishing the Official Language Cell and for organising numerous activities for the promotion of Hindi.

On the occasion, Sinha felicitated writers, scholars, and researchers for their contribution to the promotion of diverse Indian languages.

The event was attended by Atul Bhai Kothari, National Secretary, Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas; Prof. Binod Kumar Kanooja, Director, NIT Srinagar; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg; SSP Srinagar Dr GV Sundeep Chakravarthy; members of Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas, literary personalities, scholars, faculty members and students.

Tribunal Upholds

was justified in issuing its March 11, 2025, notification declaring the associations proscribed for a period of five years.

Findings of the Tribunal The Tribunal noted that extensive evidence was placed before it, including:

FIRs registered against members of the organisations, testimonies of Jammu and Kashmir officials, social media content and interviews of leaders,

excerpts from the associations' websites, and intelligence reports submitted in sealed cover.

Justice Datta observed that the material clearly established the organisations' involvement in separatist activities, their attempts to undermine the sovereignty and integrity of India, and their alleged collaborations with "inimical elements across the border."

The Tribunal clarified that its role was not to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused in FIRs against JKIM but to examine whether there was "sufficient cause" for the Centre's declaration. FIRs, speeches, and interviews of JKIM leaders were treated as relevant evidence in this adjudication.

The Court said that it is not necessary that the association should be a "militant organisation", adding that the emphasis by the association on it being a "moderate association" has no bearing on the issue whether it should be declared as an unlawful association or not.

Defence Arguments Rejected Counsel for JKIM argued that the ban could adversely affect the religious activities of its chairman and members. The Tribunal, however, recorded the assurance of the Additional Solicitor General that personal religious practices, including the conduct of Moharram processions, would not be curtailed under UAPA.

It was also noted that (Masroor) Ansari himself had admitted to leading Moharram processions in July 2025 with requisite government permission, which were attended by lakhs of participants. The Tribunal thus concluded that legitimate religious practices undertaken in personal capacity would remain unaffected by the ban.

The Tribunal further observed that the defence submissions lacked credibility and failed to produce cogent material to counter the Central Government's case.

Government's Stand

On March 11, 2025, the Ministry of Home Affairs declared both AAC and JKIM as 'unlawful associations for a period of five years' under Section 3 of UAPA. The notification stated that the groups were "indulging in unlawful activities prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty and security of the country."

As required under the statute, the declaration was referred to the UAPA Tribunal in April 2025 for judicial confirmation. After multiple hearings, the Tribunal upheld the proscription order on September 3, 2025.

While JKIM had contested the ban order before the Tribunal, AAC chose not to.

CBI Nabs JKAS

accused was involved in other instances of corrupt practices.

Officials added that the arrest reflects the agency, continued efforts to curb corruption in government offices and ensure accountability among officials holding public positions.

KWFF Returns With 5th Edition This November

Dabirah Hassan

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir World Film Festival (KWFF) has announced the dates for its much-awaited 5th edition, set to take place from November 1 to November 7, 2025, in Srinagar. The week-long celebration of cinema is expected to draw filmmakers, industry experts, and audiences from across the globe to the heart of the Kashmir Valley, according to festival founder Mushataaq A Khan.

Since its launch in 2017, KWFF has grown into a major cultural platform, spotlighting both international cinema and emerging Kashmiri voices. This milestone edition will feature an expanded lineup, including feature films, documentaries, animation, experimental works, and student films. Alongside screenings, the festival will host workshops, panel discussions, cultural programs, and an awards ceremony, he said.

According to Khan, the festival will place special emphasis on regional cinema, dedicating separate days to women-centric films and children's films. Organizers also promise a showcase of films shot in Kashmir, underscoring the Valley's cinematic appeal.



KWFF has steadily built its reputation over the years. Previous editions attracted over 15,500 attendees and featured films from 15 countries, including the USA, Italy, Iran, Afghanistan, and South Korea. More than 460 films were submitted, and the event has received extensive media attention, with over 500 national and international mentions.

Beyond screenings, the festival has made a strong impact through education. Its workshops and masterclasses have trained over 550 students from Kashmir's colleges and universities, nurturing the next generation of storytellers.

Launched in 2017, KWFF continues to serve as a cultural bridge, connecting Kashmir with the global film fraternity and inspiring local talent to share their stories with the world.

Dy. CM Visits Affected Stretch Of NH-44 At Thard Udhampur



Observer News Service

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary visited the affected stretch of the NH-44 at Thard here and held on-spot assessment of ongoing restoration works.

During the visit, Regional Officer, NHAI, R. S. Yadav, briefed the Deputy Chief Minister about the status of ongoing restoration works, including widening as well as restoration of the second tube of NH-44. He also apprised him about the laying of WBM layer so that the traffic movement can smoothly run and the surface is maintained properly.

The Deputy Chief Minister, while interacting with officers of NHAI, directed them to expedite the restoration process for the convenience of commuters and the general public. He further instructed the executing agencies to mobilize men and machinery and work in double shifts for restoration of the second tube to ensure timely completion of the works. He stressed that the restoration of safe and smooth connectivity of National Highway remains the top priority of the Government.

Choudhary also appreciated the efforts made by Regional Officer NHAI and his entire team for restoration of NH-44. During the visit, the Deputy CM also enquired about the stranded vehicles on NH-44 and directed for smooth facilitation of all these vehicles.

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Fisheries Dept Flags Mining Threat To Vishaw Stream

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Fisheries department has admitted that the Vishaw stream—an important tributary of the Jhelum that supplies over six million gallons of drinking water daily to Kulgam district—is under serious threat from unregulated and unscientific mining.

In an affidavit submitted before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) under OA No. 1391 of 2024, the department acknowledged that unchecked pollution and excessive mining are endangering the stream's aquatic biodiversity, particularly the trout and Schizothorax species. The department noted that mining activities—both legal and illegal—carried out during critical breeding and spawning seasons (October–December for trout and April–June for Schizothorax) have severely compromised water quality.

The affidavit further stated that the use of heavy machinery has disturbed the stream's natural flow, destroyed habitats, and adversely affected fish production as well as species diversity. The Fisheries department told the Tribunal that it has been keeping a close watch on the Vishaw stream through routine inspections to gauge the impact of mining and pollution.

It said that in collaboration with the Pollution Control Committee, steps are being taken to reduce the inflow of agricultural runoff and other waste into the water body.

The department also mentioned that outreach programmes and awareness campaigns are underway to educate

locals about the need to safeguard the stream and to report any instances of illegal mining.

At the same time, the department stressed that despite its preventive measures, much of the ecological damage is the result of weak oversight by the Geology and Mining Department.

It warned that without immediate corrective action, the decline in the stream's health could become irreversible.

In its affidavit, the department laid out a comprehensive set of proposals for stream protection. These include re-evaluation of mining operations to stop unscientific practices; strict enforcement of environmental laws by the Geology and Mining Department; regulated mining in designated dry patches only; and complete closure of mining in drained patches where aqua fauna exists.

It also suggested making local bodies responsible for ensuring that municipal waste does not enter the stream, alongside initiating habitat restoration projects in affected areas.

The department further suggested forming dedicated monitoring committees, conducting regular assessments of water quality and fish stocks, and ensuring coordinated action among the Departments of Geology and Mining, Fisheries, Flood Control and Irrigation, along with active involvement of local communities.

Reaffirming its commitment before the Tribunal, the Fisheries Department said it would continue efforts to tackle pollution, address environmental concerns, and protect the aquatic biodiversity of the Vishaw. —(KNO)

Cross Border Firing, Mine Blasts

HC Closes PIL Seeking Assistance To Civilian Victims

M Ahmad

SRINAGAR: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has closed a Public Interest Litigation regarding a central scheme for assistance to civilian victims, family of victims of terrorist and cross border firing and mine blasts on Indian Territory.

A Division bench of Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal while disposing of the PIL, filed by Uri Foundation Lagama Uri, observed that the matter was pending since 2021 and that the authorities have furnished affidavits showing compliance of orders passed from time to time.

On September 2, the Court had directed authorities to furnish a specific affidavit as regards the victims whose concerns and grievances are yet to be addressed or have not been paid compensation despite being eligible. While such affidavit was submitted, Mohsin Qadiri, Sr. AAG, submitted that in compliance to the order dated October 23 last year, process for consideration of assistance to 71 civilian victims mentioned in the petition was under consideration in terms of Revised Guidelines of Central Scheme for Assistance to Civilian Victims/ Family of Victims Terrorist/ Communal/ Leftwing Extremism (LWE) Violence, Cross Border Firing and Mine/IED blasts on Indian Territory.

Further, he submitted that 61 cases out of those 71 have been forwarded to Chief Medical Officer, Baramulla, to be placed before the Medical Board to ascertain the percentage of disability of each of those individuals. And a



ON SEPTEMBER 2, THE COURT HAD DIRECTED AUTHORITIES TO FURNISH A specific affidavit as regards the victims whose concerns and grievances are yet to be addressed or have not been paid compensation despite being eligible.

direction has been issued to promptly submit a report so that the same can be forwarded to the Home Department, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, for according relaxation by the Central Government in terms of Clause 4(xii) of the Revised Guidelines, for those cases are time barred, the Sr. AAG said.

Further, he submitted that 10 victims have since passed away but even their cases are being examined and shall be forwarded, in due course, to the Home Department for consideration in terms of Clause 4(xii) of the Revised Guidelines. He submitted that 32 victims whose names were mentioned in the petition were found ineligible since they died or suffered injuries owing to firing practice which apparently is not covered under the Revised Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

That being so, counsel for the petitioner submitted that the PIL has substantially served its purpose and the same be disposed of in terms of the statement made by the Senior Counsel for the government (Sr. AAG). However, he submitted while a considerable time has already elapsed, it would be expedient if the authorities are directed to finalise the matter and issue formal orders within a specified time. At this point, Senior AAG submitted that the matter is under active consideration of the concerned authorities and the necessary orders would be passed or issued within two months from today.

"In the wake of the position sketched out above and in terms of the statements made by the learned counsel for the parties, the proceedings in the present petition are closed," the Division Bench said.

Political Purge

EC Axes 12 More J&K Parties For Failing To Contest Elections

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Nearly a month after delisting three J&K-based parties, the Election Commission on Friday deregistered 12 more political parties from the Union Territory.

According to an official order, a copy of which is in possession of Kashmir Observer, the poll body struck off the registration of 12 parties that failed to contest any election in Jammu & Kashmir over the past six years.

These parties did not participate in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, or the 2024 Assembly polls—the three electoral exercises conducted by the

Election Commission since 2019 in J&K.

The parties identified by the Commission include: Backward Classes Democratic Party, Duggar Pradesh Party, Front of Revolutionised Creative Efforts, Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Party (Secular), Kashmir Development Front, Jammu & Kashmir National Democratic Front, Nature Mankind Friendly Global Party, Jammu & Kashmir Save Party, Secular Party of India, Jammu State Morcha (Progressive), Social Movement Party, and Secular Party of India.

Although many of the delisted parties were relatively obscure, three were either founded by prominent politi-

cal figures or rooted in significant causes.

Jammu State Morcha was formed on the eve of 2002 Assembly elections to advocate for a separate state for Jammu.

The Jammu & Kashmir National Democratic Front was headed by Abdur Rashid Kabuli, who won on a Janata Party ticket in 1977 from the Eidgah segment of Srinagar. Kabuli was supported by the Awami Action Committee, which was declared an unlawful association by the Central Government in 2025.

The Nature Mankind Friendly Global Party is led by Babu Singh, a former minister in the PDP-Congress government. He was arrested in a Hawla case in 2022.

CS Reviews Action Plan To Strengthen Food Safety

Observer news Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant step aimed at safeguarding public health and ensuring the availability of safe and quality food products, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chaired an inter-departmental coordination meeting to review the comprehensive action plan on food safety across the Union Territory.

The review comes in the backdrop of recent seizures of substandard meat and dairy products in different parts of the UT, raising serious concerns over food adulteration and public safety.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Secretary, H&ME; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Secretary, Law; Commissioner, FSD; Director, FCS&CA, Jammu/Kashmir; DG, Budget; Director Health, Jammu/Kashmir besides other senior officers.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary directed the Food and Civil Supplies Department to take stringent action against unlabelled and non-standard packaged food items, particularly imported products that fail to specify ingredients and product details,



termining such practices as blatant violations of law.

He took a detailed appraisal of the action plan prepared by the Food Safety Wing in collaboration with key departments, including Housing & Urban Development, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and District Administration. The plan lays out both immediate and long-term measures to eradicate the entry of substandard food items into J&K and ensure strict compliance with food safety norms.

Key Features of the Action Plan, as laid out by the Commissioner, DFCCO constitutes formation of joint inspection teams and flying squads for surprise checks, particularly targeting high-risk sectors such as meat, milk, and bakery products. It also envisages accomplishing district-wise mapping of food businesses, including primary producers, processors, and vendors, to en-

able targeted inspections.

One more feature of this robust action plan is the strengthening of infrastructure & surveillance. It involves establishment of checkpoints and cold-chain facilities at toll plazas, entry points, and major transport routes for high-risk food consignments. Besides strict monitoring of consignments from outside states to prevent import of substandard products.

It also encompasses addressing the deficit of nearly 257.5 lakh kg of meat through regulated and safe supply mechanisms and development of modern slaughterhouses with frozen storage facilities for scientific meat processing and distribution.

Another pillar of the strategy is enforcement of mandatory sanitary and hygiene practices at meat shops and other food hubs and deployment of qualified veterinary officers for routine inspections.

No Dual Govt; LG, CM Like Brothers: BJP Leader

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Ravinder Raina on Friday dismissed claims of a "dual government" in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that the Lieutenant Governor and the elected government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah are working in complete coordination for the welfare of the people.

"There is no dual government, but there are two brothers — one elder and one younger," Raina told reporters during his visit to Asia's second-largest fruit mandi in Sopore.

Raina explained that both the LG and the elected government share the common goal of ensuring development and public welfare. "The LG wishes for the betterment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and so does the elected government led by Omar Abdullah. Both the brothers are working together and when they do, the betterment efforts become stronger," he said.

Addressing Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's remarks that he has "nothing in his hand," Raina suggested that the statement may have been made in anger. He added that the concerned ministers and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) are working on highway restoration "on a war footing."

Highlighting progress on transport and horticulture

fronts, Raina said over 10,000 fruit-laden trucks had crossed Jammu in the last 24 hours, and the pace of movement was expected to increase further. "Hopefully, within the next 10 days, packed apples will be transported to different parts of the country," he assured.

Acknowledging the losses faced by apple growers and traders due to prolonged highway blockages, Raina said he had witnessed "lakhs of apple boxes ready for transportation" and emphasized that the demands of mandi leadership, including prioritising highway restoration, would be raised with the LG and, if needed, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Reiterating the Centre's commitment, Raina said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have consistently assured that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will not be allowed to face hardships. A special cargo train was mobilised earlier and if required, more such measures will be taken."

Raina concluded by noting that essential supplies and apple transportation were now moving smoothly. "The last few days were tough, but now the weather is favourable, transportation is moving, and the efforts will continue. Whatever the issues are, we will ensure their early redressal," he added. (inputs from KNO)

Kulgam Village Reports Hepatitis case, One Dead

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A 13-year-old boy died while his sibling was hospitalized after contracting Hepatitis in Katrasoo village of Kulgam district, officials said on Friday.

An official said that three siblings from a family were infected with Hepatitis in Katrasoo. They were first taken to a nearby hospital and later referred to District Hospital Kulgam, he said.

"Two of them were shifted to the Children's Hospital Bemina, Srinagar. One boy died while a girl is under observation at the Children's Hospital Bemina. The

third sibling has recovered," the official said.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Abu Bakar Bhat of Katrasoo.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kulgam, Showkat Hussain told KNO that health teams have been deployed in the area following the reported cases.

He said the infection is likely Hepatitis A or E, which spreads through contaminated water and poor sanitation.

"There is no need to panic, everything is under control. We appeal to people to boil water before drinking and maintain proper hand hygiene," the CMO said—(KNO)

SSP Commandant 9th Btn Inaugurates Computer Lab



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards promoting digital education, SSP Mubashir Hussain of IRP 9th Battalion inaugurated a newly established Computer Lab at PS Ahangermohalla Yakmanpora.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Hussain highlighted the importance of equipping students with modern technological skills to meet the demands of the digital era. He appreciated the efforts of the school administration for creating such opportunities for young learn-

ers and assured full support for similar initiatives in the future.

The new lab is equipped with modern computers and internet facilities aimed at enhancing computer literacy, coding skills, and digital learning among students. Teachers and local community members expressed gratitude for this initiative, calling it a milestone in strengthening the educational infrastructure of the region.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks to the chief guest and all participants for their contribution to making the inauguration successful.

Spring Shed Climate Adaptability Project Approved Under NABARD

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: District Administration, led by District Development Commissioner, Shishir Gupta, has launched the pioneering Springshed Climate Adaptability Project, approved recently by NABARD.

This initiative marks a significant milestone in the district's pursuit of sustainable development, capacity building, livelihood opportunities, and water security.

The project aims to conserve natural springs, recharge groundwater, provide sustained irrigation and drinking water facilities, and preserve cultural heritage connected with water resources in the Zainapora block of the district.

DDC Shishir Gupta emphasized the importance of conser-

vation of springs, capacity building, and livelihood improvement through convergence.

He was briefed on project components, progress, and potential issues, highlighting the need for a complementary approach. The DDC directed that local administration's technical expertise and community needs be considered, emphasizing that project success depends on stakeholder participation and a convergent approach.

Comprehensive discussions were held with line departments of Horticulture, Agriculture, Rural Development, and Jal Shakti to ensure seamless project execution.

The meeting was attended by SDM Zainapora, LDM Shopian, DGM NABARD and team, CHO, CAO, Tehsildar, Zainapora, BDO Zainapora, and other officers.

Asia Cup: Unbeaten Sri Lanka Play Bangladesh In Opening Super 4 Game

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: A determined Sri Lanka will take inspiration from their unbeaten group campaign and start favourites against an inconsistent Bangladesh in the first Super Four match of the Asia Cup here on Saturday.

Ably led by Charith Asalanka, the Lankans finished on top of Group B with three wins from as many matches, ahead of Bangladesh and T20 World Cup semi-finalists Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by six wickets before defeating Hong Kong and Afghanistan by four and six wickets respectively. But the Lankans are very capable of collapsing as well. The Islanders almost lost against Hong Kong on Monday after opener Pathum Nissanka's fifty.

A brittle middle-order is the



major concern for Sri Lanka as they were on the verge of a familiar nosedive against Hong Kong, just three weeks after they were bowled out for 80 by Zimbabwe in Harare.

Nissanka has been the stand-out performer for Sri Lanka with the bat, leading the run-scorers'

list with 124 runs from three games, including two fifties.

After two sedate knocks, wicketkeeper-batter Kusal Mendis finally came to the party with an attacking 74 off 52 balls against Afghanistan, much to the delight of the Lankans.

In all the three group matches,

Sri Lanka thrived while chasing and one would expect the Islanders to continue the same trend if they win the toss on Saturday.

Sri Lanka will miss the services of all-rounder Dunith Wellalage as he has returned home from the tournament after his father, Suranga, passed away on Thursday night, the same day when he was playing their final Group B match against Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi.

Wellalage learned of his father's demise only after the match, and he left for Colombo on the earliest available flight.

It is also unclear whether the 22-year-old will return for the tournament or not.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, progressed to the Super Four stage on Sri Lanka's mercy. Had the Islanders lost against Afghanistan on Thursday, Bangla-

desh would have been out of the tournament.

Bangladesh started the tournament with an easy seven-wicket win over Hong Kong before going down to Sri Lanka by six wickets. They brought their campaign back on track after a narrow eight-run win over Afghanistan.

Bangladesh's inconsistent batting remains a major concern. The likes of skipper Litton Das, tournament's fourth-highest scorer with 96 runs, Saif Hasan, Tanzid Hasan and Towhid Hridoy will need to come up with consistent performances.

Bangladesh need overall improvement as their catching has also been below par and their bowlers have also often collapsed in the face of sensible and aggressive batting.

Match starts 8pm IST.

Seva Parv Competitions Continue Across Sports Zones Of Budgam



Dabirah Hassan

The Seva Parv Activity Calendar of the Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam is progressing with full zeal across the district. The calendar, which runs from September 17 to October 2, features a wide range of events designed to engage students and youth in constructive activities.

On the second day of the program, sports contests and indigenous games were organised in different sports zones of Budgam. The activities witnessed active participation from students, who showcased their skills and enthusiasm in a spirit of healthy competition.

The events are being conducted under the leadership of District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Budgam Ghulam Hassan Lone, who has stressed on the importance of channelizing the energy of youth through sports, culture, and community-driven initiatives.

The ongoing celebrations will include pledge-taking ceremonies, cleanliness drives, cultural events and inter-school competitions, culminating on October 2, Gandhi Jayanti.

J&K Pencak Silat Team For National Championship Screened In Srinagar

Adil Khan

SRINAGAR: The screening of the J&K Pencak Silat Team for the 13th Pre-Teen, Pre-Junior and Junior National Pencak Silat Championship 2025 was conducted on Friday at Polo Ground, here. It was held under the supervision of the Screening Committee of the J&K Sports Council.

The national championship is scheduled to be held at Koppal, Karnataka, from September 26 to 28, where the young athletes of J&K will compete on the national stage.

During the screening, athletes from various dis-



tricts of J&K showcased their talent, discipline and dedication in front of the committee members. The objective was to finalize a competitive and well-prepared contingent capable of bringing laurels to the region in this prestigious event.

The J&K Sports Council extended its full support to the selection process, reiterating its commitment to

nurturing and promoting martial arts such as Pencak Silat, which continues to inspire and engage the youth of the region.

Officials expressed confidence that the selected players will display exemplary sportsmanship and strive for excellence at the nationals, carrying forward the rich legacy of J&K in Pencak Silat at the national and international levels.

Senior, Sub-Junior Ball Badminton Teams Screened At Bakshi Stadium

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Screening Test for the J&K Senior and Sub-Junior Ball Badminton teams was held on Friday at Bakshi Stadium, here, under the "My Youth My Pride" initiative of the J&K Sports Council. The test was held for participation in the 71st Senior National Ball Badminton Championship 2025-26 and the 44th Sub-Junior National Ball Badminton Championship 2025-26, scheduled at Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, from September 25 to 28.

The selection process began with selection trials organised by the J&K Ball Badminton Association under the supervision of the J&K Sports Council on August 9 for the Senior Team and August 29 for the Sub-Junior Team at Gindun Sports Sta-



dium, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

The shortlisted players thereafter underwent a 21-day Residential Coaching Camp at the same venue starting September 1. The camp provided intensive training and exposure under professional guidance to foster local talent and prepare them for the national stage.

On Friday, the final screening of the teams was conducted by the J&K Sports Council Screening Committee, which included: Hilal Ahmad Bhat, Dy. Manager, Pologround Sri-

nagar, J&K Sports Council
Burhan Ahmad, Physiotherapist,
KICOE J&K Sports Council

Members of the J&K Ball Badminton Association present on the occasion included:

Arsheena Khan, General Secretary J&K Ball Badminton Association & Vice-President (BBF)

Mohsin Farooq Khan, Vice President J&K Ball Badminton Association

Zahid Mustafa Bhat, Member J&K Ball Badminton Association

Srinagar To Host Asian Junior Pencak Silat C'ship From Sept 25

Srinagar is all set to host the 3rd Asian Junior Pencak Silat Championship from September 25 to 30 at the Sher Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex.

Close to 300 junior athletes, coaches and officials from 11 Asian countries will compete in categories such as Tanding (fighting) and artistic disciplines like Tunggal (solo), Ganda (duo), and Regu (team).

The event is organised by the Indian Pencak Silat Federation in collaboration with J&K Sports Council to promote the martial art and sports tourism in the region. India-A and India-B will be among the team competing alongside Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Nepal and Kazakhstan. (Observer News Service)

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