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Kashmiri Elderly Persons Losing Their Lifetime of Memories

Ansar Hussain

Srinagar: On a late September morning in Budgam, 62-year-old Sameena Ali sits by the window of her family home, staring at the walnut tree outside as if its leaves might offer a clue to the day.

Once the commanding heart of her household, Sameena was known for her bustling kitchen and sharp wit.

Now, her son Shabir speaks softly to keep her calm. "It began with small slips," he recalls. "She would misplace her glasses or forget a neighbour's name. We thought it was normal ageing. Then she started repeating questions we had just answered."

Ten months ago, a neurologist in Srinagar confirmed the family's fears: Sameena has Alzheimer's disease.

Cases like hers are becoming alarmingly common. A national analysis using data from the Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI) estimates that 11 percent of adults over 60 in Jammu and Kashmir live with dementia, far higher than the national average of 7.4 percent.

That means roughly one in nine elderly Kashmiris is experiencing cognitive decline.

66

ON WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY, ATTENTION turns to Kashmir's rising dementia rates and the families fighting a slow, relentless loss

Delhi reports the lowest rate at 4.5 percent, while states such as



Odisha and West Bengal hover around 9 percent.

These numbers translate into thousands of families silently battling a disease that steals memory, judgment, and independence.

Doctors and researchers point to a dangerous mix of risk factors. Advanced age is the clearest driver, but education gaps, high rates of | [More on P10](#)

Apple Express

6,400 Tonnes Reach Delhi via Train



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Over 6,400 tonnes of apples have been transported from Kashmir to Delhi via parcel trains in just two weeks, the Jammu Division of Northern

Railways said on Saturday.

Kashmir produces around 2-2.6 million metric tonnes of apples annually, accounting for 70-80 per cent of India's total apple production. The Northern Railway's Jammu | [More on P10](#)

14-coach Train To Ferry Apple From Sopore

After the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) fleet began moving apple consignments from Sopore fruit mandi, a 14-coach goods train is being dispatched directly to Sopore to transport apple consignments to outside markets, officials said on Saturday. The move comes after weeks | [More on P10](#)

THE SERVICE HAS PROVIDED a lifeline for apple growers, ensuring timely transport of the fruit to major markets"

'Terror-Linked Pseudo-Activism'

CIK Raids 8 Locations in J&K, Detains 7

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: In a major crackdown on what it called a "dangerous ecosystem" operating under the guise of social activism, the Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday detained seven suspects during co-ordinated raids across the Valley. According to officials, the

searches were carried out at eight locations spread across Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag, Pulwama, Kupwara and Shopian in connection with FIR No. 03/2023, registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Seven suspects were detained for questioning and incriminating digital | [More on P10](#)

J&K Govt Mandates DigiLocker For Certificates

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has directed all departments, PSUs and advisory boards to mandatorily adopt DigiLocker for issuance, storage and verification of certificates and documents, stressing that all documents hosted on the platform will be treated as authentic and valid for official purposes.

The circular, issued by the General Administration Department, noted that despite earlier instructions, many offices still rely on physical records, undermining e-Governance goals of efficiency, transparency and secure digital data retention. Departments | [More on P10](#)

Directive To District Centres Stop Unnecessary Referrals To SKIMS: Govt

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday issued strict directions to Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and District Hospitals of the Kashmir Valley not to unnecessarily refer patients to Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS).

Officials said frequent avoidable referrals are putting an extra burden on the Valley's premier health institution and leaving deserving patients in distress. As per reports, SKIMS often

receives referrals of patients whose treatment could easily be handled at district or sub-district hospitals.

Data shows that out of 1,000 patients referred to SKIMS, only about 80 are admitted, while the rest are discharged after preliminary checks.

Experts say that despite the availability of doctors and adequate facilities at government hospitals, people tend to bypass local hospitals even for minor health issues and rush to tertiary centers like SKIMS. This leads to overcrowding and unnecessary | [More on P10](#)

J&K Calm, Peaceful, & Open For Business: CM



Calls For Equal Tourism & Industrial Growth In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is calm, peaceful, and open for business, asserted Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday, calling incidents like the Pahalgam terror attack aberrations rather than the norm.

Addressing the fourth meeting of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Northern Regional Council 2025-26,

Omar emphasised that every step is being taken to prevent a recurrence of tragic events like the April 22 Pahalgam attack, which killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

"Yes, there have been difficult times, but those are behind us. Tragic incidents like the one at Pahalgam are aberrations, not the norm, and every step is being taken to prevent its recurrence," Omar said.

The Chief Minister noted that while tourism has received much focus in recent months, industrial growth has not received | [More on P10](#)

HC Closes PIL On Rising Forest Fires In J&K

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has closed a suo-moto Public Interest Litigation (PIL) concerning the alarming surge in forest fires that swept through Jammu and Kashmir this spring.

A division bench of Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal passed the order after perusal of an affidavit filed by Chief Conservator of Forests Kashmir, detailing the multiple measures being taken by the department to "conclusively" address the issue.

The PIL stemmed from a news report in early April, highlighting that over 100 forest fires erupted in | [More on P10](#)

Armyman Dies In Udhampur Gunfight

LG Pays Tribute

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: An Army soldier lost his life in action during an intense gunfight with terrorists in the rugged Seoj Dhar forest area along the Doda-Udhampur border, officials said on Saturday.

They said the gunfight broke out on late Friday evening prompting a massive joint operation by security forces.

Lance Dafadar Baldev Chand was critically injured when a joint search party from the Army, Special Operations Group (SOG) of Jammu and Kashmir Police came under sudden fire from hiding terrorists during a cordon-and-search mission.

"Acting on specific intelligence about terrorist presence in the high-altitude region, the teams had launched the operation in the Dudu police station | [More on P10](#)

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2

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: IDFC FIRST Bank Engineering Scholarship 2025-29

Description: The IDFC FIRST Bank Engineering Scholarship 2025-29, launched by IDFC FIRST Bank, empowers engineering students from humble family backgrounds by ensuring financial barriers do not limit their access to quality higher education.

Eligibility: Applicants must be Indian citizens.

Open to students currently enrolled in the first year of their B.Tech or B.E. program. Candidates must have secured admission in one of the eligible colleges (Refer to the list of eligible colleges mentioned on the Buddy4Study website). The annual family income must not exceed INR 6 lakhs. Students should not be receiving any other scholarship or tuition fee waiver for their engineering course. Children or immediate family members of employees from IDFC FIRST Bank or Buddy4Study are not eligible to apply. Note: Students pursuing a Diploma course, part-time program, distance learning, dual-degree course in engineering, or student exchange programs are not eligible.

Prizes & Rewards: A scholarship of INR 1 Lakh per year for up to four years will be awarded to students who are selected. Note: The scholarship covers the actual annual fee or INR 1,00,000 per year, whichever is



lower. Continuity is subject to meeting the renewal criteria
Last Date to Apply: 30-09-2025
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/IFBES1
QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/idfc-first-bank-engineering-scholarship-2025-291757751252.png>

Scholarship Name 2: U-Go Scholarship Program 2025-26

Description: U-Go Scholarship Program 2025-26 is a CSR initiative by U-Go to financially support young women pursuing professional undergraduate courses in teaching, nursing, pharmacy, medicine, engineering, architecture, law, etc.
Eligibility: Young women pursuing professional graduation courses in teach-

ing, nursing, pharmacy, medicine, engineering, architecture, law, etc., are eligible. Applicants must be studying in any year (except the last year) of their graduation program. Applicants must have secured at least 70% marks in the Class 10 and 12 examinations. The annual family income of the applicants from all sources must be less than INR 5 lakh. Students from across India can apply. Prizes & Rewards: The selected scholars will receive the scholarship as specified below:
For Teaching Courses - INR 40,000 (\$500) per year for two years
For Nursing and Pharma Courses - INR 40,000 (\$500) per year for four years

For Three-year courses such as BCA, BSc, etc. - Up to INR 40,000 (\$500) per year for 3 years
For Engineering, MBBS, BDS, Law, Architecture Courses, etc. - INR 60,000 (\$750) per year for four years. Note: Scholarship to cover 100% of educational expenses, including academic expenses (tuition fee, admission fee, exam fee, books, etc.), living expenses (hostel fee, mess fee, uniform, etc.), devices (laptop, mobile, equipment, etc.), monthly allowance, etc.
Last Date to Apply: 31-10-2025
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/UGO4

QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/u-go-scholarship-program-2025-261756723964.png>

Scholarship Name 3: Reliance Foundation Postgraduate Scholarships 2025-26

Description: The Reliance Foundation Postgraduate Scholarships aim to enable and propel India's future leaders who can think big, think green, and think digital for the benefit of society. Eligibility: Be a resident Indian citizen. First-year PG students who secured a score of 550 - 1,000 in the GATE Examination. OR Students who have scored 7.5 or above in their Undergraduate CGPA (or % normalised to CGPA) Eligible degree programmes - Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Mathematics & Computing, Electrical/or Electronics Engg., Chemical Engg., Mechanical Engg., Renewable & New Energy, Material, Science & Engg. and Life Sciences. Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 6,00,000 over the duration of the degree
Last Date to Apply: 04-10-2025
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/RFS12
QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/reliance-foundation-postgraduate-scholarships-2025-261756116104.png>

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-
Roll No: 730497
Class 10th
Year & Session 1989- Oct-Nov
Registration: 9568-PGP-IX-87
Name : Meraj Ud Din Bhat
Father's Name: Gh Qadir Bhat
Mother's Name : --
Date of Birth:- 15-10-72
Residenc:- Pinglea Pulwama



According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 152988 be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F(Ceris-I-DQC)B/KD/25
Dated
fko

Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in Name in data to the License No.JK-0420150026220 issued in favour of NAZIR AHMAD KHAN Parentage MOHD RAJAB KHAN Whereas an application has been recieved by one NAZIR AHMAD KHAN Parentage MOHD RAJAB KHAN wherein he claimed that the Fathers Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as MOHAMMAD RAJAB KHAN Which needs to be changed as MOHD RAJAB KHAN.

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 office 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

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in Name in data to the License No.JK-0420140024129 issued in favour of SHOWKAT AHMAD BHAT Parentage NOOR MOHAMMAD BHAT

Whereas an application has been recieved by one SHOWKAT AHMAD BHAT Parentage NOOR MOHAMMAD BHAT wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as SHOQKAT AHMAD BHAT Parentage NOOR MOH BHAT Which needs to be changed as SHOWKAT AHMAD BHAT Parentage NOOR MOHAMMAD 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 office 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

NOTICE

I, Shariq Hasan Siddiqui, F/o Amaan Shariq Siddiqui, do hereby certify that I am applying for correction of mother's name in the school records of my son, who is studying in Class 9th-C, Burn Hall School, Srinagar (Admission No. 10729). Correct Mother's Name: NUSRAT incorrect Mother's Name NUSRAT SIDDIQUI.

If anybody has any objection to the said correction, he/she may inform the school authorities within 7 days of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

Name of Parent: Shariq Hasan Siddiqui (Father of Amaan Shariq Siddiqui)
Address: R/o Firdous Colony, Buchpora, Srinagar
Mobile No: 7006399118

Media line advt

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. Application of Umar Farooq Mian S/o Farooq Ahmad Mian R/o Mian Mohalla Pattan for issuance of legal hair certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is inform to general public that applicants father namely Farooq Ahmad Mian S/o Ghulam Mohammad Mian R/o Mian Mohalla Pattan died on 13/03/1994 and left following legal hairs.

Name	Age	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
UMAR FAROOQ MIAN	28	SON	MARRIED

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

fko

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla

e-mail, id, xenmhd.bla@jk.gov.in

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender

NIT No: M&HDB/TS/2025-26/35/1725-29
Date: 19-09-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on percentage wise basis from Authorized service providers of OEMs / Registered / Listed Contractors for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion
01.	Repair & renovation of Snow Clearance Garages at Tangmarg by way of fabrication of steel truss, columns and CGI roofing	2.26975	200.00	4540/-	15 days

Note: -
AAA- Administrative Approval accorded by Chief Engineer M&HD Kashmir vide No. M&HED/K/Acctt/ of 2025-26/108 Dated: 30-08-2025
Technical Sanction: - Technical Sanction Accorded by Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla vide No. M&HDB/TS/22 of 09/2025 Dated: - 19-09-2025.
Executing Agency: - Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	19-09-2025
2.	Period of downloading of the bidding document	From 20-09-2025 to 29-09-2025
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	From 20-09-2025 (18:15 HRS)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	29-09-2025 (18:55 HRS)
5.	Date of Opening of Cover Ist	30-09-2025 (13:00 HRS)

The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

01.	Tender Fee	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement including m-Pay Delight+, to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. Tender ID to be written also on the voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKAOTHSIL Account No.: 0213010200000051.
02.	EMD	Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 02% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. EMD of successful bidder shall be released on receipt of 03% - 10% Performance Guarantee from (LI) and execution of agreement with the Department. EMD of un-successful bidders shall be also released as per rules provided in J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020.
03.	Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
04.	Tax Clearance	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
05.	GST	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
06.	Undertaking	Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. Department.
07.	Contractor Registration	Scanned copy of valid Contractor Registration on JKPWDOMS of PWD J&K.
08.	Eligibility / Work Experience Certificate	The Bidder Shall submit documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of work amounting to 80% of the estimated cost in single contract or 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts each in last 07 years in any Govt. /Semi Govt./Autonomous institutions alongwith satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Assistant Executive Engineer.

Note:-
The successful bidder has to furnish EMD document physically to the Divisional Office alongwith fee receipt within three days from the date of opening price bid, without which his bid shall not be accepted for further processing of contract in his favour.
No EMD exemption shall be given to bidders.
Bidders / Firms shall refrain from uploading irrelevant documents.
Contractor/ Firm shall upload the contact / communication details separately on single page.
A. Cover-II shall contain:
01. Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. In no case, financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
02. The bids for the work shall remain valid for 180 days and the contract shall be valid for one complete year, starting from the date of allotment of the said contract.
03. The complete bidding process will be online.
04. The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla after evaluation of technical bid and decision thereof.
05. Bidder shall be penalized as per tender conditions if they withdraw their bid during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
06. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rate below %age inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
07. The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
08. Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The department reserves the right to debar /blacklist such firm(s).
09. Conditional tenders shall not be entertained.
10. Unbalanced Bid: In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR / FDR / Bank Guarantee within 07 days after opening of price bid as per the Circular directives of the J&K U.T Finance Department issued vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-22-158; Dated: - 08.08.2025 and relevant clauses of J&K (PWD) Engineering Manual 2020.
11. Bidders / Firms shall mandatorily disclose GST-linked Bank Account Number as per the Circular directives of the J&K U.T Finance Department issued vide Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025; Dated:- 08.07.2025
12. The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Baramulla
No: -M&HDB/TS/e-tender-35/1725-29
DIPK-6424/25
Dated:- 20-09-2025



The Jammu and Kashmir Bank
Corporate Communication &
Marketing Department
Corporate Headquarters,
M.A. Road Srinagar, 190 001

Online Expression of Interest (EOI) For Empanelment of Advertising/Branding Agency for Engagement of Brand Ambassador & Campaign Execution

EOI Notice along with Complete EOI document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpocure.com> w.e.f. September 19, 2025, 16.00 Hrs. EOI Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is September 26, 2025, 17.00 Hrs.
e-EOI Ref. No. JKB/CHQ/CCM/Empanelment-Branding/2025-1523
Dated: 19-09-2025

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK19385G000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928;
E : info@jkmail.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-2005/25
DATED: 20-09-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 764567892619 the name is entered as SYED MOBEEN while my actual name is MOBEEN FIRDOUS. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
MOBEEN FIRDOUS
S/O SYED FIRDOUS
R/O ADDOSA URI
BARAMULA.

MCB

Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE SEED ANALYST KASHMIR, SEED TESTING LABORATORY

(Dept. of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare)
Lalmandi-Srinagar, JK-190008

Request for Quotation (RFQ) Notice

Sealed quotations affixed with revenue stamp of 5/- are invited from registered/reputed firms/suppliers for the supply of the following item:

Name of Item: Moisture Analyzer with Standard accessories and warranty.
Specifications Required:
Make- ACZET.
Model- MB200.
Max. Cap: 200gm.

Terms & Conditions:

- Quotations should reach the office of the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice.
- The firms must quote rates inclusive of all taxes, duties, and transportation charges (FOR Srinagar).
- Only technically compliant quotations shall be considered for financial evaluation.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason.
- The item is not available on the GeM portal as per verification; hence quotations are invited through this notice.

DIPK-6437/25
dated: 20-09-2025

Sd/-
Seed Analyst,
Kashmir



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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
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Tele: 01933-247954/247955, Website: www.iust.ac.in

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, J&K UT, E-Tenders (in Two cover system) are invited on percentage basis, from registered suppliers/manufacturers/vendors or OEMs:

ENIT No & Date	Advertised Cost of Work	Class of Contract / Firm Registration Type
Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Centralized Water Purifier for newly constructed Girls Hostel at IUST		
E-NIT No: IUST/GH/Waterpurifier/25/199, Dated:20-09-2025	Rs. 6,00,000.00	OEM/OEM Authorized Dealer/Reseller
Bid submission Start Date: 20-09-2025		
Bid submission End Date: 29-09-2025		
Bids shall be opened at IUST on 30-09-2025 at 10.00 am		

Detailed Tender Notice is available on university website www.iust.ac.in

DIPK-NB-2004/25 DATED: 20-09-2025
A.R Procurement & Stores, IUST Awantipora



Flying Squad Seizes 100 kg Rotten Fish From Sgr Airport

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To curb the transportation and sale of unsafe food items in district Budgam, the district administration has constituted special Flying Squads comprising officials from all concerned departments, including Police.

Police have also established nakas at major entry points of the district to strictly monitor the movement of such items, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

During a joint inspection at Humhama Chowk, led by I/C PP Humhama in collaboration with officials of the Food Safety Department, 100 kg of rotten fish packed in two parcels was seized from the possession of a fish seller, Mehdi Hasan Lashkar S/o Attaullah Lashkar R/o Hawgul Dori, West Bengal,

presently residing at Safa Kadal Chowk Srinagar.

The accused was carrying the consignment from Srinagar International Airport towards his shop. He was arrested on the spot, and FIR No. 263/2025 under relevant provisions of law has been registered at Police Station Budgam, the spokesman said, adding that legal action under Sections 271, 272, and 275 of the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 has been initiated against him.

“Budgam Police reaffirm their commitment to safeguarding public health and ensuring food safety. Strict legal action will continue against those indulging in the sale of substandard or unhygienic food items. The general public is urged to remain vigilant and promptly report such malpractices to the nearest Police Station,” the statement reads.

DLSA Organises Awareness Prog. On Drug Abuse, Right to Education



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, in collaboration with the School Education department conducted an awareness programme on 'Right to Education and Prevention of Child Exploitation and Drug Abuse' at Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School Shalimar Srinagar.

The programme, organized under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Chairman DLSA (Principal District and Sessions Judge) Srinagar and under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar was attended by students, teaching staff and PLVs of DLSA Srinagar.

Panel Lawyer DLSA Srinagar

raised awareness among the students about the legal protection available to minors and the harmful impact of substance abuse. She said that drug abuse is a great challenge for society to tackle, as it has engulfed the whole generation. It is thus the need of the hour to have a strict watch on the children, so that they will not indulge in this menace, she added.

Panel Lawyer also sensitized the students about the Right to Education in India, guaranteed by Article 21A of the Constitution and the Right to Education Act (RTE) 2009, which ensures free and compulsory education for children aged 6-14. Furthermore, she also made the audience aware about the prevention of child exploitation.

Chain Stitch On The Brink: Artisan Warns Of Craft's Slow Death

Agencies

SRINAGAR: At 70, Abdul Qayoom Wani of Chattabal, Bagi Sunder Baala in Srinagar, sits bent over a stretched fabric, needle in hand, practising the centuries-old art of chain stitch embroidery.

For more than 55 years, he has lived and breathed this intricate craft—a legacy he inherited from his late father, Mohammed Ramzan Wani. But today, his biggest fear is that he may be among the last of its true custodians.

“I learnt this art from my father when I was a young boy, and since then I have dedicated my life to it. Over the years, at least 600 people have learnt this art from me,” Qayoom said.

Qayoom recalls the days when chain stitch was Kashmir's calling card to the world. The carpets, wall hangings, and cushions adorned with fine embroidery were in high demand across international markets. “Earlier, this art ensured bread and butter for hundreds of families. Exporters would eagerly buy our work, and the craft had value,” he said.

That golden period, however, has withered away. With shrinking markets and mass machine-made alternatives dominating demand, the art has lost its economic viability. “Now, most people who gave decades to this profession have abandoned it because they cannot sustain their families,” he lamented.

Wani admitted that the government has made some attempts for revival through handicraft ex-

hibitions, training centres, and small financial incentives. But he believes these initiatives are too little, too scattered. “Some steps have been taken, but much more needs to be done. Without serious and consistent support, this art form will vanish completely,” he warned.

The artisan revealed that despite his artworks reaching “every corner of the world”, the present market is nearly nonexistent. “The pieces we already have are not fetching anything, as there are no takers. This situation is heartbreaking,” he said.

What troubles him most is the lack of interest among the youth. “The new generation hardly shows interest in chain stitch because they know it doesn't provide a decent livelihood. Some youngsters do come to learn, but when we don't have work for ourselves, what can we offer them?” he asked.

Meanwhile, officials of the Kashmir Handicrafts and Handloom Department said efforts are ongoing. “We are working on wider marketing platforms, including e-commerce, to give artisans a direct link to global buyers. But it will take time,” said an official, adding that financial assistance schemes are being reviewed to cover more struggling artisans.

For artisans like Wani, these assurances are too slow to materialise. “We aren't being helped at any level. The craft is on the verge of extinction, and if the government doesn't step in with meaningful initiatives, it will disappear forever,” he said.—(KNO)

LG Inaugurates New Centre Of Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the new Centre of Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital at Qamarwari in Srinagar on Saturday.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the hospital and medical fraternity to ensure accessible and affordable care for all and to connect the specialists with patients in rural and far-flung areas of J&K.

“Over the past decade, modern technologies have fundamentally transformed the eye care field and today it is offering faster and more accurate diagnoses with precise treatments,” he said.

He added that new technologies have also increased access to care in the health sector and personalized treatment.

“AI-powered systems have enabled doctors to detect early signs of disease and eye problems. Dr. Agarwals Eye Centre and other hospitals must take advantage of new technologies and provide the same treatment to the people of J&K, which is available to the citizens in cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He further stressed that Dr. Agarwals Eye Centre and other hospitals must organise free eye



UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI, we are ensuring that every

citizen has access to quality healthcare. The rapid expansion of both Government and Private healthcare infrastructure has also ensured a healthy and prosperous future for every citizen of Jammu Kashmir,”

check-up camps in different parts of J&K with the spirit of selfless service. “For greater reach, people should be served from time to time through telemedicine, virtual consultations and digital examinations,” he added.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the landmark transformation of Jammu Kashmir's healthcare sector over the past few years.

“Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are ensuring that every citizen has access to quality healthcare. The rapid expansion of both Government and Private healthcare infrastructure has also ensured a healthy and prosperous future for every citizen of Jammu Kashmir,” he said.

Dr. Ashar Agarwal, Chief Business Officer, Dr. Agarwal's Group of Eye Hospitals; Dr. Atif Ali Mir, Head Clinical Services, Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital, Srinagar; doctors, staff members of the hospital were present.

Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Science & Technology Department; Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Rajiv Pandey, DIG Central Kashmir Range; Dr. GV Sundeep Chakravathy, SSP Srinagar; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, besides Imran Reza Ansari, President All J&K Shia Association and senior officials also attended the inaugural ceremony.

CME On Dementia & Alzheimer's Awareness Held At IMHANS

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Psychiatry, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, IMHANS-K, organized a Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme on the theme “Ask About Dementia, Ask About Alzheimer's – Increasing Awareness and Early Intervention.”

The event was inaugurated in the presence of senior faculty members including Prof. Mohammad Maqbool Dar (Head, Department of Psychiatry), Dr. Zaid Ahmad Wani, and Dr. Sadaqat Rahman. The CME was coordinated under the leadership of Dr. Junaid Nabi- Associate Professor, Psychiatry, who served as the Organizing Secretary.

The academic proceedings began with an insightful lecture by Dr. Tajamul, Head, Department of Psychiatry, GMC Baramulla, on “Dementia and Its Impact on Caregivers”. Dr. Tajamul emphasized that dementia is not just a clinical condition but a psychosocial challenge that affects entire families. He stressed the importance of early screening, caregiver psychoeducation, and the need to integrate community support systems to reduce caregiver burnout.

This was followed by a lively panel discussion moderated by Dr. Yuman (Assistant Professor, Psychiatry), featuring Dr. Junaid Nabi, Associate Professor IMHANS, Dr. Shabana (Assistant Professor, DM Neurology), De-



partment of Medicine and Dr. Aijaz Ahmed Khan (Clinical Psychologist, Psychiatry).

The panel explored the multidisciplinary approach to dementia care, the neurological underpinnings of Alzheimer's, and the psychosocial interventions needed to improve quality of life for both patients and caregivers. The discussion highlighted gaps in awareness, the role of primary care physicians in early identification, and the need for community-based rehabilitation services.

To make the event inclusive, Lived experience voices were also shared during the CME. Caregivers and individuals affected by dementia spoke about their journeys, challenges, and coping strategies. This was appreciated by the audience and marked an important step in giving an agency to lived experience groups,

reinforcing a person-centered approach to dementia care.

To encourage student participation, a quiz competition for post-graduates was conducted, with Dr. Aijaz Suhaff (Assistant Professor, Psychiatry) as Quiz Master.

Additionally, nursing students from Haneefa Nursing College Sopore staged a thought-provoking skit on dementia, which was widely appreciated by the audience.

The CME concluded with a Vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Aijaz, who acknowledged the efforts of the organizing committee and faculty.

A special highlight of the event was the presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Sadaqat Rahman, who is due to superannuate in October.

In her address, Dr. Rahman expressed gratitude to the department and the organizing team for the honour.

Sewa Parv-2025: Distt Admin Organizes Training Prog. For HoEIs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of the ongoing fortnight-long Sewa Parv, district administration Srinagar Saturday organized a one-day sensitisation cum training programme for Heads of Educational Institutions (HoEIs) under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) at Amar Singh College.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, was the chief guest on the occasion.

The programme was also attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil

Fareed; Principal, Amar Singh College, Prof. Aijaz Ahmad Hakak; Chief Education Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Consultant GMC, HoD and Professor of Psychiatry IMHANS, Heads of various educational institutions of Srinagar district and students.

During the event, speakers highlighted the vital role of teachers and educational institutions in combating the drug menace and protecting youth and society from its harmful effects.

Addressing the gathering,

DC underscored the critical role of educational institutions and teachers in the mission to eradicate drug abuse from society. He stated that the purpose of conducting such sensitisation cum training programmes is to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse, which can destroy families and society.

DC emphasized the importance of maintaining vigilant monitoring of behaviour of the students to save them from drug addiction.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS

FAJR	4:54
ZUHR	12: 34
ASR	4:47
Magrib	6:24
ISHA	7:54

This Day In History

- 1913 - Turkey and Bulgaria sign peace treaty in Constantinople
- 1922 - US President Warren G. Harding signs a joint resolution of approval to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine
- 1938 - Winston Churchill condemns Hitler's annexation of Czechoslovakia
- 1943 - Soviet 13th/61st Army reconquer Chyernigov
- 1955 - Last allied occupying troops leave Austria
- 1964 - Malta becomes independent from the United Kingdom.
- 1970 - Soviet space probe Luna 16 leaves the Moon
- 1979 - Stephen Jay Gould and Richard Lewontin publish influential paper (cited more than 4,000 times) "The Spandrels of San Marco and the panglossian paradigm", introducing idea of "spandrels" into evolutionary biology
- 1982 - STS-5 vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1983 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1984 - NASA launches Galaxy-C
- 1990 - Reports that US refinery problems will lead to a loss in capacity and aggressive remarks by Saddam Hussein send crude prices to new highs
- 1991 - Armenia votes on whether to remain in Soviet Union

From KO Archives

Examiner Faces Threat To Life, Returns Answer Papers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- One of the examiners feeling threat to his life after conducting the viva voice of the students of private colleges has returned the answer papers to the Director Technical Education without marking them.

The examiner, Shujja Hussain, who conducted examination of students of some of the private polytechnic colleges in Government Women's Polytechnic Bernina last month could not be lured by the administration of the concerned college for the favours to their students. Hussain in a letter to the Director Technical Education on August 30, has expressed his apprehensions that the authorities of the college are trying to “harass” him by one way or other.”

In order to avoid the harassment and the mental agony he has returned the whole lot of answer papers which he was urged to evaluate - to the Director Technical Education with a note that the performance of the most of the students was dismal and could not be promoted.

His observation during the examination was that the students lacked the basic concept of the subject. “Performance of the students in the exams was very poor. The students could not answer most of the questions during the viva voice. The students gave wrong answers to most of the questions saying that same had been taught to them by their teachers.”

His further observations were that some of the students of the KITE Polytechnic had reportedly worked hard on their internal portfolio but unfortunately the schemes were not as per the norms, while as the evaluating authority had misled them by giving them good remarks.

Hussain did not promote them as he felt that promoting such students could spoil their future and was against the norms of the examination. It has been observed that there is mushroom growth of the private colleges and performance of most of them is dismal. Most of these lack the requisite infrastructure and the teachers are not qualified to the satisfaction of the students.

It has been reliably learnt that most of them are using the illegal means to maintain the reputation of their colleges. Sources said that most of these private colleges are buying the question papers from the authorities of the Technical education and the University to supply them to the students in advance for better results. Even the examiners are paid hefty sums for the favours they render to the students of these colleges, alleged the sources.

People in general feel that these colleges who have been recognised by the Government should be made accountable so that they could not deceive the students.

(Kashmir Observer, September 21, 1998)

Trump Proposes \$6 Bn Arms Sale to Israel

Associated Press

Washington- The Trump administration has told Congress it plans to sell nearly USD 6 billion in weapons to Israel, a fresh surge of support for the US ally as it faces increasing isolation over its war in Gaza.

It includes one USD 3.8 billion sale for 30 AH-64 Apache helicopters, nearly doubling Israel's current stocks, and a second USD 1.9 billion sale for 3,200 infantry assault vehicles for Israeli army, according to a US official and another person familiar with the proposal who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss plans that have not been made public.

The packages would not be delivered for two to three years or longer.

The huge sales come as US plans to broker an end to the nearly two-year war between Israel and Hamas have stalled and after Israel's strike on Hamas leaders in Doha, Qatar, drew widespread condemnation among US allies in the Middle East.

The US has kept up its support despite growing international pressure on Israel and attempts from a growing number of US Senate Democrats to block the sale of offensive weapons to Israel.

The State Department declined to comment on the sales, which were first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

Israel has launched a new offensive, pressing forward

with plans to take over Gaza City, as a professional organisation of scholars studying genocide has said Israel is committing genocide in Gaza.

The UK, which last year said it was suspending exports of some weapons to Israel out of concerns they could be used to violate international humanitarian laws, recently barred Israeli government officials from attending the country's biggest arms fair.

Turkey also said it was closing its airspace to Israeli government planes and any cargo of arms for the Israeli military, and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in a speech condemned Israeli attacks on Gaza as disproportionate.

Trump said Friday that he plans to meet Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Washington next week, with plans to discuss the purchases of Boeing aircraft and a deal for F-16 fighter jets.

The Biden administration paused a shipment of 2,000-pound bombs to Israel over concerns about civilian casualties, but Trump lifted that hold when he took office in January.

The Trump administration has already approved about USD 12 billion in major military assistance to Israel this year. Most recently, the US in June approved a half-billion-dollar arms sale to Israel to resupply its military with bomb guidance kits for precision. (AP)



Trump Announces USD 100,000 H-1B Visa Fee Move Could Impact Indian Workers In US

Press Trust Of India

New York/Washington- In a move that could adversely impact Indian professionals on visas in the US, President Donald Trump on Friday signed a proclamation that will raise the fee for H-1B visas to a staggering USD 100,000 annually, the latest in the administration's efforts to crack down on immigration.

White House staff secretary Will Scharf said the H-1B non-immigrant visa programme is one of the "most abused visa" systems in the country's current immigration system, and it is supposed to allow highly skilled labourers, who work in fields that Americans don't work in, to come into the United States.

The Trump administration said that the \$100,000 fee is aimed at ensuring that the people being brought into the country are "actually very highly skilled" and do not replace American workers.

The move is aimed at protecting American workers while ensuring that companies have a pathway to hire "truly extraordinary people" and bring them to the United States. Companies pay to sponsor H-1B applicants.

"We need workers. We

need workers. We need great workers, and this pretty much ensures that that's what's going to happen," Trump said, as he signed the proclamation in the Oval Office in the presence of Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

Lutnick said that historically, the employment-based Green Card programme let in 281,000 people a year, and those people earned USD 66,000 a year on average, and were five times more likely to participate in assistance programmes of the government.

"So we were taking in the bottom quartile, below the average American. It was illogical, the only country in the world that was taking in the bottom quartile," Lutnick said.

"We are going to stop doing that. We're going to only take extraordinary people at the very top, instead of those trying to take jobs from Americans. They're going to create businesses and create jobs for Americans. And this programme will raise more than USD 100 billion for the treasury of the United States," he added.

Trump said that the country will use that amount to cut taxes and pay down debt. "We think it's going to be very successful," Trump said.

The move is going to significantly impact Indian technology workers who are hired by tech companies and others on H-1B visas. The visas are valid for three years and can be renewed for another three years.

If a company sponsors an employee for the Green Card, the visas can be renewed till the permanent residency comes through. However, Indians on work visas in the US are caught in a decades-long wait for Green Cards and the new move could have an impact on whether they can continue to stay in the US if their companies decide not to pay the USD 100,000 fee annually now required to retain the visas.

"So the whole idea is, no more will these big tech companies or other big companies train foreign workers. They have to pay the government USD 100,000, then they have to pay the employee. So it's just not economic. If you're going to train somebody, you're going to train one of the recent graduates from one of the great universities across our land, train Americans. Stop bringing in people to take our jobs. That's the policy here. And all of the big companies are on board. We've spoken to them about," Lutnick said.

H-1B Workers Told: Return to US or Risk Stranding

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Immigration attorneys and companies are cautioning H-1B visa holders against travelling outside the US amid President Donald Trump's new plan to impose a USD 100,000 fee on the work visas, with many asking employees to return immediately to America or risk getting stranded.

In a significant development that will have an impact on Indian professionals working on H-1B visas in the US, Trump signed a proclamation Friday that restricts the entry into the United States

of nonimmigrants working in a "speciality occupation" unless their H-1B petitions are accompanied or supplemented by a payment of USD 100,000. This proclamation will come into effect from 12:01 am September 21, 2025.

Immigration attorneys and companies are sounding the alarm for H-1B visa holders or their family members currently outside the US for work or vacation, asking them to return to the US before the proclamation kicks in on September 21, essentially telling those outside the country to return within the next 24

hours or risk being stranded and denied entry into the US.

"H-1B visa holders who are out of the US on business or vacation will get stranded unless they get in before midnight September 21. H-1Bs still in India may have already missed the deadline as there is no way a direct flight from India will get in time," eminent New York-based immigration attorney Cyrus Mehta said in a post on X.

"There may still be a way for an H-1B visa holder who is in India to arrive in California before midnight September 21, 2025," Mehta said.

Restrictions on H-1B visas

Full Implications Being Studied: India

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi, Sep 20 (PTI) India on Saturday said the Trump administration's new restrictions on H-1B visa programme are likely to have humanitarian consequences and hoped that the "disruptions" would be addressed suitably by the American authorities.

India's reaction came hours after US President Donald Trump signed a proclamation to impose a USD 100,000 annual fee for H-1B visas, a move that is set to adversely impact Indian professionals in the US.

"This measure is likely to have humanitarian consequences by way of the disruption caused for families," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"The government hopes that these disruptions can be addressed suitably by the US authorities," he said. Jaiswal said the "full implications"

of the measure are being studied by all concerned, including by Indian industry.

Industries in both India and the US have a "stake in innovation and creativity and can be expected to consult on the best path forward," he said.



"Skilled talent mobility and exchanges have contributed enormously to technology development, innovation, economic growth, competitiveness and wealth creation in the United States and India," he said.

"Policy makers will therefore assess recent steps taking into account mutual benefits, which include strong people-to-people ties between the two countries," Jaiswal added.

Pakistani Dating Show Sparks Anger Ahead of Debut on YouTube

SAJJAD TARAKZAI

Islamabad, Sep 20 (AP) A dating show modelled on "Love Island" that features Pakistani contestants has sparked anger in the Muslim-majority country, despite no episodes being aired yet, and the series being only accessible on YouTube.

The country's broadcasting regulator said on Saturday it was not in a position to act on the public complaints because it had no authority over the streaming platform.

Lazawal Ishq, or Eternal Love, is hosted by Pakistani actress Ayesha Omar and filmed in Istanbul. Adapted from the Turkish format, Ask Adasi, and resembling the successful "Love Island" international franchise, it brings together four Pakistani men and women in a luxury villa where their every interaction is filmed. In Pakistan, extra-marital relationships are illegal, and there are stigmas around dating.

Last week, Omar shared a teaser of her cruising along the Bosphorus before welcoming contestants into the villa. But the promo quickly drew criticism online, with detractors labelling the format "un-Islamic" and accusing it of copying Western culture.

The flood of public complaints about the Urdu-language show prompted Pakistani regulators to issue a clarification, saying they were unable to do anything.

Muhammad Tahir, a spokesperson for the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority, said on

We do not regulate YouTube, and this content is not from any television channel. The general public is not aware that YouTube lies outside our regulatory scope

Saturday that the program was neither being broadcast on mainstream media nor on any television channel licensed by the authority.

"It does not fall within our domain," Tahir told the Associated Press. "We do not regulate YouTube, and this content is not from any television channel. The general public is not aware that YouTube lies outside our regulatory scope."

The host, Omar, told the Pakistan-based Fashion Times magazine last week that the project was "a first of its kind for Pakistani and Urdu-speaking viewers."

She said the show would feature "love, bonding, and competition," with audiences witnessing "every spark, every fight, and every heart-felt connection." Over the course of 100 episodes, the eight contestants compete in challenges and form alliances until one couple emerges as the winner.

Nobody from the show was immediately available for comment.

Lazawal Ishq is scheduled to debut on YouTube on September 29.

More Than 100 Delhi Schools Receive Bomb Threats



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: More than 100 schools in the national capital received bomb threats on Saturday morning, which were later declared 'hoax' after thorough checking, officials said.

The e-mail received at 6.10 am on Saturday came from a group, which called itself "Terrorizers111". The group had earlier also sent similar e-mails to schools, sources in the police said.

The subject of the e-mail mentioned "Bombs Placed in Your Building - ?React or Face the Disaster."

Officials of the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said that they received information about 10 schools, including Delhi Public School (DPS) in Dwarka,

Krishna Model Public School, Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, CRPF Public School in Dwarka, and Mata Vidya Devi Public School in Najafgarh.

However, after thorough checking of the premises, they were declared a hoax, the official added.

Bomb disposal squads and police teams were rushed to the campuses.

Students and staff members were evacuated as a precautionary measure, officials said.

"We have thoroughly checked the campuses. Nothing suspicious has been found," a senior police officer said.

Authorities are probing the source of the threats and whether they were part of a coordinated attempt to create panic, police said.

Mohanlal to Receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi, Sept 20 : Malayalam superstar Mohanlal has been named the recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2023, the country's highest recognition in the field of cinema, the I&B ministry announced on Saturday.

In a post on X, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry said the actor, director and producer is being honoured on the recommendation of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award Selection Committee for his "iconic contribution to Indian cinema".

The award will be presented to the 65-year-old during the 71st National Film Awards ceremony on September 23.

"Mohanlal's remarkable cinematic journey inspires genera-



tions... His unmatched talent, versatility, and relentless hard work have set a golden standard in Indian film history," the ministry said.

With a career spanning more than four decades, Mohanlal has acted in over 350 films across Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi and Kannada.

Some of his most popular and critically-acclaimed movies include "Thanmathra", "Drishyam", "Vanaprastham", "Munthirivallikal Thalirkkumbol" and "Pulimurugan".

NEWS MAKERS

'Ya Ali' Singer Zubeen Garg Dies in Singapore Freak Accident

KO Web Desk

Srinagar-The music world plunged into mourning on Friday after celebrated Assamese singer Zubeen Garg, best known nationwide for the blockbuster track Ya Ali, died in a freak scuba diving accident in Singapore. He was 52.

Garg, who rose to fame in Assam during the 1990s, achieved pan-India stardom in 2006 when Ya Ali from the film Gangster became one of Bollywood's most memorable hits.

According to reports, the singer was participating in a scuba diving activity when he fell into the sea. Though rescued and rushed to the ICU,



he succumbed shortly after. He was scheduled to perform at the North East Festival in Singapore later the same day. A video shared online showed Garg, wearing a life jacket, moments before the tragedy as he leapt into the sea for a swim.

The Assam government on

Saturday declared a three-day state mourning and announced a probe into the circumstances surrounding the death of popular singer, in whose memory shops and establishments across Guwahati remained closed.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences, posting on X: "Shocked by the sudden demise of popular singer Zubeen Garg. He will be remembered for his rich contribution to music."

Born in Meghalaya in 1972 as Zubeen was revered as Assam's most influential singer. He not only dominated the Assamese music scene but also left his mark across Hindi, Bengali, and over 40 languages.

Cops Storm Hospital, Haul Doctor to SSP's Home

Press Trust Of India

Etawah : Tension gripped Etawah after police personnel allegedly forced an on-duty doctor from the district hospital to the residence of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Brijesh Kumar Srivastava around midnight to treat his ailing mother, prompting protests by medical staff.

According to Dr Rahul Babu, who was on emergency duty, a sub-inspector and constables stormed into the hospital, abused him, snatched his phone, and compelled him to accompany them despite patients waiting for care. He said he was later returned and offered an apology on the SSP's instructions.

The incident sparked outrage among doctors and pharmacists, who shut down the OPD on Thursday in protest, causing hardship to patients. SSP Srivastava denied ordering government staff to his residence, claiming he had sought a private doctor. Calling the personnel's actions "unacceptable," he announced a probe and suspended two constables — Aniruddh Sahu and Hitesh Verma.

Div Com Reviews Restoration Works, Regulation Of Traffic On NH 44



Observer News Service

UDHAMPUR: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, on Saturday conducted an extensive visit to the damaged stretch of National Highway (NH-44) at Thard to review the pace of ongoing restoration works and regulation of traffic movement.

The Div Com was accompanied by IGP Traffic, Regional Officer NHAI, SSP Udhampur, SSP Traffic NHW, Additional District Development Commissioner along with other officers from the civil Administration, Police and NHAI.

During the visit, the Divisional Commissioner took stock of the progress of restoration works, which include road widening, laying of Water Bound Macadam (WBM), construction of an additional lane for smooth vehicular movement and restoration of the second tube of NH-

44. He was also informed about the prevailing single-lane traffic management along the stretch.

The Div Com personally monitored the NHAI movement and directed NHAI authorities to expedite the restoration process for the convenience of commuters and the general public. He enquired about the daily vehicular flow on NH-44 and instructed the concerned officers to create an additional lane by filling with stone to ensure smooth passage of vehicles.

The Div Com directed NHAI to double their efforts to restore the 300-metre affected stretch on priority and maintain uninterrupted flow of traffic on a daily basis. He also asked the Traffic Department to strictly regulate traffic movement on NH-44. He further instructed the executing agencies to mobilize adequate men and machinery to ensure timely completion of the works.

Ravinder Raina Urges Govt To Waive Off KCC Loans Of Farmers

Agencies

PULWAMA: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader from Jammu and Kashmir, Ravinder Raina on Saturday urged the Union Territory administration to waive off Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans of apple growers, who suffered massive losses this season due to the continuous highway closures, high freight charges and plummeting demand in outside markets.

Raina, who visited multiple fruit mandis in Pulwama and Shopian, interacted with growers, who expressed deep concern over the prevailing situation.

Farmers told him that this year has turned into a "nightmare" for the horticulture sector, as hundreds of trucks laden with apple boxes remain stranded due to frequent landslides on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway and shortage of transport facilities.

Speaking to reporters, the BJP leader said that the horticulture sector, which is the backbone of Kashmir's economy, is passing

through one of the most difficult phases in recent times.

"The growers have suffered heavy losses this year. The government must immediately take measures to provide relief. Waiving off KCC loans of farmers is the need of the hour so that they are not pushed further into financial distress," Raina said.

He added that the administration must also ensure adequate availability of trucks at mandis, reduce freight rates, and take measures for smooth transportation of fruit produce to different states. "This is not just an economic issue but also a livelihood crisis for lakhs of families who depend on horticulture. Government intervention is necessary and urgent," he said.

Kashmir's horticulture sector contributes around 8% to the UT's GDP, with apples forming the largest share. However, this year's challenges — from natural calamities to logistic hurdles — have left the industry on the brink, forcing stakeholders to appeal for immediate relief measures—(KNO)

Prime Members Get Early Access To Amazon Great Indian Festival From Sep 22

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amazon India has announced that its much-awaited Great Indian Festival 2025 will begin with exclusive early access for Prime members on September 22. Customers are being encouraged to sign up for Prime membership to avail some of the lowest prices of the year and blockbuster deals on top brands including Samsung, Apple, Intel, HP, Asus, Titan, Li-bas, L'Oréal, and more.

This festive season, Amazon is positioning Prime as the gateway to unmatched value, convenience, and entertainment. Prime members not only get early access to the sale but also exclusive Prime Festive Offers, which include an additional 10% discount on top of existing festive deals across categories like smartphones, consumer electronics, appliances, fashion, home & kitchen, and beauty.

With its wide range of benefits, Prime continues to redefine customer experience. The membership offers free same-day delivery on over 10 lakh products and next-day delivery on more than 40 lakh items. Further, Prime users applying for the Amazon Pay ICICI Bank credit card can unlock welcome rewards worth ₹23,000 and earn unlimited 5% cashback on shopping and travel bookings. Additional benefits include no-cost EMIs, early deals, and seamless subscription payments through Bharat Bill Pay.

Beyond shopping, Prime members also enjoy a host of

entertainment offerings. Prime Video will roll out 13 new movies and series this festive season, including Shane Black's crime thriller Play Dirty starring Mark Wahlberg, LaKeith Stanfield, and Rosa Salazar, premiering on October 1. The final chapter of the popular saga Our Fault (Culpa Nuestra) will stream from October 16, while the much-anticipated talk show Two Much with Twinkle and Kajol will begin on September 25 with new episodes every Thursday.

Amazon's MX Player has also lined up festive releases, including reality show Rise and Fall hosted by Ashneer Grover, set to conclude with its finale on October 17. Popular franchises such as Sixer Season 2 and Jamnappa will also return, while MX Vdesi will bring dubbed international hits like My Lovely Liar, Twinkling Watermelon, and Wedding Impossible.

Highlighting the inclusivity of Prime, Amazon has kept membership options flexible. Customers can choose from the annual plan at ₹1,499, Prime Lite at ₹999, or the Shopping Edition at ₹399.

Abhinav Agarwal, Director and Head of Amazon Prime India, said, "Festive season is a time for joy, upgrading homes, and gifting loved ones. With Prime, we are delighted to offer members an experience that combines the best of shopping, savings, and entertainment. This Diwali, members can look forward to celebrations that are bigger, brighter, and more rewarding."

Jammu Road Accident Turns Out To Be Shooting; 3 Cops Suspended

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU- Three policemen were suspended after a probe into the death of a woman here last month revealed that she died of gunshot wounds and not in a road accident, an officer said on Saturday.

On August 21, Mehjabeen Akil Sheikh, 30, a resident of Mumbai, her sister Fatima, 21, and Jaspreet Kour, 28, of Ludhiana were brought to a private nursing home on the outskirts of Jammu by two men, who claimed that they had sustained injuries in a road accident on the Ring road.

On August 29, Mehjabeen Sheikh succumbed at the Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital.

A probe, however, revealed that the three had been fired upon by unidentified persons and were not injured in a road accident.

In an order issued on Friday, Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police Joginder Singh suspended Channi Himmat Police Station SHO, Inspector Deepak Pathania, Sainik Colony police post in-charge, Sub-inspector Wasim Bhatti, and Sub-inspector Rohit Sharma posted at Channi police station.

The investigation is on to arrest the shooters, police said.

According to a police spokesperson, on August 21, a team from Channi Himmat Police Station responded to a call from JK Medicity Hospital regarding three injured people being admitted there.

The investigation officer was informed that the acci-



dent had happened on Ring Road, and the doctors declared the injured not fit to record their statement, the spokesperson said.

The next morning, he said, the injured were admitted to Jammu's GMC hospital without the knowledge of police.

On August 29, the mother of the deceased approached Jammu district magistrate's office for exemption of post-mortem. The application landed at Channi Himmat, duly marked by Additional Deputy Commis-

IN AN ORDER ISSUED ON FRIDAY, JAMMU SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE JOGINDER SINGH SUSPENDED CHANNI HIMMAT POLICE STATION SHO, Inspector Deepak Pathania, Sainik Colony police post in-charge, Sub-inspector Wasim Bhatti, and Sub-inspector Rohit Sharma posted at Channi police station.

sioner, the spokesperson said. He said Inspector Deepak Pathania found the mother's replies suspicious and contradictory and refused to grant the exemption.

Pathania deputed a team to verify the matter and it was found that the case was reg-

istered at the GMC as an RTA (Road Traffic Accident) at Ring Road near Zamindara, and a message in the matter had been flashed to Bari Brahmana Police Station by the hospital.

Also revealed was that the deceased was admitted on August 22, and not two days earlier as claimed by her mother, the spokesperson said. On August 30, police ordered inquest proceedings under Section 194 of BNSS.

The next day, at the order of the ADC, a post-mortem was conducted in the presence of an executive magistrate and the exercise was videographed, the spokesperson said.

As evidence, police seized the woman's clothes and retrieved CCTV footage, call detail records, and internet activity of the victims.

"... during the inquiry it

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surfaced that there was a use of a firearm which led to the injuries and subsequent death of the deceased ... Inquest proceedings were converted into an FIR under various sections of BNS and Arms Act at Police Station Channi Himmat," the spokesperson said.

Missing Girl Reunites With Family After 3 Years

Observer News Service

RAMBAN: The district administration Ramban in coordination with District Police, Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and Juvenile Justice Board has successfully reunited a 14-year-old girl with her parents hailing from Chhattisgarh after tracing and verifying their details.

The girl had been found on June 22, 2022, by Police Station Ramban and handed over to CWC Ramban. She was subsequently provided care at Nariniketan Doda, Government Girls' Shelter Home Trikuta Nagar Jammu, Nari Niketan Udhampur, and later at Parishah Ramban. Today, she was formally handed over to her extended family at CWC office Ramban in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan; Senior Superintendent of Police Ramban, Arun Gupta; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet Singh Charak; and officials of CWC, Juvenile



Justice Board Ramban and Mission Vatsalya departments.

The Deputy Commissioner lauded the relentless efforts of CWC Ramban—particularly its Chairperson, Nighat Ghani and Member JJB Shah Niwaz tracing the girl's extended family and facilitating her return. He expressed hope that CWC would continue to discharge its responsibilities with similar zeal, spirit and mission.

SSP Ramban Arun Gupta also appreciated the efforts of CWC and JJB Ramban for their sustained commitment to the

welfare of children in distress and assured every possible support to the committee in such noble causes round-the-clock.

The girl's parents and family members expressed their deep gratitude to the District Administration, Ramban Police, especially CWC Ramban and JJB for facilitating her reunion with her family besides providing parental care, compassion and support to their daughter, including her social and educational development during her stay.

J&K Bank Powers Youth Dreams With Mission Yuva



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of implementing Government's flagship program Mission YUVA, J&K Bank organized multiple Login Day events across Jammu and Kashmir this week, wherein sanction letters were handed over to scores of aspiring entrepreneurs amid large gatherings of participants.

During the week, the Bank also crossed the milestone of distributing 5000 sanction letters under the initiative aimed at nurturing youth-led entrepreneurship in the region.

Participating in many of these event, senior officers of various district administrations appreciated the Bank's proactive approach in fulfilling the objectives of Mission YUVA. They urged the beneficiaries to pursue their ventures with innovation and dedication so as to become job creators in the near future.

While thanking the J&K Government

for its support, Bank's senior management functionaries reiterated bank's commitment to the successful implementation of the program and urged young and aspiring entrepreneurs to come forward and avail its benefits of this scheme and translate their ideas into sustainable ventures. They emphasized that the Bank's entire staff, led by its leadership, is working in mission mode to realise the vision and objectives of Mission YUVA. During the week, the Bank organized eight Login Day events across various districts of the Union Territory wherein 356 sanction letters were handed over to aspiring entrepreneurs.

At Bandipora, the event was presided over by Deputy Commissioner, Indu Kanwal(IAS) and Bank's General Manager Ashutosh Sareen in presence of Zonal Head (Baramulla) Tanveer Ahmad Najar, Cluster Heads and other senior officers of the Bank, during which sanction letters were distributed among beneficiary entrepreneurs.

Atal Dulloo Inaugurates Sewa Parv Mela At Baramulla

Also Reviews Developmental Scenario Of District



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Saturday conducted an extensive visit of Baramulla and reviewed the overall developmental scenario of district Baramulla.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Director School Education, Director RDD, and other officers accompanied the Chief Secretary during the visit.

At the outset, Chief Secretary inaugurated Sewa Parv Mela at Dak Bungalow Baramulla in the presence of the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla and other officers as part of the ongoing nationwide Sewa Parv campaign.

The Chief Secretary also inspected the stalls set up by various departments like Health, Education, Social Welfare, ICDS, Agriculture, Horticulture, Rural Development, and others, to provide on-the-spot services, guidance, and information about a wide range of government schemes and welfare initiatives to the people.

During the Mela, the Chief Secretary distributed sanction letters among beneficiaries under Mission YUVA, agriculture & allied sectors, thereby extending direct support to young entrepreneurs, farmers, and self-help groups.

He further handed over the keys of retrofitted scooters to specially-abled persons and nutritional kits to TB patients, underlining the government's commitment to empower every section of society and ensure inclusive development.

During the visit, the Chief Secretary chaired a comprehensive meeting at Dak Bungalow Baramulla to review the district's developmental landscape, focusing on progress of ongoing projects, status of government run beneficiary schemes and other key initiatives across various sectors.

During the meeting, the DC provided a detailed presentation on the overall developmental scenario of Baramulla district, covering the status of ongoing projects across key sectors like Public Works (PWD), Health, PHE, Education, Power, Agriculture, and allied areas.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary urged the officers to ensure effective implementation and saturation of key Centrally and UT-sponsored schemes, emphasizing that their prompt execution is essential for strengthening livelihoods and maximizing benefits to the people.

During the review of the health and education and other sectors, Atal Dulloo noted that significant investments have been made towards improving the infrastructure, the priority now must shift towards enhancing service delivery so that citizens experience real improvement in these vital sectors.

Later, Chief Secretary, along with Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, DIG North Kashmir, and other senior officers, participated in a plantation drive in the premises of Dak Bungalow Baramulla as part of the Sewa Parv campaign.

Div Com, IGP Review Arrangements For Forthcoming Festivals

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police, Bhim Sen Tuti today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements made by district administrations for the forthcoming festivals of Navratri, Ram Navami, Dussehra and Diwali.

The meeting was attended by IGP Traffic J&K, MD JPDCL, Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs from across Jammu Division, Director Information, HoDs of Tourism, Floriculture, RDD, Health Services, ULB, FCS&CA, SSP Security, SSP Traffic, Functionaries from PWD, Jal Shakti, Legal Metrology, Fire and Emergency Services Departments.

Threadbare discussions were held on different aspects of arrangements with a focus on availability of civil supplies, security, connectivity and civic amenities for the smooth celebration of the festivals.

The Div Com and IGP Jammu sought feedback from district

administrations and Heads of Departments regarding each aspect of the preparations.

Directions were issued to ensure seamless arrangements in and around the religious places with a special focus on sanitation, crowd management, accessibility of roads, drinking water, power supply, traffic management, availability of essential items, check on overcharging in the markets in each district.

The Div Com directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to personally visit the religious shrines that witness large congregations of people during the holy festivals. He asked them to ensure proper deployment of police personnel and queue management systems for the smooth movement of people.

Directions were also issued for meticulous planning of routes for religious processions and selection of venues for organizing Ramleela. The Inspector General of Police directed the SSPs to formulate police deployment and traffic plans for the festive season.

OFFICE OF THE TRADERS FEDERATION SUMBAL
HEAD OFFICE: NEAR DEGREE COLLEGE SUMBAL SONAWARI BANDIPORA-193501
Cell: 9419053436/7006106828
Resolution/Minutes of Meeting
That on this day, i.e., 20th of August, 2025, the General Body of the Traders Federation, Sumbal convened a meeting to deliberate upon the grave issues being faced by the shopkeepers of Wangipora Bridge Market arising out of the ongoing construction of a Flyover undertaken by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI).
During the meeting, the affected shopkeepers, who were present in large numbers, expressed their serious concern over the said construction activity, stating that the same has severely disrupted and adversely impacted their day-to-day business operations and livelihood.
The shopkeepers, therefore, earnestly requested the Federation to take immediate and necessary measures for redressal of their grievances.
After due deliberations, the Committee unanimously resolved to file a Petition before the Hon'ble High Court seeking appropriate relief. Accordingly, the Committee has authorized the President of the Federation to Initiate and pursue all requisite legal steps in this regard on behalf of the affected shopkeepers.
Through President:
Nazir Ahmad Reshi | Javid Ahmad Mir | Hilal Ahmad Parray |
Ajaz Ahmad Parray | Adil Ahmad Kalu | Ishfaq Ahmad Reshi |
Showkat Ahmad Parray

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KO VIEW

Humanity Through Gratitude

Scrolling through social media in Kashmir often feels like stepping into a battlefield. Comments quickly turn into attacks, old grudges flare, and personal bitterness spreads faster than the morning mist.

Every day, people lash out over small differences. Gratitude might seem out of place here, yet it has the power to change how we live and relate to one another.

Kashmiris show gratitude in ways outsiders might not notice. Families gather for modest meals and give thanks for survival, health, and simply being together. Faith gives these gestures meaning, making gratitude a part of daily life. It does more than feel good. It shapes character and strengthens bonds.

World Gratitude Day reminds us to bring this habit into the open, even in the noisy world of social media. What if saying “thank you” became as natural as scrolling, as instinctive as posting a comment, as automatic as criticizing?

In a society where slander and bitterness dominate, gratitude becomes an act of courage. It softens resentment, builds trust, and shows that acknowledgment matters.

Research in Kashmir highlights its impact. Families who regularly express thanks report closer relationships and greater emotional connect. Gratitude turns ordinary moments into meaningful ones. It transforms fleeting politeness into real empathy, silences bitterness, and strengthens connection.

Choosing gratitude counters cynicism, disarms cruelty, and makes human interactions more humane.

On September 21, saying “thank you” should do more than mark a date. It should signal what it means to live together, appreciate effort, and honour life itself.

Every expression of thanks becomes a reminder that kindness, connection, and humanity can survive, and even thrive, in difficult times.

Kashmir’s Power Paradox

Abundant supply meets chronic shortage in one of South Asia’s most puzzling power economies.

Uzma Qadir Mir

Electricity keeps a modern economy alive. It powers factories, lights up schools, runs hospitals, and touches almost every part of daily life. From farms to factories to services, nothing works without a steady flow of power. In today’s world, it is a basic need for growth.

In Jammu and Kashmir, however, electricity remains a paradox.

The region has extraordinary hydropower potential thanks to its mountains and fast-flowing rivers. With over 15 hydropower plants and an estimated annual generation of more than 29 million units, Kashmir appears, at least on paper, to be energy-rich.

The Chenab, Jhelum, and Indus tributaries hold enough promise to make it one of South Asia’s most energy-secure regions. But the reality is starkly different.

Kashmir suffers chronic power shortages, especially during the long, freezing winters. Blackouts are common, homes struggle to stay warm, and industries remain constrained.

Instead of exporting surplus energy, the Union Territory buys electricity from the national grid at high cost.

This mismatch between resources and outcomes is the essence of Kashmir’s paradox of power.

Economists speak of comparative advantage, the idea that regions should focus on what they can produce most efficiently. For Kashmir, that advantage clearly lies in hydropower.

Studies estimate the region could generate over 20,000 megawatts of electricity, but only about 3,500 megawatts has been tapped so far. Projects like Baglihar, Dulhasti, Kishanganga, Uri, and Salal feed power into the grid.

In theory, this should make Kashmir self-sufficient and capable of exporting energy to the rest of India. But unlike Norway, which successfully turned its rivers into a surplus power economy, Kashmir still faces routine blackouts.

Most plants here are run-of-the-river projects, which produce far less electricity in winter when river flows shrink, precisely when demand peaks. Even the installed capacity of 3,500 megawatts often operates below full efficiency because of technical limits.

Transmission and distribution losses are another glaring problem, reaching 45 to 50 percent in some areas, more than double the national average of about 20 percent. This is pure economic waste.

Households rather than industries consume most of the electricity in the valley, largely because of the harsh climate and the need for heating. Urban growth and population surge have only added pressure.

During winter, demand rises to around 2,500 megawatts, but supply often hovers near 1,000 megawatts, leaving a gap of over 1,500 megawatts.

This shortfall forces costly imports and causes indirect losses in productivity and investment.

Many hydropower projects are operated by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation, which sends much of the electricity to the national grid while the local government receives only a modest royalty.

Critics argue that Kashmir’s rivers light up other states while its own residents sit in the dark, a dynamic



A future where Kashmir’s rivers light its homes, power its industries, and create jobs is within reach. The challenge is to ensure that this natural wealth fuels prosperity for the people who live closest to it.

often described as an energy drain.

Every unit exported or lost reduces opportunities for local growth. Industries hesitate to invest, and agriculture remains stuck without the cold storage and processing facilities that reliable power could support.

Electricity shortages ripple through every part of society. Small industries such as carpet weaving, paper making, and agro-processing depend on stable power. Many rely on diesel generators, which are expensive and polluting, reducing competitiveness and discouraging investors.

In winter, schools and colleges hold classes in freezing rooms, and students preparing for exams often study by candlelight. Hospitals face disruptions in surgeries and diagnostic services when power cuts hit smaller clinics without backup systems. Families turn to firewood, coal, and kerosene for heat, fueling deforestation, indoor pollution, and health problems.

These hidden costs, known as negative externalities, are not reflected in electricity prices but weigh heavily on society.

From an economic perspective, Kashmir’s electricity sector is far from efficient. Outdated infrastructure and poor maintenance lead to heavy technical losses. Theft and unpaid bills add commercial losses, forcing either subsidies or higher prices for those who do pay. Low collection rates mean the power department recovers only a fraction of its costs, deepening financial stress.

Large hydropower projects also carry environmental trade-offs. Dams alter river ecosystems, threaten fish populations, and displace villages, raising questions of compensation and livelihoods. Climate change adds another layer of risk by altering snow reserves and river flows, making hydropower less predictable.

Relying on a single source of energy is risky. A more balanced mix of solar, small hydro, and

possibly wind power would provide stability.

Resource-rich regions often export raw materials while importing finished goods. Kashmir exports electricity yet depends on outside supplies to meet basic needs, a pattern similar to a rentier economy.

Weak institutions and the gap between resource ownership and local benefit worsen this imbalance. But this paradox is not beyond repair.

Small hydro projects, community-managed plants, and solar micro-grids can reduce dependence on central projects. Modern transmission lines, smart meters, and better management could sharply cut losses. Fairer revenue sharing and joint ownership models would give Kashmir a stronger stake in its own resources.

Promoting energy-efficient appliances, better home insulation, and more responsible consumption can ease winter demand, while solar power can balance seasonal shortages. Transparent billing and active community participation can rebuild trust in the power sector.

Kashmir’s electricity economy is a textbook example of resource abundance coexisting with local scarcity.

The problem lies in institutions, inefficiency, and political choices.

With smarter management, diversified energy sources, and stronger local control, electricity can shift from being a barrier to becoming a driver of growth.

A future where Kashmir’s rivers light its homes, power its industries, and create jobs is within reach.

The challenge is to ensure that this natural wealth fuels prosperity for the people who live closest to it.

The author is a graduate student of Economics. She can be reached at muzmaqadir@gmail.com.

For most adults, work is the single largest part of life. It structures our days, shapes our relationships, and often becomes central to our identity.

A person’s profession can feel like his anchor to purpose and respect in Kashmir, where jobs are limited and competition intense.

Ask someone, “Who are you?” and they answer with a title: engineer, doctor, or principal.

For those in positions of power, their identity often collapses entirely into the role they occupy.

Work should be a place of growth, creativity, and meaning. It should allow people to bring their skills, ideas, and personality into the workplace. But sadly, too many organizations turn work into a performance stage for a single ego.

When fairness is absent, opportunity is hoarded, and flattery is rewarded over merit, work becomes punishment.

Employees face daily dilemmas: stay silent and survive, or speak up and risk being sidelined. Families depend on salaries, making the moral struggle intensely personal.

Psychology explains why some bosses insist on a “one-man show.”

Dominance often masks insecurity. Leaders fearing irrelevance or holding grudges “other” employees, protecting their ego while weakening the workplace.

Equity Theory highlights that humans constantly compare effort with reward. When fairness collapses, motivation and morale follow. Skill and hard work alone cannot secure growth. Often, the hidden requirement for advancement is approval from the powerful, leaving talented employees overlooked while favoured individuals ascend.

The valley is no stranger to this culture. Government offices, private firms, and

The One-Man Show

Inside Kashmir’s offices, power and insecurity often overshadow talent and fairness.

Dr. Imran Khan



NGOs all exhibit variations of it. Loyalty replaces merit, visibility replaces contribution, and meetings become stages where control trumps collaboration.

Employees internalize the strain, managing conscience and ambition amid an environment that discourages dissent.

Psychologists identify a similar pattern in David McClelland’s work on power motivation: individuals crave influence, sometimes overcompensating by dominating colleagues or aligning with those in authority.

Insecure showmanship also manifests as performance anxiety.

“Leaders who prioritize fairness, inclusivity, and shared opportunity cultivate resilience and optimism. True leadership builds teams, not shadows of ego. Recognition of merit, encouragement of dialogue, and equitable treatment unlock creativity and loyalty.

Erving Goffman’s Impression Management Theory frames workplaces as stages: employees act, leaders perform charisma, while backstage doubts and fears remain hidden.

The ritual of working late becomes a symbol of commitment, though often it is a theater of appearances.

The late Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam cautioned against glorifying overtime, emphasizing boundaries and integrity over mere visibility.

The consequences of the one-man show are real. Stress increases, talent disengages, ethics erode, and organizational potential stagnates.

The human cost is amplified in Kashmir, where workplaces already face structural and political pressures. But, solutions exist.

Leaders who prioritize fairness, inclusivity, and shared opportunity cultivate resilience and optimism. True leadership builds teams, not shadows of ego. Recognition of merit, encouragement of dialogue, and equitable treatment unlock creativity and loyalty.

Work should offer purpose, belonging, and dignity, not fear or performance anxiety. Kashmir’s organizations, public and private alike, must reject the one-man show.

Power is strongest when shared, and workplaces thrive when fairness and opportunity outweigh domination and favouritism.

The valley’s employees deserve a stage where skill, not flattery, earns attention, where work is a platform for growth, not a theater of ego.

The author holds a Ph.D. in Psychology and specializes in workplace behaviour and identity.

The Kashmiri Scholar Who Traveled Beyond Time

An investigative journey into North Kashmir uncovers a forgotten scholar whose devotion, knowledge, and service shaped communities across time and distance.



Syed Majid Gilani

I arrived in Handwara in the autumn of 2018, carrying a notebook, a pen, and a sense of anticipation I could hardly explain.

This was a town my great-grandfather, Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani, had once walked, prayed, and taught.

Growing up, I had heard stories of him. Tales from family friends, mentions in letters, and the pages of his diaries that survived time in careful hands.

Most of his work was in Persian, elegant but unintelligible to me. His Kashmiri writings were more approachable, but it was his Urdu that spoke directly to me, offering glimpses of his voice across decades.

The first stop was an old compound shadowed by walnut trees. A marble plaque, with worn edges and intact letters, announced his name: Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani – Khanqah Moulla.

Beneath it, the inscription noted he had laid the foundation of the Eid Gah. I touched the cool marble, trying to imagine him here: calm, devoted, and deeply present among the people he served.

It felt as though time had compressed, letting me witness the weight of his actions in a single, still moment.

The legacy of Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani is not only in the monuments or manuscripts but in the lives he touched, the guidance he offered, and the principles he embodied.

I wandered into nearby villages, guided by locals who remembered him in fragments and anecdotes.

The elderly spoke of his patience and clarity, how he explained religious texts in ways that made them feel alive. One man, with hands weathered by decades of labour, told me how Maulana had corrected his recitation of the Quran with a gentleness that lingered in memory as much as in practice.

Another remembered the day the foundation of the Eid Gah was laid, describing the excitement and reverence in voices that still resonated in the hills.

Travelling from Srinagar to Handwara in his time was arduous. Roads were rough, transport scarce, and journeys long. Yet he undertook them repeatedly, motivated by duty and care.

He travelled across Jammu and Kashmir and beyond, to Campbellpur (now Attock), Muree, Rawalpindi, and Islamabad. He performed Hajj by a six-month sea voyage, a journey that cost only a few hundred rupees at the time but demanded spine and spirit.

His travels were acts of devotion as much as scholarship, each step an extension of his commitment to those seeking knowledge and guidance.

Born on 18 July 1890 in the historic Khanqah Moulla of Srinagar, Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani devoted his life to learning, teaching, and service. He mastered Islamic teachings, Fiqh, the Quran, and Hadith, moving effortlessly between Persian, Urdu, and Kashmiri.

He was also a Unani healer, tending to physical ailments with herbs and remedies, always with compassion.

His scholarship was rigorous, but his guidance carried an understanding of human fragility.

Walking the villages, I realized how much of his work was invisible yet present. The lessons he taught, the guidance he offered, and the acts of service he performed were woven into lives without the need for constant recognition.

His teachings were alive in people's choices, the way they treated one another, the respect



Walking the villages, I realized how much of his work was invisible yet present. The lessons he taught, the guidance he offered, and the acts of service he performed were woven into lives without the need for constant recognition.

they carried for learning and morality.

He passed away on 19 April 1966, but the impact of his life persisted. People welcomed me not as a stranger, but as the great-grandson of someone they had known through stories, memories, and practices passed down over decades. Their warmth, willingness to share, and careful attention to history reminded me how deeply a life can imprint itself upon a community.

Leaving Handwara, I walked back along paths lined with chinars and pines, carrying fragments of conversations, recollections, and emotions. I had come seeking history, yet what stayed with me was continuity: the way values, knowledge, and compassion ripple through time.

The marble plaque, the Eid Gah, the voices of villagers, and my own reflections merged into a story of dedication that transcends memory.

The legacy of Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani is not only in the monuments or manuscripts but in the lives he touched, the guidance he offered, and the principles he embodied.

In Handwara, decades after his passing, it feels alive, palpable, and enduring.

— The author is a government officer by profession and a storyteller by passion. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com

Whispers of Wullar

In Afsanvi Sadaein, Dr. Shaheena Yusuf gathers 31 stories that trace love, devotion, and human fragility, revealing the heartbeat of Kashmir through fiction.

Rayeesh Ahmad Kumar

Every year, the Wullar Urdu Adbi Forum Kashmir summons writers to tell their stories.

Founders have turned storytelling into ritual. They host, critique, and champion Urdu fiction with the rigour of scholars and the care of friends.

During the pandemic, when the world fell silent, the forum's gatherings moved online. Words travelled through screens, binding writers across oceans.

Afsanvi Sadaein, edited by Dr. Shaheena Yusuf, is the record of one such gathering.

Thirty-one stories, each a pulse of a society in flux, now rest on paper.

The anthology begins with Noor Shah's Wapsi, set on Dal Lake. A community that shares faith fractures into islands of practice, mosques proliferate, and tradition bends under modern pressures. The story reminds readers that division often hides in the familiar.

Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Wani's Aaw Ab Nikah Kar Lein explores intimacy in the digital age. Two strangers meet over WhatsApp, meet in parks, and find desire and disillusionment entwined. Sadai Saher discovers that love online cannot shelter against truth. Youth, unmoored from guidance, stumble into lessons learned too late.

Dr. Riyaz Tawheedi's Phool aur Khushboo moves differently. It whispers rather than strikes, mapping devotion and spiritual longing. Meditation, guidance, and love for the divine pull the reader inward, toward reflection.

Dr. Nazir Mushtaq's Dusra Shouhar confronts suffering of another kind: the hidden weight of mental illness, where empathy becomes narrative craft, and fiction turns into witness.

Raja Yousuf's Yaar Zinda Suhbat Bari sketches friendship as salvation. Childhood bonds dissolve under distance, only to re-assemble amid the floods of 2014. Human connection emerges in moments of catastrophe.

Tariq Shabnum's Shakoor Bangi studies virtue under neglect. Shakoor, mocked for habits the world disdains, surprises with acts of generosity.

The collection turns toward social critique and moral reckoning. Wajida Tabassum Gurkha's Kish koul Ki Qemat



confronts exploitation and gendered vulnerability. Neelofer Naz Nehvi's Khushboo exposes the perils hidden in ordinary spaces. Mohd Shafi Sagar's Sarhad Ke Us Par observes life along the border with tender gravity: waiting mothers, fractured families, and the slow ache of separation.

Dr. Yusuf's own Qatil charts a descent into tragedy, showing the vulnerability of a boy led astray and the shattered lives left behind. S. Mashooq Ahmad's Aur Shah Din Mar Gaya blends desire and deceit, questioning trust and morality. Task n-e-Dil, penned by a contributor from within the valley, turns its gaze to childless couples, whose silent suffering mirrors society's unspoken judgments.

The anthology is a mirror to Kashmir's devotion, desire, and despair.

Dr. Yusuf's editorial hand is precise, crafting an anthology where each story resonates in conversation with the next. The result is a chorus: urgent and unflinching.

Afsanvi Sadaein captures societal tension and spiritual yearning with lyricism that speaks across generations.

The stories breathe, pulse, and echo.

— The author is a columnist based in Qazigund, Kashmir, exploring literature and cultural life in the valley.

Colonial Hangover

From school ties to ceremonial black coats, a witty exploration of India's enduring fascination with English customs.

Vikas Thakur

“Oh, Papa! Where were you?” exclaimed my 6th-grade son. I saw that he and my better half had been struggling with his school tie. I had gone for my morning walk, and it seemed they were at sea trying to make a knot for the new school tie.

Thank God I didn't have to suffer this utterly useless piece of garment in my school, I thought.

Countless millions of Indian kids have suffered this noose around their delicate necks in the tropical heat, just to follow in the footsteps of the Brits.

Likewise, our legal eagles have endured the black coat that is mandatory in Indian courts, despite temperatures hitting up to 50 degrees Celsius.

Our unconditional love for all things Western is truly baffling. In spite of our chronic shortage of water, and an even greater shortage of toilet etiquette, we have replaced the humble 'Indian Toilet' in public conveniences with the 'Western Commode'.

Our higher echelons are filled with the 'Brown Sahibs'. Especially in the Army I joined, they were everywhere. We took our baby steps in tune with the bagpipers playing Scottish tunes in the heat of Meerut. We wore Mess dresses that would not have been out of place in medieval England. There were tailors like Mehtab (God bless his noble soul) who raised an army of children on the earnings brought by a lifetime of stitching this special line of garments for us Griffins.

Old-timers in the Army still lived as if they were serving His Majesty. They offered beer and gin during lunch and whiskey in the evenings, as if the Sun had never set for the English.

We tried to latch on, though in our hearts we knew a lassi at noon and a thandai in the evening would be better for our 'native' heart and soul. However, 'It Was Not Done,' and we could 'Not be a Sissy.'

So, we followed the conventions. We 'Called On' the seniors faithfully when we joined new stations. It was an alien concept for us. To understand it better, I borrowed a book on Mess Etiquette by one Colonel Roach from the unit library.

It muddled my mind further, as it suggested I had to go and drop a 'card,' starting with the senior-most govern-



ment official, including the Governor or the President (Viceroy), and then work my way down the pecking order.

Good sense prevailed, and I junked it as outdated. I stuck to my Battalion only. Thank God 'Ball Dancing' had become rare, and though I heard of a couple of Generals who could waltz, neither I nor my wife ever encountered one.

To this day, I have not been able to fathom what the couples engaged in 'Ball Dance' experienced in their minds and hearts, looking into each other's eyes while maintaining close physical intimacy. I am sure few Indians could indulge in such activity with their own spouse!

Before joining the Army, I had gawked at the exclusive 'club' in great awe. Once a member, I thought I would indulge in clubbing seriously, rubbing shoulders with the who's who of the Cantonment and city. However, once admitted, I found its era had already ended.

Gone were the days, along with the disappeared whites and their plethora of servants who ensured the Goras had all the time in the evenings to kill. An average British bungalow in the Cantt used to have some sixty-odd servants for an officer during the Raj: bhishti, khansama, khidmatgar, dhobi, darzi, pankhawala, sweeper, cook, barber, syce, ayah, mali, abdar, tonga driver, hookahwala, and harkara.

However, I continued funding the

1868-vintage club with my monthly subscription for the sake of heritage and in search of utopia.

During my career, I came across a lot of bombastic slogans boldly displayed in various Army units. I myself painted many in my subunits. Fantastic quotes from Napoleon, Churchill, Slim, Montgomery, and Eisenhower adorned the walls in my areas of influence. Till one day, I realized they made no sense to my troops.

From that day, I returned to my roots. I gave names like 'Desert Riders,' 'Hame-sha Mustaid,' and 'Sabse Agey' to the units I commanded. Those names stuck and continue to motivate the soldiers to this day. In fact, you just have to tell the e-rickshaw wallah to take you to 'Sabse Agey', no need to mention the long, four-word official title of the unit.

The Prime Minister has identified 'Breaking the Shackles of Slavery' as one of his KRAs. But given our obsession with everything English or Western, it's anybody's guess how long it will take before we stop thinking, speaking, and living in English, our English.

None other than our own Cambridge-educated Manmohan Singh once had to tell an assembled group of white people that, whether they understood him or not, he was actually speaking in English.

— The author recently penned a book called Pax Kashmir.

Apple Mania Sweeps India as iPhone17 Hits Stores

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi— Apple's latest flagship, the iPhone 17, launched on Friday to an unprecedented frenzy, saw eager customers lining up for hours — even camping overnight for up to 21 hours — outside Apple stores across major cities.

The massive anticipation was palpable as fans in Mumbai, Delhi, and Bengaluru formed long, serpentine queues, determined to be among the first to get their hands on the new devices.

The scene was a vibrant showcase of Apple fandom, highlighting the brand's enduring appeal and the excitement surrounding its latest offering in India.

Retailers reported record-breaking foot traffic on opening day, with early buyers sharing stories of camaraderie and determination in the long lines.

At the Apple Store in Delhi's Saket Citywalk Mall, as also in Mumbai and Bengaluru, people lined up well before store opening hours, underscoring strong demand fuelled by enthusiastic young buyers and the brand's premium appeal.

"I was in the queue since morning, and I am excited to buy the iPhone of this colour," said Ashraf from Sangam Vihar, Delhi, who could not hide his excitement as he clutched his newly-purchased cosmic orange device.



In Bengaluru, the newly-opened Apple Hebal store at Mall of Asia witnessed heavy footfall as excited shoppers lined up early to purchase the newly launched iPhone 17 lineup along with the latest Apple Watch and AirPods.

One of the customers, Mohammad Suhail, who purchased an iPhone 17 said it was "nice to have a store in Bengaluru."

Apple had launched the retail store in Bengaluru, on September 2, in a grand opening that marked its debut in South India.

Mumbai saw a similar frenzy outside Apple's Jio World Drive mall at Bandra Kurla Complex business district. A little before 6 am, a scuffle broke out among some of the customers assembled, prompting the security personnel to intervene.

Once the store opened at the designated time of 8 am, it was a smooth flow with customers go-

ing in and quickly picking up units of their desired model.

"Every year, I stand in line from 3 am to buy the newest model. I have been very excited about the model and had been waiting for it for the past six months," said Aman Memon, among the first customers, who bought three units for himself and family.

Memon said the colour features of the new phone, along with a newer bionic chip is a big draw for him.

While there is no official word from Apple yet on record turnout, analysts say Apple's growth in India is being fuelled by its strong brand appeal and wider adoption of EMI schemes among young buyers.

Apple unveiled the iPhone 17 series in the price range of Rs 82,900 to Rs 2,29,900, which became available in India starting Friday for customers who have pre-

booked the device.

In the US, the iPhone 17 series is priced between USD 799 (about Rs 70,370) and USD 1,999 (Rs 1.76 lakh) apiece.

Tarun Pathak, Research Director at Counterpoint Research, highlighted the aspirational appeal of the Apple brand and its strong momentum in India, marked by double-digit growth. He noted that the increasing adoption of EMI schemes has eased affordability challenges for young buyers, further fuelling demand.

"So the aspirational strength of this particular brand remains. Apple has a very strong momentum in India, growing in double digits. The young, aspirational user base is growing...And now, what is happening is almost three out of five iPhones in India are being sold on EMIs, which actually reduces the purchase barrier and behaviour for lot of these young audience who wish to buy an iPhone,"

Pathak added.

Taiwanese electronics giant Foxconn is the biggest producer of iPhones, with manufacturing facilities located in China and India. All iPhones produced in India are shipped to meet the requirements of the US market.

The company recently commenced production of the iPhone 17 series at its second-largest manufacturing unit based in Bengaluru, operating under informal restrictions imposed by China.

According to multiple sources, Apple plans to increase iPhone production to 60 million units this year, from about 35-40 million units in 2024-25.

Apple assembled 60 per cent more iPhones, worth an estimated USD 22 billion, in India in the year ended March 31, 2025.

An analysis by S&P Global said that iPhone sales in the US were 75.9 million units in 2024, suggesting a need to double shipments either through new capacity or redirecting shipments bound for the domestic market.

On Thursday, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw while speaking a pre-event conference for the AI Impact Summit 2026 had said: "Practically all the models of Apple iPhone are now manufactured in India. And most of the advanced countries will be getting the Apple iPhone manufactured in India, that is a good progress we have made."

The ecosystem too is expanding fast, the minister observed.

Centre Urges Indians Working Abroad to Return Home

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, Dr P K Mishra, on Saturday said under its Capacity Building Commission, the Centre had been encouraging Indians working abroad to return to the country.

Mishra was here to attend the convocation ceremony of the Indian Institute of Management Mumbai (IIM Mumbai, formerly NITIE).

On the sidelines of the event, when reporters asked him whether the government was telling Indians working overseas to return to the country, he said, "We have been encouraging them and also it is part of our Capacity Building Commission."

His statement comes in the wake of the US government's massive hike in H-1B visa fees.

US President Donald Trump on Friday signed a proclamation, 'Restriction on entry of certain non-immigrant workers', to raise the H-1B visa fee to a staggering USD 100,000 annually, a move which will adversely affect Indian professionals in his country.

The H-1B visas, which are very popular among Indian tech professionals, are valid for three years and can be renewed for another three years. Trump's decision will significantly affect Indian technology professionals who are hired by tech companies and others on H-1B visas.

In his address to the students, Mishra said it is the individual's approach and attitude, as well as human resource and capability that shape the future accomplishments.

"I would like to focus on two important aspects which will shape your future accomplishments. Your future, all your knowledge, all what you have learned will certainly help, but more importantly, it will shape your achievements. Number one, an individual's approach and attitude and the other is human resource and capability," he said.

Most of the research development that is witnessed in developed countries is due to more focus on hu-

man resource and capability, he added. In this endeavour, the students will play a very critical role in ensuring that India becomes a developed country by 2047, Mishra said.

Although India has become a global innovation powerhouse, it still faces an innovation gap and in order to address this the government has earmarked a fund, according to him.

"India has become a global innovation powerhouse with over 100 unicorns and 1.9 lakh startups... Today, we have a thriving startup ecosystem, however, there are still innovation gaps. The government has recognised the gap and rolled out various initiatives to overcome these hurdles," he added.

Focusing on human resource development, he emphasized that technical skill alone is not sufficient.

According to him, attitude, teamwork, openness, mutual respect, humility, ethics, transparency and objectivity were important.

"Team work is probably much more important than individual brilliance," he said.

IIM Mumbai's Chairman of Board of Governors Shashi Kiran Shetty, who is also the Chairman of Allcargo Group, stressed the need for a "very strong policy" on special economic zones for India to leapfrog into manufacturing.

"With a strong policy, you will have so many companies that will come and set up manufacturing in the country, which will create employment and improve technology," he added.

Ship owning and ship building is also very critical for national security and national growth, said Shetty.

"Today, over 90 per cent of our foreign trade is done by foreign carriers. Whether it is containers, whether it is bulk cargo. We have 10 or 15 Navratnas who can buy ships. So Indian companies, whichever sector they are, they don't have to run the ship, they can give a global tender for best ship managers, who can come and open their office in India, and they can employ Indian people," he added.



The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

Kashmir Observer, with 28 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TV's across the world

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India's Chabahar Bet Hit As US Ends Sanctions Waiver



Trans Asia News

NEW DELHI: In a move that threatens to upend India's strategic interests in Iran and strain its already tense relations with Washington, the United States has revoked the sanctions waiverfor Iran's Chabahar port project, effective September 29.

The exemption, first granted in 2018, had allowed India to develop and operate the Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar, seen as a vital gateway to Afghanistan and Central Asia. The White House said the waiver's withdrawal was in line with the Trump administration's "maximum pressure" policy on Iran.

"Any person or company engaged in the port's operation could now be exposed to sanctions," State Department spokesperson Thomas Pigott confirmed on Thursday.

India's High-Stakes Investment at Risk

India has already invested heavily in the project, supplying equipment worth \$25 million, routing humanitarian aid through the port, and, in May 2024, signing a 10-year agreement to operate it. Under the deal, India pledged \$120 million in investmentalong with a \$250 million credit line for infrastructure upgrades.

The port was widely seen as

India's strategic counter to Pakistan's Gwadar port, operated by China, and as a linchpin in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) linking India to Central Asia, Russia, and Europe.

Officials in New Delhi had also touted the waiver as recognition of the port's importance in stabilizing Afghanistan and supporting humanitarian shipments. Reacting sharply, Tehran criticized Washington's decision. Iranian officials described America's reliance on sanctions as an "addiction" that has persisted since the 1979 revolution, accusing the US of weaponizing economic measures under shifting pretenses.

Chabahar has long been one of Iran's flagship projects for regional connectivity, and Tehran had welcomed India's investment as a counterbalance to China's growing footprint in the region.

Tensions Rising Between Washington and New Delhi

The revocation comes at a time of increasing friction in US-India relations. Earlier this year, the White House slapped 50% tariffs on Indian goods, doubling the earlier rate, with President Trump accusing India of indirectly financing Russia's war in Ukraine through oil imports.

GST 2.0: ACs Cheaper by ₹4,700, Dishwashers by ₹8,000

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- Leading appliance makers have reduced prices of room air conditioners by up to Rs 4,500 and on dishwashers by up to Rs 8,000, with new rates set to be rolled out from Monday as companies extend GST benefits to consumers.

The companies, in turn, are expecting a double-digit increase in sales during the festival season, with Navratra starting this week.

Leading players, such as Voltas, Daikin, Godrej Appliances, Panasonic, and Haier, have already come out with a new revised price list, which will be applicable from Monday, September 22, when the revised GST rates take effect. Some AC manufacturers, along with their dealers, had started pre-booking of units at reduced prices, anticipating pent-up demand as lower GST rates take effect next week, and are quite buoyed by the initial consumers' response.

Besides room AC, they have also extended GST benefits to their variable refrigerant volume (VRF) air conditioners, which are meant for large buildings or small commercial setups, along with light commercial air conditioners (cassette type split AC) and tower AC. Godrej Appliance is reducing MRP ranging between Rs 8,550 and Rs 12,450 on cassettes and tower ACs. While on split AC inverter MRP reduction is ranging from Rs 3,200 to Rs 5,900.

Haier has reduced MRP of its Gravity (1.6 ton inverter) AC by Rs 3,905 to Rs 46,085 and Rs 3,202 on Kinouchi AI (1.5 ton 4 star) AC to Rs 37,788.

Earlier this month, the GST Council had decided to reduce duty on air conditioners and dishwashers from 28 per cent



MRP OF DAIKIN'S 1.0 TON 3-STAR HOT & COLD INVERTER SPLIT AC HAS BEEN SLASHED TO Rs 46,730 from Rs 50,700 and its 1.5-ton 3-star hot & cold inverter split AC has been slashed to Rs 56,500 from Rs 61,300.

to 18 per cent.

Leading RAC maker Voltas has reduced MRP of its fixed speed window AC to Rs 39,590 from Rs 42,990 and its inverter window AC to Rs 43,290 from Rs 46,990.

Daikin's 1 ton 5-star inverter split AC MRP has been slashed to Rs 18,890 from Rs 20,500. Its 1.5-ton 5-star inverter split AC, which was costing at Rs 73,800 has been slashed to Rs 68,020 and its 1.8-ton 5-star inverter split AC has been slashed to Rs 84,980 from Rs 92,200.

MRPofDaikin's 1.0Ton3-star hot & cold inverter split AC has been slashed to Rs 46,730 from Rs 50,700 and its 1.5-ton 3-star hot & cold inverter split AC has been slashed to Rs 56,500 from Rs 61,300.

LG Electronic has reduced prices on its entry level 1 ton 3-star inverter split AC to Rs 32,890 extending a GST benefit of 2,800. MRP of LG's 1.5 ton inverter split AC has been reduced by 3,600 to Rs 42,390.

It has cut 2 ton split AC prices by Rs 4,400 to Rs 55,490.

Panasonic India has trimmed prices of its 1.5-tonne window AC with MRP starting from Rs 42,000 and goes up to Rs 46,000, effective from Monday, from Rs 45,650 and Rs 49,990, respectively. Prices of its fixed speed split AC (1.0 ton) starts from Rs 42,400 and goes up to Rs 63,900 (for 2.0 ton) from Rs 46,100 and Rs 69,400, respectively.

Dishwashers makers, too, brought down prices, extending GST benefits to consumers. Makers are expecting this niche segment to expand its base as it will become affordable for its mainly urban consumers.

BSH Home Appliances, a leading manufacturer in the dishwasher segment, has reduced prices by up to Rs 8,000 post-GST cut rollout.

From Monday, its entry-level model will cost Rs 45,000 from Rs 49,000 and on its top-end model, it has reduced Rs 8,000 which will price Rs 96,500 from Rs 104,500.

Amul Cuts Prices of 700 Product Packs

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- GCMMF, which markets dairy items under Amul brand, on Saturday announced reduction of retail prices of more than 700 product packs, including ghee, butter ice cream, bakery and frozen snacks, as it decided to pass on benefits of the GST rate cut to consumers.

The new price will be effective from September 22.

In a statement, Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) announced revision in price list of more than 700 product packs, offering full benefit of GST reduction to its customers, effective September 22, 2025.

"This revision is across the range of product categories like butter, ghee, UHT milk, ice cream, cheese, paneer, chocolates, bakery range, frozen dairy and potato snacks, condensed milk, peanut spread, malt-based drink, etc," GCMMF said.

The MRP of butter (100 gm) has been reduced to Rs 58 from Rs 62.

Ghee rates have been cut by Rs 40 to Rs 610 per litre. The MRP of Amul processed



cheese block (1kg) has been cut by Rs 30 to Rs 545 per kg.

The new MRP of frozen paneer (200 gm) will be Rs 95 from September 22 as against Rs 99 now.

"Amul believes the reduction in prices will spur consumption of a wide range of dairy products particularly ice cream, cheese and butter as the per capita consumption

remains very low in India, creating a large growth opportunity," the statement said.

GCMMF, which is owned by 36 lakh farmers, said the reduction in prices will boost demand for its dairy products, leading to growth in its turnover.

Earlier, Mother Dairy had also announced price cuts on its products from September 22.

UAE Firms Keen To Invest In Indian Infra, Startups & Logistics Sectors: Goyal

Press Trust Of India

DUBAI- The UAE companies are looking at multiple sectors, such as infrastructure, data centres, banking, startups and logistics, in India to increase their investments, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday.

He said that the two countries have reset their targets and are actively working to increase investments rapidly in different sectors, and enhance collaborations in areas such as renewable energy, shipbuilding, retail, and pharmaceuticals.

Infrastructure is one of the major sectors where they (UAE) can see huge potential. There was a lot of interest in the banking sector and startups. The interest of potential investors is also in the logistics ecosystem in India and green energy. The UAE is keen to look at investments, Goyal told reporters here.

The minister was here for the 13th India-UAE High-Level Joint Task Force on Investments. The two-day visit concluded on September 19. He was leading a 75-member business delegation.

There are many ways through which India can increase collaborations with companies in the UAE, he said, adding the UAE's strength in investments is unparalleled.

Now the UAE is also investing deeply in high-tech areas, so we could even be looking at serious collaborations in technology sectors, he said. He added that bankers are finding it increasingly attractive to expand their operations in India.

One banker who met me is very keen to set up a new oper-



ation in GIFT city, he said, adding, while the UAE is already among the top 5-6 investors in India, my sense is that we can look at a much larger investment flow given the work that has happened in India.

The UAE recognises India as a key investment destination, the minister said.

"I think we will be looking at much larger pools of capital coming into India, both FDI and FII," he said.

On Bharat Mart, he said the UAE has allocated land and soon construction will start, and it may be ready in 2027.

About 9,000 companies have shown an expression of interest in this.

India has received USD 24 billion in FDI from the UAE during April 2000 and June 2025.

Goyal engaged with CEOs of prominent Indian and UAE companies during the UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) Roundtable, which he co-chaired alongside Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Foreign Trade, UAE.

Progress on key cornerstone projects like Bharat Mart and India UAE Friendship Hospital was also discussed during the meetings.

Both leaders invited businesses to explore opportunities in India and in the UAE, and also widen their scope and ambition to other regions, such as Africa, Europe and Central Asia.



Javid Dar Participates In Buyer-Seller Meet At Kolkata

Meet Held To Provide National-Level Marketing Opportunities To Farmers Of J&K

Observer News Service

KOLKATA- Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department, and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Saturday attended the Buyer-Seller Meet at Kolkata.

The event, organised by the Department of Horticulture Planning & Marketing, J&K, was aimed to provide a platform for farmers to access national-level marketing opportunities and uplift the agriculture and horticulture sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Buyer-Seller meet also provided a platform for farmers from J&K to connect with

buyers from Kolkata, officers of Government of West Bengal and other stakeholders and promote the agriculture and horticulture produce of J&K at the national level, enhancing market access for local farmers.

The objective of meet was to bridge the gap between farmers and buyers, promoting direct marketing and enhancing the income of farmers from J&K and to boost the agriculture and horticulture sector of the region, contributing to the overall economic development of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event saw participation from around 300 stakeholders, including buyers, officials, and farmers from J&K.

Govt: Cyberattack Issues In Europe Haven't Affected Indian Airports

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Indian airports have not faced any adverse impact so far in relation to the cyber attack on systems used at various European airports, a senior government official said on Saturday.

London Heathrow, Berlin and some other airports in Europe are grappling with operational disruptions due to the cyber attack incident at systems of Collins Aerospace that are used at the airports.

Following the cyber attack issue at various European airports, authorities took an update about the operations at Indian airports, the government official said.

There has been no adverse impact on Indian airports till now in relation to the European cyber security incident.

According to the official, Collins MUSE application is mainly used in European countries and only some European airports have been impacted so far.

There has been no official com-



ments from airport operators in India against the backdrop of the issues being faced by European airports.

"A third-party passenger system disruption at Heathrow may cause delays in the check-in process. Our ground teams in London are working to minimise inconvenience," Air India said in a post on X late afternoon on Saturday.

Passengers flying with Air India from London today (Saturday) are advised to complete their web check-in before arriving at the airport to help ensure a smooth experience, the airline said.

As per a BBC report, several European airports have been hit by a cyber-attack affecting an electronic check-in and baggage system.

Dir SHD Kashmir Reviews Physical & Financial Progress Under Various Schemes

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- To assess the physical and financial progress under various key schemes and programmes, including UT Capex, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), JKICP, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), and NABARD, Director, Sheep Husbandry department, Kashmir, Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Shah, Saturday chaired a high-level review meeting, here.

The meeting focused on the comprehensive evaluation of the ongoing developmental activities and their financial performance across the Kashmir division. Director emphasized the importance of timely execution and effective utilization of funds under these schemes to ensure tangible benefits reach the grassroots level.

A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to reviewing the implementation of the importation programme under HADP, aimed at genetic upgradation and enhancement of local breeds to boost wool

and meat productivity.

Dr. Shah stressed the need for strict adherence to the timelines and quality parameters under the importation plan to ensure its success.

The functioning of departmental farms was also thoroughly reviewed, with instructions issued to ensure improved productivity, better management practices, and enhanced performance monitoring. Director highlighted the pivotal role of these farms in serving as demonstration units for farmers and supporting the department's breeding programmes.

Additionally, the meeting deliberated on the status of Audit Paras and OB (Outstanding Balance) items, with Dr. Shah directing all concerned officers to expedite the resolution of audit objections and clear long-pending financial issues to maintain transparency and accountability.

He urged field officers and staff to maintain momentum and focus on outcome-driven implementation of all departmental initiatives.

Kisan Mela Held In Budgam

Observer News Service

BUDGAM- A vibrant Kisan Mela (Farmers' Fair) was successfully organized Saturday at Bahisht-e-Zehra Park in Budgam district, bringing together farmers, agricultural experts, and government officials to promote modern farming techniques, showcase innovative agricultural solutions, and strengthen the agricultural community in the region.

The event was presided over by Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Khansahib, Saifudin Bhat, and MLA Chadoora, Ali Mohd Dar along with Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah.

MLA Bhat, MLA Dar, and ADC, interacted with farmers to understand their challenges related to crop yields, irrigation, and market access. They also inspected the stalls, which showcased a range of agricultural products and services, including high-yield seeds, organic fertilizers, modern farming equipment, and information on government schemes.

They advised the farmers to avail benefits of agricultural schemes, adopt modern technologies, and prepare the

younger generation to take agriculture as a profession. They stressed the importance of staying connected with the department for availing online facilities and ensuring improved production and productivity.

Joint Director (Inputs), Agriculture Department, Kashmir, and Agriculture Information Officer Kashmir gave detailed information about SEWA-PARV, HADP, JKICP and other programmes.

On the occasion, Chief Agriculture Officer Budgam provided a comprehensive overview of the event, highlighting the objectives of the mela and the Agriculture department's ongoing efforts to support farmers through advanced inputs, subsidies, and sustainable practices.

The Kisan Mela served as a vital platform to empower farmers with knowledge, resources, and direct access to agricultural experts. It underscored the Jammu and Kashmir government's commitment to enhancing agricultural productivity and improving the livelihoods of farmers in Budgam district.

The mela was attended by the senior officers of the department.

Exercise ‘Strictest Vigilance’ MEA To Indians Seeking Employment In Iran

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India on Friday cautioned its nationals seeking employment in Iran to exercise “strictest vigilance” in view of recent cases of fake job offers.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said there have been a number of recent cases of Indian citizens being lured to travel to Iran on false promises of employment or with assurances that they would be sent further to third countries for jobs.

“Upon reaching Iran, these Indian nationals have been kidnapped by criminal gangs and ransoms have been demanded

from their families for securing their release,” it said.

“In this context, all Indian citizens are strongly cautioned to exercise the strictest vigilance regarding such employment promises or offers,” the MEA said.

“In particular, it may be noted that the government of Iran allows visa-free entry to Indians only for tourism purposes. Any agents promising visa-free entry into Iran for employment or other purposes may well be in connivance with criminal gangs,” it added.

Indian citizens are therefore advised not to fall prey to such offers, the MEA said.

Detained Doda MLA Requests CM To Visit His Constituency To Assess Flood Damage

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Detained under Public Safety Act (PSA), sitting AAP MLA Mehraj Malik on Saturday appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to visit his constituency in Doda district to assess the flood damage, a party spokesperson said.

Malik also expressed concern over the frequent closure of the Jammu–Srinagar National Highway, resulting in huge losses to apple growers in the valley, AAP spokesperson Appu Singh Slathia told reporters in Kathua after meeting the legislator in the district jail.



“Malik (MLA Doda east) has conveyed a message from Kathua jail...he appealed to the Chief Minister to personally visit his assembly constituency and assess the damage caused by floods there.

“He requested him to overlook the relief, rehabilitation and compensation work in his constituency,” Slathia said.

She said Malik, who is also AAP’s J&K unit chief, highlighted that the economy of

Jammu & Kashmir depends largely on the apple industry and horticulture, but this year, due to the frequent closure of the Jammu–Srinagar National Highway, the apple growers have suffered huge losses running into thousands of crores.

The AAP spokesperson also said that Malik has asked his supporters to remain strong and emphasised that this difficult moment will also pass.

Malik was detained under PSA on September 8 for allegedly disturbing public order in Doda district. He is currently lodged in Kathua district jail.

7 Held For Running Brothel Under Guise Of Spa In Udhampur

Press Trust Of India

Jammu- A spa, allegedly being run as a brothel, was raided in the Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir, following which seven individuals were arrested, officials said on Saturday.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the Blue Lotus Spa Centre located in a private building in the Barrian area on Friday night, a police spokesperson said.

During preliminary investigation, it was found that a brothel was being operated under the garb of a spa, he stated, adding that four women were among the seven individuals arrested from the spot.

A case under relevant Sections of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act has been registered at the Udhampur police station, and further investigation is underway.

Panel To Review Gair Mumkin Khad Issues

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has constituted a sub-committee to examine issues related to Gair Mumkin Khads, with directions to submit its recommendations within three months.

The panel, comprising the Deputy Chief Minister and two Ministers, will be serviced by the Jal Shakti Department as per the order issued by the General Administration Department According to a government order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), the panel comprises Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary and Ministers Javid Ahmad Dar and Javed Ahmed.

India's Biggest Enemy Is Dependence: PM Modi

Press Trust of India

BHAVNAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday made a strong pitch for ‘atmanirbharta’ saying the main enemy of India was the dependence on other nations and asserting the country should make everything from (semiconductor) chips to ships.

He was speaking at the ‘Samudra se Samruddhi’ event in Gandhi Maidan in Gujarat’s Bhavnagar, where he inaugurated and laid

foundation stones of projects entailing a total cost of Rs 34,200 crore.

“In the true sense, India does not have any big enemy in the world. The only enemy of India is the dependence on other countries. We need to defeat this dependence on others. We have to understand the more we are dependent on others, the rate of failure is high,” he asserted.

“From chips to ships, we must make everything. For peace, stability and wealth,

the country with the highest population in the world has to become self-reliant,” the PM emphasised.

There is only one medicine for all problems of India and that is atmanirbharta (self-reliance), he said.

Underscoring the financial burden of such dependence, Modi said the country pays Rs 6 lakh crore annually to foreign firms to ship its goods across the world.

“This is almost equal to our defence budget,” he told the massive crowd.

Around 50 years ago, 40 per cent of the country’s trade was through India-made ships, but this has now come down to just 5 per cent, the PM pointed out.

The prime minister said his government had taken a historic decision to strengthen India’s maritime sector by recognising large ships as infrastructure.

“India’s ports are the backbone of our nation’s rise as a global maritime powerhouse,” he asserted.

Anantnag Police Ban Drone Use

Observer News Service

Srinagar: District Police Anantnag on Saturday issued a public advisory prohibiting the use of drones, UAVs, or any other aerial devices within the district without prior approval from the competent authority, citing prevailing security concerns.

The advisory, issued in the interest of public safety, stated that individuals, institutions, media personnel, and event organizers must seek permission well in advance before operating drones.

Police warned that any unauthorized flying would attract strict action under relevant legal provisions, and such equipment may be seized.

The public has been urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious drone activity to the nearest police station or on the district helpline numbers 9419051940 and 01932-2222870.

Authorities emphasized that citizens’ cooperation is vital in maintaining peace, safety, and security across the district. (KNC)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmiri Elderly

hypertension and diabetes, and decades of conflict-related stress all play a role.

A genetic study of the Kashmiri population found that local communities may carry biological vulnerabilities that heighten the impact of environmental and social stressors.

“When you add chronic illness, isolation, and trauma to genetic susceptibility, the burden becomes enormous,” says Dr. Showkat Mir, a psychiatrist in Srinagar.

The region’s health system is ill-prepared. Geriatric specialists are scarce, and primary-care doctors often lack training to recognise early symptoms. Neuroimaging and advanced cognitive testing are concentrated in a handful of hospitals in Srinagar, leaving rural families with few options.

“In many cases, by the time patients reach us, the disease is already advanced,” Dr. Mir says. Without early diagnosis, families lose precious time when interventions, like medication, behavioural therapy, and structured routines, can slow decline.

Care falls largely on unpaid relatives, most often women.

Sameena’s daughter-in-law now manages her medications and daily needs while raising two young children. “There are no day-care centres or respite facilities,” she says. “If I need a break, I have nowhere to turn.”

Caregivers across Kashmir share similar stories of exhaustion, lost income, and emotional strain. Some resort to selling land or jewellery to cover medical visits and special diets.

The burden is hidden inside homes, but its economic impact ripples outward.

Social stigma deepens the crisis. Early forgetfulness is often dismissed as natural ageing or treated as a private family matter.

In Shopian, 60-year-old Saleema Bano wandered her village for months before her family sought medical help. By then, her memory loss had progressed so far that treatment options were limited.

“People thought she was depressed or distracted,” her son recalls. “We didn’t realise it could be a disease until it was too late.”

Doctors say such delays are common and costly.

India currently has an estimated 8.8 million older adults living with dementia, a number expected to nearly double to 17 million by 2036.

Within Jammu and Kashmir, LASI data show dementia prevalence surpassing 11 percent, with some districts reporting even higher rates.

International bodies warn that low- and middle-income regions will see the fastest growth in cases over the next two decades.

Without planning, experts say, Kashmir could face an avalanche of memory disorders that the current health system cannot absorb.

“Man is man because of his memory,” says Dr. Mir. “When it fades, a part of ourselves vanishes.”

For Sameena Ali and countless others, every forgotten name and repeated question is a small erosion of identity, leaving families to fight a slow, relentless loss.

Armyman Dies

limits near the Seoj Dhar heights. Chand was evacuated to a nearby medical facility but succumbed to his injuries overnight,” said an official.

“The encounter site, spanning the border between Udhampur’s Dudu-Basantgarh area and Doda’s Bhaderwah, was placed under a tight cordon through the night. Operations resumed at dawn with reinforcements, including drones and sniffer dogs, deployed from both districts,” they said, adding.

“No fresh contact was established with the holed up terrorists as of Saturday afternoon.”

In a solemn tribute, the White Knight Corps (Indian Army’s Northern Command) stated on X: “GOC WhiteKnightCorps and all ranks

pay solemn tribute to Lance Dafadar Baldev Chand, who made the supreme sacrifice during an ongoing operation at Kanji, Udhampur on the night of 19-20 Sep 2025. His indomitable courage and the valour of his team will never be forgotten. We stand in solidarity with the bereaved family.”

Senior Army and police officers have rushed to the site to oversee the hunt. The operation remains underway, with forces vowing to neutralize the threat.

Pertinently, on June 26 this year a top JeM commander Haider was shot dead by the security forces in the same forest belt.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday paid tribute to Lance Dafadar Baldev Chand, who succumbed to the injuries he sustained in a gunfight with terrorists in Udhampur.

Sinha honoured the Indian Army personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice in the ongoing operations against terrorists at Kanji, Udhampur, an official spokesperson said.

“Salute to the indomitable courage of braveheart Lance Dafadar Baldev Chand, who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation during the anti-terror operation in Udhampur. The grateful nation will forever be indebted to his valour and unwavering commitment to duty,” Sinha said.

He expressed solidarity with the family of the martyr during this difficult time.

LG Calls Upon

Units and building a self-reliant India.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the need for private investment in Research & Development (R&D), with special focus on defense, space, agriculture, and manufacturing sectors.

He said, for a developed India, we must create an innovation economy where growth and wealth are driven by new technologies and innovations.

Anjali Singh, Chairperson, CII Northern Region; Dr. M.A. Alim, Chairman, CII J&K; Iqram Shafiee, Vice Chairman, CII J&K; Puneet Kaura, Deputy Chairman, CII Northern Region; Business & Industry leaders and members of Confederation of Indian Industry were present.

Dr GV Sundeeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and other senior officials were also present on the occasion.

6,400 Tonnes

Division began the parcel train service on September 11, operating two parcel van coaches—one bound for Jammu and the other for Adarsh Nagar, Delhi.

“Each parcel van coach was loaded with approximately 23 tonnes of goods. This was a historic achievement, as a parcel van coach first reached Adarsh Nagar from Budgam Railway Station in less than 21 hours, and another reached Jammu in less than six hours,” said Uchit Singhal, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division.

On September 15, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off an eight-parcel van coach train, each with a 23-tonne capacity, from Srinagar to Adarsh Nagar, Delhi.

The launch of the parcel train service coincided with the closure of the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of India, which was damaged by heavy rainfall between August 26 and September 6.

The service has provided a lifeline for apple growers, ensuring timely transport of the fruit to major markets and helping stabilize the supply chain amid road disruptions.

14-coach Train

of transport shortages and skyrocketing freight rates that left thousands of apple boxes stranded in the valley, especially at Asia’s second-largest fruit Mandi in Sopore.

of these pseudo-activist networks, social media users, many of whom were attempting to infiltrate public discourse under noble causes while serving anti-national agendas, are expected, he added.

J&K Calm, Peaceful

equal attention. He urged industry leaders to view J&K as a viable and promising investment destination, emphasizing the need to complement the tourism success story with robust industrialisation.

“Tourism is one part of our growth story, but the other part that requires equal attention is industrialisation. J&K remains an attractive place for investment despite challenges, and we are committed to making it easier and more rewarding for industry to operate here,” Omar said.

The Chief Minister highlighted ongoing investments and incentives, pointing out that industrial hubs such as Kathua, Samba, and Bari Brahmana in Jammu, and Lassipora in Kashmir continue to attract the highest inflow of capital. He also acknowledged gaps in the single-window clearance system, assuring reforms:

“We must ensure that our ‘single window’ is truly a single window, not one that leads to a ventilator, then an exhaust fan, and eventually nowhere. I have directed the industries department to engage directly with recent investors and learn from their experiences to fix this system once and for all,” Omar said.

Omar also highlighted J&K’s comparative advantages—cheaper land and electricity than neighbouring regions, GST reimbursement benefits, and availability of skilled labour. He encouraged investors to explore sectors with inherent strengths, citing agriculture, horticulture, and dairy production as untapped opportunities.

“Only 4 per cent of milk in Kashmir is processed, compared to 80 per cent in Gujarat. This is a ready-made opportunity for value addition. We produce the raw material, we have the market, yet we under-utilise our potential,” he said.

Calling unemployment a pressing challenge, Omar stressed that J&K cannot rely solely on government jobs. He urged industrialisation and tourism together to create new employment avenues for youth.

The Chief Minister also encouraged candid feedback from CII members to shape a business-friendly future:

“Those of you investing in J&K, tell us what went well and what didn’t. Those who are reluctant, tell us why not – and if it is within our power, we will address it. Your feedback is critical to shaping a business-friendly future here,” he said.

J&K Govt Mandates

have been asked to ensure full integration of DigiLocker, with the IT Department tasked to provide technical support and logistics to facilitate the process

Stop Unnecessary

strain. They argue that if the referral system is properly followed, doctors at SKIMS would be able to focus more on serious patients.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Sakina Itoo has directed district and sub-district hospitals not to send patients unnecessarily to SKIMS, stressing that adequate facilities are already in place at the district level for the local population.

Sources said that the Health Minister has sought detailed data from SKIMS about referrals from each district to determine why hospitals, despite having facilities, are still shifting patients for minor treatments.

“We have received reports that patients are being shifted to SKIMS without valid reasons, and this trend cannot be accepted. It needs to be probed. We may have to take action against doctors who, without justification, refer patients and put additional pressure on SKIMS.

We are seeking details of each referral and the discharge status of those patients,” a senior Health Department official said. (KNO)

HC Closes PIL

just fortnight, devastating more than 200 acres of forest cover across Jammu & Kashmir. The worst-affected regions include Anantnag, Rajouri, Ramban, Reasi, Doda, and Poonch districts. Subsequently, notice was issued to the government and the Chief Conservator of Forests Kashmir filed an affidavit, stating therein that in many forest types, especially dry temperate and subtropical regions, fire plays a key ecological role in regeneration, nutrient cycling and habitat dynamics.

The officer further submitted that the climate change, human pressures and land use changes have increased fire intensity, frequency and impact, necessitating modern prevention and control measures. Among human-Induced causes, he mentioned burning of crop/farm residue, carelessly discarded cigarettes, matchsticks, and unextinguished campfires, burning of forest litter or waste along roadsides and habitations adjoining forests, use of fire by locals to obtain fresh growth of grass besides the accidental fires on account of LoC firing.

Among the natural causes, although rare, the Chief Conservator of Forests counted lightning and rolling stones during the dry season as reasons for sparking the fire. Also accumulation of leaf litter on forest floor, rising temperatures and altered rainfall patterns were delineated among the reasons for the fires.

To mitigate the forest fires, the Chief Conservator said that Forest Fire Control Rooms have been established at different levels in the respective Forest Divisions. Besides that, the Chief Conservator said that manpower from the Forest Protection Force and other Forest Wings has also been involved to control the forest fires. Additionally, the Chief Conservator said that awareness programs are being undertaken among the forest fringe communities. Other than, the Chief Conservator of Forests said that the department undertakes various preventive and control measures to mitigate and manage forest fires and include creation and maintenance of fire lines which act as physical barriers to prevent spreading of fire, use of prescribed burns to reduce combustible forest litter under supervision before the onset of fire season and use of satellite-based fire alerts (FSI Fire Alert System-Van Agni). The field officers and officials of the department are registered on the alert system and get regular alerts on occurrence of forest fire incidents, the Chief Conservator said. Besides, Joint Control for forest fire control have been setup and are equipped with hand tools and fire fighting equipment comprising of fire beaters, rake hoes, backpack sprayers, and other essential tools etc, the Chief Conservator said. Mock-drills and training are often conducted from time to time, the officer said.

In addition to it, the Chief Conservator said that community engagement, involving village forest committees and local volunteers and awareness campaigns are undertaken.

The Chief Conservator said that the Government was pro-actively pursuing the matter by undertaking various preventive and control measures.

“We have examined the response/reply and heard learned counsel for the respondents. In the wake of the position indicated, we do not consider it necessary to continue with the matter any further,” the court said and closed the proceedings in the PIL. However, the court while underlining that matter being “sensitive”, “we still consider it expedient to appoint Mr. Nadeem Qadiri, Advocate, as an Amicus, just in case any fresh cause of action arises or anything that impels the intervention of this Court, to move an appropriate application in the present petition itself for necessary orders.”

Rising Tensions: India Aim For Another Dominant Show Against Pakistan

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Skipper Suryakumar Yadav will depend heavily on his spin troika as India gear up for yet another demolition act of Pakistan in what promises to be an intense and tense Super 4 face-off of the Asia Cup here on Sunday.

There have been numerous tense build-ups to Indo-Pak men's cricket matches in the past but 'surface tension' wasn't as visible as it has been in this case after last Sunday when Suryakumar and his team's decision to not shake hands with the rivals triggered a storm.

It is understood that the Indian team is likely to maintain the policy against the neighbours this Sunday too and handshakes might not be the order of the day even as Pakistani players and their supporters look at the game as a "Grudge Match".

Sundays are not always the



most relaxed days and skipper Suryakumar, who anchored India's chase in their seven-wicket win on the previous one, would vouch for it.

In this tournament, Suryakumar is expected to be the best batter, a tactical genius and also an ambassador for his country -- all rolled into one.

Axar Patel's head injury while trying to take a catch against Oman would keep him and head coach Gautam Gambhir little worried but fielding coach T Dilip allayed fears by stating that he thought the all-rounder was doing fine.

On Sunday though, one will get to see Jasprit Bumrah, whose mere presence lifts the spirit of his teammates in the playing eleven alongside Varun Chakravarthy. Both were rested in the inconsequential last game.

The pitches on offer at the Dubai International Stadium are helping the slow bowlers and onus will once again be on Kuldeep Yadav (eight wickets in the tournament so far), Axar and Varun to tilt the scales decisively in India's favour.

For Pakistan, a team whose beauty lay in its unpredictability, the current side surprisingly lacks quality, especially in the batting department where none

of the players can read the slow bowlers from the hand.

For a country that produced champion players like Javed Miandad, Inzamam ul Haq, Saleem Malik, and Ijaz Ahmed in the bygone years, the current lot's technique is rather poor.

Opener Saim Ayub, the left-hander who scored back-to-back ducks, has become a subject of ridicule for making more impact with the ball.

Sahibzada Farhan, Hasan Nawaz are two batters, who are trying to hit out of trouble and only Shaheen Shah Afridi, to everyone's surprise, has looked like the best batter in the squad.

Unlike the last game against India when Pakistan played a third spinner in left-armers Sufiyan Muqeem, there is more chance of fast bowler Haris Rauf getting the nod on Sunday after his impressive show against the UAE in their last group league game.

'Seva Parv' Activities Continue Across Budgam & Anantnag

Dabirah Hassan

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam continues its 'Seva Parv' Activity Calendar as the celebrations entered the fourth consecutive day across the district. The calendar, which spans from September 17 to October 2, has been witnessing daily events aimed at engaging youth in both sports and cultural activities.

On Day 4, a series of sports competitions including volleyball, kabaddi, cricket, along with several traditional games were held in different zones of Budgam. Students turned up in large numbers to participate, reflecting the growing excitement and competitive spirit generated by the initiative.

The program is being carried forward under the supervision of District

Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSO) Budgam Ghulam Hassan Lone.

Meanwhile, similar sports activities under 'Seva Parv' were held in Anantnag by DYSS.

In Zone Bijbehara, various schools under the Zonal Physical Education Office organised Carrom, Chess, Badminton, Football and Minor Games.

In Zone Srigufwara, the ZPEO conducted multiple Athletics events in the boys' section at MS Budroo. In Zone Bidder, the 'Seva Parv' activities were organised at HSS Kokernag.

The District Level Inter-Zonal Softball Tournament was also conducted at HSS Dailgam. In the competitions, Zone Dooru clinched the U-17 title by defeating Zone Ashmuqam in the final, while HSS Dailgam secured the U-19 title by overcoming HSS Ranibagh.



Srinagar Gears Up To Host 3rd Junior Asian Pencak Silat C'ship 2025

Adil Khan

SRINAGAR: In a display of unity and sportsmanship, the Pencak Silat Association of India organised a welcome ceremony at the iconic Ganta Ghar in Srinagar to mark the curtain raiser of the 3rd Junior Asian Pencak Silat Championship 2025. Flags of the 11 participating nations were raised high, symbolizing the spirit of international brotherhood and peace.

This prestigious event, scheduled from September 25 to 30 in Srinagar, is being organised by the Indian Pencak Silat Federation in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council, which is also the key sponsor of the championship.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA

Salman Sagar lauded the efforts of the Pencak Silat Association, calling the initiative a bold and positive step.

"Hosting an international event of this magnitude sends out a strong message that Kashmir is safe, welcoming, and ready for tourism. It's a moment of pride for us all," he said.

Also gracing the ceremony as Guests of Honour were prominent dignitaries including Nuzhat Ara, Shafkat Shafi, Irfan Aziz, Nasir Diggo, Tariq Zargar, Mohammad Iqbal (Manager, JKSC), and Maqsood Khan (Manager, JKSC).

The Chief Coach of the Indian Pencak Silat team, Irfan Aziz, expressed confidence and enthusiasm, saying, "We are fully pre-



pared to welcome young athletes from across Asia. This championship will be a celebration of talent,

discipline, and cultural exchange." Muskan, an international athlete representing India in Pencak Silat,

expressed her gratitude, saying,

"I sincerely thank the Commissioner Secretary of Youth Services and Sports and Nuzhat Gul for their unwavering support. This championship will not only uplift the sport but also boost cultural connections, encourage youth participation, and project Kashmir in a positive light on the global stage."

The event comes at a crucial time, projecting a message of peace and resilience from the Valley, especially in the aftermath of recent incidents in the region. It marks a significant step in not only promoting martial arts but also showcasing Kashmir's growing potential as a destination for international sporting events.

Liverpool Stays Perfect In Premier League After Beating Everton

AP

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool maintained a perfect start in the Premier League after Ryan Gravenberch scored and assisted in a 2-1 win over Everton on Saturday.

Seeking consecutive league titles for the first time since the 1980s, Liverpool's record is 5-0 after the Merseyside derby.

Liverpool was listless and sloppy for long periods of the second half and Idrissa Gueye scored in the 58th minute for the Toffees, who lost for the first time since their opener at Leeds.

Liverpool has won five consecutive home games against the Blues for the first time since 1933-37. Everton has not won a match at



Anfield attended by fans since 1999, its only victory since then behind closed doors in 2021 during the coronavirus pandemic.

Everton manager David Moyes remained winless in 23 games at An-

field with the Toffees, Manchester United, Sunderland and West Ham.

Liverpool's top two summer signings, Alexander Isak and Florian Wirtz, entered as second-half substitutes, Wirtz in the 61st and

Isak in the 67th.

Gravenberch put Liverpool ahead in the 10th minute when Mohamed Salah lofted a one-hop pass into his path. The defensive midfielder extended his right leg and on the half volley lifted the ball over the outstretched arm of goalkeeper Jordan Pickford.

Gravenberch made a perfect through-pass in the 29th and Hugo Ekitike slotted the ball through Pickford's legs and inside the far post.

Gueye scored on a long-range shot after Iliman Ndiaye tapped back Jack Grealish's cross. Still shy of his 36th birthday next Friday, Gueye became the second oldest Everton player to score in a Merseyside derby behind 37-year-old Sam Chedzoy in 1926, according to Opta.

Liverpool fans repeatedly serenaded Everton supporters with chants of "You haven't won a trophy since 1995."

SPURS FIGHTBACK

Trailing 2-0 at Brighton, Tottenham mounted a comeback to salvage a 2-2 draw.

Goals from Yankuba Minteh and Yasin Ayari looked like putting Brighton on course for only its second win of the season. But Richardson halved the deficit before halftime and an own goal from Jan Paul van Hecke in the 82nd secured a point for Spurs.

It's the second time this season Brighton has squandered a lead late on, having conceded a stoppage time equalizer in the 1-1 draw with Fulham on the opening day.

Pycroft To Be Match Referee For Super 4s India-Pakistan Game

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has once again assigned the high-voltage India-Pakistan Asia Cup Super 4s game on Sunday to its Elite Panel Match Referee Andy Pycroft despite PCB's repeated requests to strike him off the roster.

"Andy Pycroft is the match referee for Indo-Pak game," a tournament source told PTI.

The list of match officials for the Sunday's game hasn't yet been made public. The other match referee in the tournament is former West Indies captain Richie Richardson.

Pycroft was the match referee last Sunday when Indian team as a policy decision, didn't shake hands with the Pakistan team but the Zimbabwean found himself in the centre of the controversy after India skipper Suryakumar Yadav didn't follow the convention at the toss.

The Pakistan team had written two mails to ICC, first requesting Pycroft's removal from the tournament and then asking the global body to remove him from their games.

Both the demands were outrightly rejected by the ICC as it stood firmly behind its Elite Panel referee.

The ICC rejected PCB's claims that Pycroft violated the 'Spirit of the Game' code, insisting that he was merely a messenger. (PTI)

PCB Hires Motivational Speaker To Calm Nerves Before India Clash

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday visited the National team's nets to interact with the squad and boost morale ahead of the high-pressure Super 4s Asia Cup encounter against India.

Parallely, the PCB has also engaged motivational speaker Dr Raheel Ahmed in a bid to reduce the stress levels of the players before Sunday's crunch tie.

It has been talked about that several youngsters in the Pakistan squad have been struggling to cope with the intense psychological pressure of facing a star-studded Indian line-up.

Dr Ahmed has already held one-on-one sessions with some of them to identify the root causes of mental lapses in pressure situations.

According to a source in the team set-up, Dr Ahmed joined the contingent after the completion of Pakistan's group league matches and has since been working closely with the support staff.

In another unusual move, Pakistan also cancelled their customary pre-match press conference for the second game in a row, fuelling speculation about the tense atmosphere within the camp.(PTI)

AIFF Can Copy IPL Model To Run ISL, Says Bhaichung Bhutia

The legendary Bhaichung Bhutia on Saturday said that the Indian Premier League can be the "biggest example" for the AIFF to organise the country's top-tier league on its own, after the Supreme Court approved the football governing body's draft constitution.

As per the apex court order, India's top-tier football league can no longer be owned or managed by private players and the All India Football Federation will have to take the sole ownership of the product.

Bhutia said while it will be a challenge for the AIFF, a collective effort will be required for the league to be organised.

"I think it's a challenge because (when) we started the ISL with FSDL, somebody had to come in and do it because I don't think at that time the All India Football Federation was ready for it," Bhutia told PTI in an exclusive interview, during the trophy launch of Sports for Life's Football League Season 2 here.

"Everybody should come together and make sure the league can be organised. (The) IPL is one of the biggest examples of how (the) BCCI has been able to create (the) IPL and organise it, so if we can copy that kind of model, have everybody working together," Bhutia said.(PTI)

Mbappé, Militão Strike As Real Madrid Deals Espanyol First Loss

Kylian Mbappé and Éder Militão scored from well outside the area to help Real Madrid ease past Espanyol 2-0 in La Liga on Saturday, dealing the Barcelona-based side its first loss.

Espanyol gave Militão space and the Brazil defender fired a right-footed screamer into the top corner in the 22nd minute. A diving Marko Dmitrovic got his fingers on the ball but couldn't stop the powerful strike.

It was Mbappé's turn in the 47th when he had time to pick a spot in the bottom corner and smashed a strike that Dmitrovic could only watch nestle into the net.

Mbappé has seven goals in six games for Madrid this season, including a double in its 2-1 win over Marseille to start the Champions League on Tuesday. (AP)

Max Verstappen On Pole In Chaotic F1 Qualifying In Azerbaijan

Max Verstappen took pole position and championship leader Oscar Piastri crashed out in qualifying for Formula 1's Azerbaijan Grand Prix in a marathon session with constant crashes, rain and a record six red flags.

Red Bull's Verstappen was fastest by .478 from Carlos Sainz, Jr. of Williams in a session that ran an hour past its scheduled time, longer than most races. Liam Lawson of Racing Bulls starts Sunday's race a career-best third.

Piastri slammed into the barrier while chasing pole position on a track left slippery by earlier rainfall. His McLaren teammate Lando Norris was only seventh after clipping the wall on his final lap and couldn't take full advantage of Piastri's error.

Piastri qualified ninth ahead of Sunday's race after Ferrari's Charles Leclerc also crashed earlier while seeking what would have been a fifth consecutive pole position in Azerbaijan. (AP)



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