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## Cabinet Proposes Assembly Session From Oct 13



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet on Tuesday recommended to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha that the Union Territory's legislature hold its next sitting in Srinagar between October 13 and 20.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat here. Ministers, after deliberations, agreed that the week-long schedule was the most suitable window to comply with constitutional provisions while providing lawmakers space to debate governance issues.

"This schedule fits within the legal requirement that no more than six months should elapse between two sessions of the legislature. The Cabinet felt October 13 to 20 was the most suitable window," sources said.

The recommendation will now go to the Lieutenant Governor, who under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, has the authority to summon the legislature. If approved, the October sitting will mark the third full legislative session of the Omar Abdullah-led government since it assumed office last year.

As per the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, there must not be a gap longer than six months between the last sitting of one session and the first sitting of the next.

"The Lieutenant Governor shall, from time to time, summon the Legislative Assembly to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session," reads the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019.

Since the last | [More on P6](#)

## UN Chief Warns Of Global Turmoil

Calls it an 'Age of Reckless Disruption & Relentless Human Suffering'

AP

United Nations: With global peace and progress under siege, the United Nations chief challenged world leaders Tuesday to choose a future where the rule of law triumphs over raw power and where nations come together rather than scramble for self-interests.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the UN's founders faced the same questions 80 years ago, but he told today's world leaders at the opening of their annual gathering at the General Assembly that the choice of peace or war, law of lawlessness, co-operation or conflict, is "more urgent, more intertwined,



more unforgiving." "We have entered in an age of reckless disruption and relentless human suffering," he said in his annual "state of the World" speech. "The pillars of peace and progress are buckling under the weight

of impunity, inequality and indifference."

But despite all the internal and external challenges facing the UN, he and General Assembly President Annalena Baerbock pleaded with its members not to give up. "If

we stop doing the right things, evil will prevail," Baerbock said in her opening remarks.

Guterres said the leaders' first obligation is to choose peace, and without naming any countries, he urged all parties -- including those in the Assembly chamber -- to stop supporting Sudan's warring parties.

He also didn't name Israel but used his strongest words against its actions in Gaza, saying the scale of death and destruction are the worst in his nearly nine years as secretary-general, and that "nothing can justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian people."

While Guterres has repeatedly said only a court can determine | [More on P6](#)

## J&K Floods: 150 Lives Lost, 33 Missing

Agencies

Srinagar: Flash floods and cloudbursts that struck Jammu and Kashmir in August and September claimed 150 lives, left 33 persons missing, and caused property damage worth crores.

According to the figures, Kishtwar District recorded the highest number of casualties where 33 persons are still missing. "A total of 150 people lost their lives while 178 persons were injured" data reveals, adding, "Over 13600 houses were damaged fully, severely or partially across the region during the recent natural calamities."

According to the figures 864 houses were damaged in Kashmir of which 16 were fully damaged, 57 severely and 791 partially. | [More on P6](#)

## PM: Ayushman Bharat Transformed Healthcare

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said Ayushman Bharat, launched on September 23, 2018, has brought a revolution in public healthcare, providing both financial protection and dignity to its beneficiaries.

The flagship scheme offers an annual health cover of ₹5 lakh and extends coverage to the poor and all senior



citizens above the age of 70. On X, Modi tweeted, "Today we mark 7 years of Ayushman Bharat. | [More on P6](#)

## Startup Ecosystem Has Employed 17.90 Lakh: Shah

India Rises To 38th On Global Innovation Index, Aims for 'Top 10'

KO Web Desk

Gujarat: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said India's ranking on the Global Innovation Index has jumped from 91 in 2015 to 38 in 2025, expressing confidence that the country will secure a spot among the top 10 within the next three years.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Gujarat government's Startup Conclave here, Shah highlighted the success of the Startup India initiative



launched under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, noting that India now hosts the

third-largest startup ecosystem in the world. "Startup India has made our youth job creators from job seekers," he said.

Shah said, "Recently, the Global Innovation Index was announced. This indicates the potential of our people. I am a firm believer that India will be among the top 10 countries in the next three years and dominate innovation globally, looking at the performance and abilities of our youth." The Startup | [More on P6](#)



A KASHMIRI FARMER SPREADS WALNUTS to dry under the sun, a vital step in the annual harvest. KO Photo by Abid Bhat.

## HC Dismisses UAPA-Seized Vehicle Release Plea

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has dismissed a plea by two accused, seeking release of a vehicle seized by police in connection with a case registered under the provisions Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act besides under Section 7/25 IA Act and 3 Explosive Substances Act in 2023.

A division Bench of Justice Sindhu Sharma and Justice Shahzad Azeem passed the verdict, observing that the accused "jumped the gun" in approaching the court.

"The Appellant (accused) seems to have jump the gun and, instead of responding to the notice issued by the Designated Authority (Divisional Kashmir), | [More on P6](#)

## SC Rejects Plea Seeking Age-Relaxation For KPs

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has dismissed a writ petition filed by Panun Kashmir Trust under Article 32, which sought parity in age-relaxation benefits for displaced Kashmiri Pandits in recruitment to Central Government jobs at par with victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots and the 2002 Gujarat riots.

A bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta declined to entertain the plea, observing that such issues fall within the ambit of policy decisions and cannot be adjudicated under Article 32.

At the outset of the hearing, Justice Nath orally remarked, "Is this in the scope of Article 32? Is it for the Supreme Court or High Court to decide? These are policy decisions to be taken by the Government." | [More on P6](#)

## Cheque Bounce Cases: SC Seeks Status Reports From States, UTs

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed all the states and union territories to file status reports on the steps taken to augment the disposal of cheque bounce cases.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta passed the order while hearing a suo motu matter concerning expeditious trial of cases under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments (NI) Act, 1881.

Section 138 of the Act deals with dishonour of cheque for insufficiency, etc of funds in the account.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, assisting the court as an amicus curiae, referred to the apex court's May 2022 order which, as a pilot study, directed



the constitution of 25 special courts with retired judicial officers in five states for expeditious disposal of these cases.

"We have to see whether the pilot project is working or not," Luthra said.

He said he has filed an application in the matter.

"We want a status report

setting out the steps taken to increase disposal... data as regards vacancies and appointments," he said.

The bench directed all the states, union territories and registrar general of the high courts to provide the necessary status reports within six weeks.

It posted | [More on P6](#)

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## Study Finds 46% Of World's Low-Income Regions Continue Living Closer To Coast



Press Trust Of India

About 46 per cent of the world's low-income regions, especially in Africa and Asia may be forced to continue living in coastal areas or move closer to the coast, revealing a large gap in adapting to and addressing risks due to climate change, a study has suggested. Looking at changes in night-time lights for 1992-2019, researchers from Sichuan University in China, Australia's Monash University and others, estimated that settlements retreated in 56 per cent of coastal subnational areas or administrative regions around the world, remained stable in 28 per cent and moved closer in 16 per cent. Retreating from a coastal area was found to have a weak relation with experiencing a coastal climate hazard in the past.

However, moving away from the coast was accelerated in regions more vulnerable to climate hazards indicated by a lower protection of infrastructure and less adaptive capacity, according to the findings published in the journal Nature Climate Change. Previous studies have estimated over 40 per cent of the world's population to live within 100 kilometres of coastlines. They are therefore, vulnerable to tropical cyclones, flooding and sea-level rise, chances of all of which are projected to increase in a warmer future, compounded by rapid economic development, the researchers said. An absence of efforts required to adapt to a changing climate will compromise international ambitions of achieving Sustainable Development Goals and climate adaptation outlined in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the team said. Coastlines of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Puducherry in India were among the regions looked at in the analysis. "In 46 per cent of low-income re-

**“We analyse night-time light changes for 1992 to 2019 and show that settlements retreated from coastlines in 56 per cent of coastal subnational regions, remained stable in 28 per cent, and moved closer to coastlines in 16 per cent of these regions**

gions, particularly in Africa and Asia, settlements were forced to either maintain their current status quo or move closer to coastlines, revealing the large adaptation gap in addressing future climate change risks," the authors wrote.

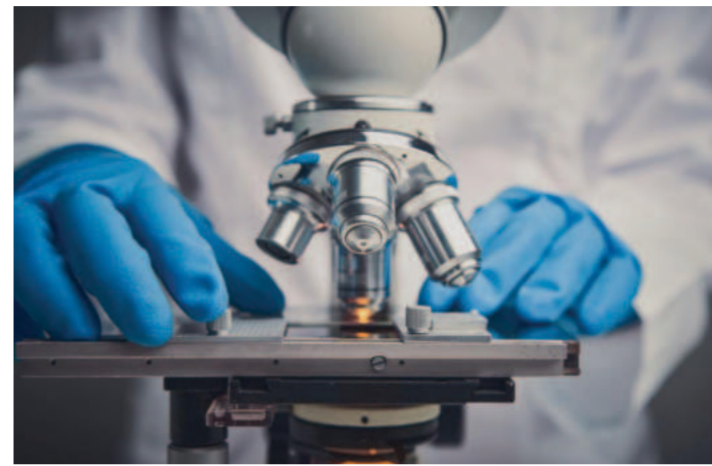
They added, "We analyse night-time light changes for 1992 to 2019 and show that settlements retreated from coastlines in 56 per cent of coastal subnational regions, remained stable in 28 per cent, and moved closer to coastlines in 16 per cent of these regions." Retreating from the coast was also seen to take place more widely in lower middle-income (65 per cent) and upper middle-income (59 per cent) groups and was less pronounced in low-income (nearly 54 per cent) and high-income (45.6 per cent) groups. Socioeconomic improvement and lack of alternative resources in the low-income groups could result in a hesitation to retreat, the researchers said. Continent-wise, Asia (17.4 per cent) and South America (17.7 per cent) led the movement of human settlements towards coastlines, followed by Europe (14.8 per cent), Oceania (13.8 per cent), Africa (12.4 per cent) and North America (8.8 per cent), the team said.

## 'Women Researchers From Non-English Low-Income Countries Publish 70% Fewer Papers'

Press Trust Of India

Inequities in scientific research, such as being a woman, belonging to a non-English-speaking or low-income country, could reduce one's chances of publishing in a peer-reviewed journal by up to 70 per cent, compared to men speaking native-English from a high-income country, according to a study. Researchers from institutes in Australia, Germany, Colombia, Nepal, the US and UK surveyed over 900 environmental scientists and estimated that women researchers, particularly those in the early stages of their careers, published 45 per cent fewer English-language papers, compared to men.

The team explained that women are less likely to hold a tenured position and more likely to leave academia than men, thereby impacting the number of papers that one publishes. Scientists from lower-income countries tend to be less funded than their higher-income counterparts, and non-native English speakers experience a language-based rejection up to 2.6 times more often than native English speakers, the researchers said.



**“Using a survey of 908 environmental scientists, we show that being a woman is associated with up to a 45 per cent reduction in the number of English-language publications, compared to men**

"Being a woman, a non-native English speaker, and from a low-income country is associated with up to a 70 per cent reduction (in English-language publications), compared to male native English speakers from a high-income country," they wrote in the study published in the journal PLOS Biology. "Using a survey of 908 environmental scientists, we show that being a woman is associated

with up to a 45 per cent reduction in the number of English-language publications, compared to men," the team said. The participants were at varying stages of their scientific careers and speaking Bangladeshi, Bolivian, British, Japanese, Nepali, Nigerian, Spanish, or Ukrainian. Non-English speaking women researchers published 60 per cent fewer papers, and non-English speaking women research-

ers from low-income countries published 70 per cent fewer, compared to men with English as the first language from high-income countries, the study found.

Accounting for non-English scientific publications, however, was found to shift rates and numbers as non-native English speakers in the early to mid-career stages were shown to publish more peer-reviewed papers than native English speakers. Additionally, scientists from lower-income countries, too, were seen to have published more papers, compared to those from higher-income countries, upon factoring in non-English scientific publications.

However, women were still observed to publish fewer papers, compared to men, despite including both English and non-English papers. The authors added that the statistics could paint an erroneous picture that women, non-native English speakers and those from low-income countries are less scientifically productive.

They called for an explicit effort to consider one's social and economic backgrounds, along with accounting for non-English publications, while assessing performance and contribution.

### Kashmir Electrical Equipment Manufacturers Association (KEEMA) Industrial estates Sanatnagar Srinagar Kashmir

Email: keema.0611@gmail.com Phone: 94190 08606

Press Release

Srinagar, September 21, 2025: Raja Nayeem Ahmed Khan, President of the Kashmir Electrical Equipment Manufacturers Association (KEEMA), has expressed profound grief and heartfelt condolences on the passing of Shri Lalan Prasad Ji, respected father of Mr. Shailendra Kumar (IAS), Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, J&K.

In his condolence message, Mr. Khan said the passing of Shri Lalan Prasad Ji is a profound loss to the family and conveyed his solidarity with Mr. Shailendra Kumar Ji in this hour of grief. He prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

KEEMA fraternity stands in sympathy with Mr. Shailendra Kumarji and his family during this difficult time.

**Raja Nayeem Ahmed Khan**  
President  
Kashmir Electrical Equipment Manufacturers Association – (KEEMA)  
9419008606

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Moomin Hussain S/o Fayaz Ahmad Wani fko  
R/o Dangerpora

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I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate. As per school records my DOB is 01-01-2013. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
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R/o Dangerpora

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Prop.: BILAL AHMAD BHAT.  
S/O.: BASHIR AHMAD BHAT.  
R/O.: PALHALLAN, PATTAN, BARAMULLA. fko

### NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that my correct name is Mohammad Arshad, as recorded in my Aadhaar Card and other valid government-issued documents. However, in the School Leaving Certificate of my daughter Sania Arshad, issued by Kashmir Harvard Educational Institute, my name has been mistakenly written as "Mohd Arshad" instead of the correct and full form, "Mohammad Arshad". Both names refer to the same individual — myself. This clarification is issued to rectify the discrepancy and ensure that records are consistent and accurate. If any person, authority, or institution has any objection to this correction, they may file the same with the concerned department within one week from the date of this notice. After the lapse of this period, no objection shall be entertained.  
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### Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Sub: Application of Saida Begum W/D/O Late Ab Khazir Mir R/o Kreeri for issuance of Legal Heir certificate.

### NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context. As per the death certificate and report submitted by the patwari concerned Ab Khazir Mir S/o Jabar Mir has passed away on 07/03/2025. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has following dependents.

S. NO	NAME OF DEPENDENT	RELATION WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION
1	Ab Hamid Mir	S/o	58	Farmer
2	Wali Mohd Mir	S/O	52	Govt Employee
3	Nazir Ahmad	--	47	Labour
4	Bashir Ahad	--	45	Farmer
5	Jana Begum	d/O	60	H/maker

The applicant has applied for issuance of Dependent certificate. As such the instant matter is published through news paper, if any one is having any kind of objection may approach this office within 7 days (Seven Days) of the publication of this notice after passing of stipulated time of 7 days (Seven Days), no objections will be entertained.  
fko Naib Tehsildar

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## Amid Business Slowdown, Shikara Owners Explore Alternative Livelihoods

Agencies

Srinagar: The famous Shikaras of Dal Lake, also referred to as the "floating taxis of Kashmir," now lie idle, their vibrant canopies fading under the sun.

With tourists vanishing after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, the men who rowed them for generations are being pushed to desperate choices.

Wali Mohammad, President of the Shikara Association Kashmir said that many owners have been forced to abandon the lake.

"Shikaras have been our identity, our lifeline. Today, the same boats float empty. Many owners are now running small shops, pushing carts, or doing gig work because they too have to feed their families," he said.

He added that the crisis has shaken the pride of the community.

"My father and his father before him rowed Shikaras in Dal. Never did I imagine I would have to think of selling vegetables to survive. But when children ask for school fees, you can't keep telling them to wait," said one of the Shikara owners, who switched his work, his face pale and eyes moist.

Ghulam Rasool, another shikara owner, said he hasn't had a single passenger for weeks. "Before, one ride could bring in Rs 500-700. Now, there is nothing. I borrowed money to repair my shikara last year. Today, that repair feels like a curse."

Moreover, local vendors around Dal said their livelihoods are also hit hard. "Tourists mean rides and rides mean buyers. When there are no shikaras moving, even a



**Shikaras have been our identity, our lifeline. Today, the same boats float empty. Many owners are now running small shops, pushing carts, or doing gig work because they too have to feed their families."**

handicrafts stall feels like a ghost shop," said a seller near Nehru Park.

Meanwhile, the Association estimates that out of thousands of shikaras that once ferried tourists across Dal and Nigeen, barely a fraction operate today. The rest are tied to the banks, gathering dust and algae.

"We are not asking for luxuries," the president, Wali Mohammad said echoing the pain of houseboat owners. "We just want our children in schools and food on the table. Right now, even that feels like rowing against a storm," he said.

It is worth mentioning, shikaras—wooden boats mainly found in Srinagar's Dal Lake and other water bodies in the Valley—traditionally serve multiple functions: passenger transport, floating markets, ferrying goods and tourist rides. Since the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, the shikaras of Dal Lake and Nigeen remain idle, waiting for passengers just as their owners wait for the revenue they once generated—(KNO)



## Ahead Of Annual Exams, CEO Srinagar Calls For Planning Over Panic

On a whirlwind tour across the district, Chief Education Officer Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Bhat pressed teachers to finish lessons on time, support anxious students, and link classrooms with the community.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

Srinagar: With autumn exams approaching, the classrooms of Srinagar are in a race against the calendar. On Monday, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Bhat stepped into that race himself, spending the day visiting schools, talking to students, and urging teachers to balance speed with care as they prepare for year-end tests.

The tour began at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Chanapora, where Mr. Bhat arrived with District Education Planning Officer Anjum Raja and the school principal.

Inside a bright classroom, he asked students about their progress and quizzed them on the lessons covered. The responses, Mr. Bhat later said, showed encouraging levels of understanding.

Teachers gathered around as he reminded them to finish the syllabus on schedule and to keep classes lively. "Timely completion is important," he said, "but students must feel confident, not burdened."

From Chanapora, the team walked to the nearby Middle School, where Mr. Bhat directed cluster heads to keep a close watch on both academics and extracurricular activities. He told them regular monitoring would help identify gaps before exams begin.

The next stop was Higher Secondary School G.G. Mohalla in the old city. Here, Mr. Bhat focused less on exams and more on enrollment. He asked teachers to reach out to families in the surrounding neighbourhood and build trust with residents.

A stronger connection with the community, he said, could bring more children into classrooms and improve attendance.

At Higher Secondary School Tailbal, students greeted the visiting officials with cheers. After listening to their concerns, Mr. Bhat turned to a long-pending infrastructure issue. He instructed the principal to coordinate with the School Management and Development Committee to secure land papers for a new building. "Send all land documents to my office within two days," he directed, signaling urgency to move construction plans forward.

Throughout the day, Mr. Bhat repeated a key message to principals and staff: exams should not create panic. He called for special counseling sessions and remedial classes to support students who need extra help to meet learning goals. "Every child deserves focused attention," he said, adding that additional lessons can bridge gaps before exams begin.

The tour ended at a capacity-building workshop for teachers at GGHSS Kothibagh and Middle School Kothibagh. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Bhat stressed the importance of upgrading teaching methods to match the demands of modern education. He encouraged teachers to adopt new technologies and interactive approaches so that classrooms remain relevant and engaging.

The visits underscored a district-wide effort to steady students and teachers as exam season draws near. With deadlines tight and expectations high, Mr. Bhat's message was clear: progress requires planning, and planning begins with schools working hand in hand with their communities.

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### HIGHWAY STATUS

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

**HIJRI CALENDAR**

1447

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	4: 57
ZUHR	12:24
ASR	4: 44
Magrib	6:31
ISHA	7: 51

## This Day In History

- 1493 - Christopher Columbus embarks on his 2nd expedition to the New World, setting sail with a fleet of 17 ships
- 1529 - Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent and his Ottoman troops arrive in Vienna, beginning of the siege
- 1688 - France declares war on Germany
- 1706 - Treaty of Altranstadt: Charles XII of Sweden & August II of Saksen
- 1789 - President George Washington nominates John Jay for 1st Chief Justice
- 1789 - US Attorney General Office is created
- 1829 - Russia & Ottoman Empire sign Peace Treaty of Adrianople
- 1838 - Anti-Corn-Law League forms to repeal English Corn Law
- 1841 - British adventurer James Brooke obtains lands around the Sarawak river from the Sultan of Brunei
- 1850 - Papal Bull issued, establishes Roman Catholic hierarchy in England
- 1853 - France annexes New Caledonia
- 1877 - Battle of Shiroyma, decisive victory of the Imperial Japanese Army over the Satsuma Rebellion
- 1943 - Soviet forces reconquer Smolensk
- 1965 - Saudi Arabian & Egyptian accord over Yemen
- 1970 - Soviet space probe Luna 16 lands on earth after 1st unmanned round trip to moon
- 1971 - 90 Russian diplomats expelled from Britain for spying
- 1975 - OPEC announces a 15% increase in government per barrel revenues
- 1978 - USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1979 - CompuServe began operation as 1st computer information service
- 1980 - Iraqi troops cross Iran's border, encircling Abadan
- 1981 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1982 - US, Italian & French peacekeeping troops begin arriving in Lebanon
- 1990 - Iraq invades the French and Dutch missions in Kuwait; French President Mitterrand called the action a violation of international law; a U.S. warship boards an Iraqi-flagged tanker bound for the port of Basrah

From KO Archives

## Traders Refusing Kashmiri Apple

400 Trucks Lying Unloaded At Azadpur Mandi

Observer News Service

Srinagar-Nearly 400 trucks laden with Kashmiri apple are stranded at the Azadpur mandi in Delhi, as traders refuse to unload them because of their preference for fruit from Himachal Pradesh.

The situation has sent a wave of concern through fruit traders in Kashmir, and the matter has been taken up with the Delhi government.

A delegation of the Fruit Growers Association said that different varieties of apple are being exported in this season and 400 trucks laden with the fruit arrived in the Azadpur mandi in Delhi four days ago.

"Traders in the capital are declining to unload the trucks because preference is being given to fruit from Himachal over that from Kashmir," it said.

The trucks are stranded at the mandi, causing deep concern among the growers community, it said. The stranding of 400 trucks has caused a shortage of vehicles to ferry fruit to outside the state, and as a result freight charges have jumped through the roof, it said.

"Only a few days ago, the freight per carton from Shopyan to Delhi was Rs 40. This had now been hiked to Rs 50," it said. Sources said that the union minister for water resources, Prof Saifuddin Soz, has conveyed his concern by raising the issue with the horticulture department in Delhi after the matter was brought to his notice by fruit traders.

## Satsang Deoghar Donates ₹1 Crore to J&K CM's Flood Relief

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant gesture of support, Satsang Deoghar, Jharkhand has contributed ₹1 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for flood relief efforts in Jammu and Kashmir.

The donation, made with the blessings of the organization's spiritual leader, aims to aid those affected by the recent cloudbursts, heavy rains, and floods in the Union Territory.

A delegation from Satsang Deoghar comprising Nadeem Ahmed Qasba (Incharge Satsang Deoghar J&K, Anita

Chandpuri, and Kamal Chandpuri met with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Srinagar on Tuesday to formally present the demand draft.

The Chief Minister gratefully accepted the contribution, praising the organization's timely assistance during the humanitarian crisis.

Pertinently, these funds will be used to support relief and rehabilitation measures for the affected families. This contribution highlights the important role of social and spiritual organizations in standing in solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir during times of adversity.

## DLSA Raises Awareness On POSH Act, Drug Abuse

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized a legal awareness programme on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act and Drug Abuse at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Zadibal.

The initiative was aimed at sensitizing students about their legal rights and responsibilities, while also highlighting the importance of legal awareness in empowering youth to build a just and responsible society.

The programme was conducted under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and held under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/ Secretary, DLSA Srinagar. During the session,

Tasneem Kausar, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC), addressed the students on the provisions and significance of the POSH Act, underscoring the need for awareness to ensure a safe and respectful environment.

In another session, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Srinagar, delivered an insightful lecture on the menace of drug abuse, its legal consequences, and the social responsibility of youth in combating this challenge.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students, who engaged actively with the speakers and expressed keen interest in understanding their rights and duties.

The interactive sessions served as an important step towards nurturing an aware and empowered generation capable of contributing positively to society.

# 5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR BELOVED FATHER

## HAJI GHULAM MOHAMMAD SHAH

On 24th of September

*We miss your love, affection, wisdom and guidance. Besides your memories, we are only living up to your good morals that you have left behind. We make sure that your legacy lives forever. You will always remain in our thoughts and prayers. May Allah bless you with highest place in Janant-ul-Firdous.*

**Aameen.**

### Deeply Remembered By

- Dr. Zahoor Ah. Shah (Son)
- Er. Nisar Ahmad Shah (Son)
- Er. Riyaz Ahmad (Son in Law)
- Er. Ishtiaq Ahmad Shah (Son)

**And**

- Grand Sons and Grand Daughter

## KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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### KO VIEW

## A Long-Awaited Recognition

At the United Nations this week, history has edged forward. Britain, Australia, Canada, and Portugal followed by France have recognized the State of Palestine. This is a seismic shift. Western powers had so far resisted such a move, insisting recognition should only emerge from a negotiated settlement. But such a negotiation never came about, yielding only stalemate and suffering. Now, with Gaza in ruins after nearly two years of war and a solution slipping further out of reach, recognition marks a profound - albeit symbolic - shift in global diplomacy.

But for Palestinians, this moment is more than symbolic. It is an affirmation of their existence, their right to self-determination, and their decades-long struggle for dignity. In Gaza, where tens of thousands of civilians have been killed and entire neighborhoods flattened, recognition has been embraced as a moral victory, a reminder that the world still sees their humanity. "Despite all the pain, death, and massacres, we cling to anything that brings even the smallest bit of hope," a displaced Palestinian woman told reporters. That hope is fragile, but it matters.

Israel has reacted with predictable fury. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed never to allow a Palestinian state and instead pledged to accelerate settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank. Far-right ministers in his government go further, openly calling for annexation. These hard-line positions underline why recognition matters. If Palestinians are told endlessly that their nationhood will forever depend on Israel's consent, then they are condemned to live without rights, without security, and without peace.

Of course, recognition alone will not end the war. It will not bring back the thousands of lives lost since. It will not resolve the deep divisions within Palestinian politics or answer the question of who might govern Gaza after the guns fall silent. Yet it does change the diplomatic calculus. By acknowledging Palestinian statehood, major Western powers are signaling that the international community can no longer be hostage to Israeli intransigence or American hesitation.

The United States has criticized the moves as "performative." But there is nothing performative about giving a people brutalized by occupation and war the recognition they deserve. If anything, it is Washington's own failure to move beyond tired formulas that has left the Middle East in its darkest chapter in decades.

Recognition must now be a beginning, not an end. The humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza cannot be allowed to drag on. The international community must press urgently for a ceasefire, humanitarian relief, and meaningful negotiations anchored in the recognition of a sovereign Palestinian state. The long war has gone on for too long. Recognition of Palestine offers a small but vital chance to bring it to an end.

### CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

## Risky Lure of Unlisted Shares

Big gains tempt many in the valley toward unlisted shares, but this market needs sharp eyes and steady nerves

Irshad Mushtaq

More Kashmiris are chasing unlisted shares, hoping to find the next big success before it hits the stock market. These are shares of companies that do not trade on the BSE or NSE.

Think of a small mineral water brand in Anantnag or a private school chain in Srinagar. Their shares are sold directly by the company or an early investor, outside the regular exchange.

The attraction is clear. Early investors in some Indian brands made fortunes. Angel investors in Kashmir are funding startups with similar dreams. But the road is risky.

Selling these shares can take months. Prices are hard to track. Financial data is often thin. Rules are lighter than in listed markets. A single business shock can wipe out savings.

Before buying, investors must study every detail. Check earnings, debts, and ownership changes. The Companies Act and some SEBI rules apply, but enforcement is limited. Tax rules can be confusing. Those seeking Shariah-compliant options must confirm the business follows Islamic principles.

The promise of high returns should never replace hard questions. One wrong bet can cost years of effort.

Unlisted shares can grow wealth, but only for those ready to research, wait, and accept the chance of loss.

In Kashmir's fast-changing economy, caution is the smartest investment of all.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

# Where Did the Mining Fine Go?

A Deputy Chief Minister told the Assembly that a construction company was fined Rs 80 lakh. RTI records show only Rs 86,445 was ever collected. Kashmiris deserve an explanation.



Raja Muzaffar Bhat

In March this year, I sat in front of my screen feeling a rare sense of relief.

The J&K Assembly was in session and Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chowdhary, who also heads the Mining Department, announced that a Haryana-based construction company, NKC Projects Pvt. Ltd., had been penalised Rs 80 lakh.

The company had been caught carrying out illegal riverbed mining in the Shaliganga stream in Budgam. For someone like me, who has spent years campaigning against unregulated sand and boulder extraction in Kashmir's fragile rivers, this sounded like a long-awaited sign that the system was finally working.

The case was serious. In Khansahib, locals had seen heavy machinery, including L&T cranes and JCBs, ploughing into the Shaliganga without any clearance from the mining, revenue, or forest departments. Their protests went unheard until Saifuddin Bhat, the MLA from Khansahib, raised the alarm inside the Assembly.

The Deputy Chief Minister responded with confidence. He told the House that the District Mineral Officer had taken strict action, verified the complaint, and imposed a penalty of Rs 80 lakh for unauthorised extraction of nearly 300 metric tons of river material.

Newspapers across Kashmir and even national outlets like The Economic Times and Business Standard reported the statement.

For a region battling climate stress, shrinking glaciers, and polluted waterways, such enforcement matters. Sand mining has turned rivers into scars, lowering water tables and destabilising banks.

The Shaliganga feeds the Doodh Ganga and ultimately the Jhelum, lifelines for Budgam and Srinagar. A meaningful penalty could deter companies that treat our rivers as free quarries.

Months later, I wanted to know if the penalty had actually been collected. I filed a Right to Information application on 8 August 2025. RTI is a tool I have relied on for years.

When the reply came on 16 September, my relief turned into disbelief.

The District Mineral Officer's letter, complete with receipt number, said only Rs 86,445 had been recovered. A penalty once declared as Rs 80 lakh had silently shrunk to a fraction of one percent.

I took the findings public through my weekly Inkishaf programme on the Kashmir Observer news platform. The video has been watched widely, yet neither the Deputy Chief Minister nor the Mining Department has offered any explanation. The Assembly has not been updated. The silence is deafening.

This is not an isolated incident. The Shaliganga has a troubled history with illegal mining. In 2022, I challenged an environmental clearance granted to NKC Projects before the National Green Tribunal. The NGT first stayed the work and later banned mining in the stream. The company moved to the Su-



**“The elected government often claims that its hands are tied under the Union Territory setup. But no law prevents it from recovering a penalty it publicly declared. Accountability begins with keeping one's word. If the Deputy Chief Minister's statement was based on preliminary figures, why was it not corrected? If the penalty was negotiated down, on what grounds? Who approved the reduction? These questions strike at the core of democratic governance.**

preme Court, but after two and a half years the judgement came in favour of the ban.

During that period, NKC shifted operations to Sukhnag river in Beerwah, another ecologically sensitive site where mining is prohibited because it is a designated trout stream. For over two years, from October 2022 to December 2024, the company extracted sand and boulders without any environmental clearance or even an e-auction.

It took repeated petitions and a special team from Delhi to halt the work. But, by Janu-

ary 2025, the company was back near Shaliganga, operating upstream in Basant Wodder and Dragger villages.

NKC is building the Srinagar Semi Ring Road project, and its appetite for clay and riverbed material has been relentless. Each truckload represents damage to fragile ecosystems and to the livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolk who depend on clean rivers.

What makes the current case so troubling is the open contradiction. An elected minister stood on the floor of the Assembly and assured members that a massive fine had been imposed. That statement is now part of the official record. But the Mining Department silently settled for a recovery of Rs 86,445 on July 15, months after the announcement.

Neither any clarification was issued, nor any supplementary statement was placed before the Assembly. The people of Kashmir were left to discover the truth through an RTI application.

The elected government often claims that its hands are tied under the Union Territory setup. But no law prevents it from recovering a penalty it publicly declared. Accountability begins with keeping one's word.

If the Deputy Chief Minister's statement was based on preliminary figures, why was it not corrected? If the penalty was negotiated down, on what grounds? Who approved the reduction?

These questions strike at the core of democratic governance.

Illegal riverbed mining deepens flood risks, destroys aquatic life, and accelerates erosion that threatens homes and farmland.

When the state fails to enforce its own penalties, it sends a dangerous message: that well-connected companies can plunder rivers and walk away with a token fee. For communities already grappling with shrinking snowfall and erratic rainfall, such impunity is unbearable.

I will continue to press for answers. Citizens deserve to know why an Rs 80 lakh penalty dissolved into Rs 86,445. Legislators deserve to know why the House was misinformed. And the rivers of Kashmir deserve more than empty assurances.

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow and Chairman Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement. He can be reached at [bhatrajamuzaffar@gmail.com](mailto:bhatrajamuzaffar@gmail.com)

### Letter to Editor

## Why Gratitude Is Fading in Kashmir

Reading the Kashmir Observer editorial on World Gratitude Day made me think about a hard truth of human relationships. Many times, the very people you stand by in their darkest hour later turn against you. They criticize, oppose, or even malign you. It leaves a sharp question: should we keep helping when help so often comes back as hurt?

This is not a new struggle, but today's shallow relationships and social-media suspicion make it feel more personal. When someone turns against you after you have helped them, it is rarely simple forgetfulness. Help can create expectations you cannot always meet. When you stop, your limits feel like betrayal. Accepting aid can also bruise pride. What starts as gratitude can harden into resentment.

In competitive societies, kindness is sometimes misread as superiority. In Kashmir, where economic strain and social pressure are high, such reactions feel even sharper.

The pain of betrayal tempts many into silence. If kindness brings criticism, why bother? Faith and reason give a clear answer. In Islam, every act of service is recorded not on the recipient's tongue but in the Divine register. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said the most beloved of people to Allah are those who bring the most benefit to others. Morality says the same in simpler words: do the right thing even if no one thanks you. If we help only to be praised, it is not compassion, it is a trade.

Helping, however, is not blind charity. We need wisdom and limits. Not every request is genuine, and not every cry can be answered. Boundaries protect both giver and receiver.

The goal is what I call detached kindness, giving without expectation, offering help as if placing it directly in the hands of God rather than the person in front of you.

Detached kindness lets you serve without letting resentment or burnout eat away at your purpose. It means giving within your capacity and choosing wisely so your energy stays strong.

History shows that helpers often become targets. Prophets were mocked by their own people. Reformers were resisted by those they tried to uplift. In Kashmir, volunteers during floods, NGOs supporting education, and doctors working through crises have faced slander or neglect. Yet their work saved lives and restored hope. If they had held back out of fear of betrayal, countless families would have suffered.

What deepens the wound is not

only criticism but silence. Many who hurt you later admit in private that they were wrong but rarely apologize in public. The scar remains, but so does the reward. When kindness is seen as a transaction between you and Allah, the sting lessens. You stop counting thank-yous and start counting inner satisfaction.

Gratitude may be missing from society's lips, but the impact of kindness remains in homes rebuilt after floods, in students educated, and in patients healed.

We must help with wisdom and guarded hearts, but we must keep helping. The worth of service lies not in applause, but in the lives it touches.

Sincerely,

Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili  
Senior Surgeon

# Poetry, Kahwa, and Connection

From rooftop poetry readings to shared meals, Kashmiri youth are finding new ways to connect beyond screens and social media.

Shereen Naman

Mohsin, 28, often walks through Lal Chowk, Srinagar's buzzing heart, where the air hums with chatter and traffic. He works at a tech startup, surrounded by people and urban energy.

But when dusk falls over his hometown, he returns to his small apartment in Rajbagh feeling an emptiness no Instagram reel can fill.

"It's like I'm invisible in a crowd," he says, watching the water ripple under the evening sky.

That sense of loneliness runs deep in Kashmir, where decades of discord has strained social sense and sensibility.

Cities across India face the same problem. A 2023 survey found 40



percent of urban Indians report feeling lonely. In the valley, the numbers are sharper: studies show 45 percent of adolescents experience moderate loneliness, often linked to low self-esteem and depression, all tied to the region's turbulent timeline.

The Longitudinal Ageing Study in India adds that 20.5 percent of adults over 45 feel moderately lonely, and 13.3 percent experience severe loneliness, higher in disturbed areas where mistrust scatters families.

"Strife leaves mental mess, and city life piles on isolation," says Dr. Hina Mir, a psychologist in Srinagar. "People crave real connection, not just likes or emojis."

Depression affects up to 66 percent of Kashmiri youth aged 15 to 25, and PTSD impacts 19 percent.

Sociologist Aijaz Bhat notes, "Urbanization pushes people into silos. Losing community spaces makes it worse."

Globally, the WHO reports 10 percent of adolescents and 25 percent of older adults struggle with loneliness, but in Srinagar, it feels amplified.

Against this backdrop, something powerful is happening in Srinagar's homes. Young people like Mohsin are inviting strangers over for dinners, tea, or poetry circles. They are bringing back traditions of yaarbals, riverside spots where people once shared stories, or paends, those neighbourhood chats at dusk.

Now, the gatherings take modern forms: saffron-laced kahwa, poetry readings, and open conversations in living rooms.

"These spaces heal," says Nusrat Jabeen, a local poet hosting weekly readings. "Sharing pain through

words creates connection." Initiatives like Inner Edit, a local mental health group, organize home-based talks blending faith-

based practices with open dialogue. Dr. Sameer Sultan, a mental health expert, says, "Face-to-face interaction counters the alienation

of screens. These spaces are crucial for a place like Kashmir."

People also find comfort at shrines like Hazratbal, but bringing that calm into everyday home life makes it more lasting.

Mohsin remembers his first poetry night vividly. He invited strangers from a local WhatsApp group, nervous but hopeful. Over cups of warm kahwa, they shared verses and stories of loss, laughter breaking the initial tension.

"I felt seen," he says. No one cared about job titles, just people sharing moments.

Urban youth are turning to these gatherings for real connection. "Nuclear families and fast-paced lives fuel individualism," Dr. Mir explains. "These spaces rebuild community."

Loneliness won't disappear easily. 26 percent of people here struggle with anxiety, and trust can feel fragile. Scholar Rouf Mirza warns, "Urban growth erodes Kashmiri traditions of togetherness. We need spaces that prioritize human connection."

Rooftop readings, community iftars during Ramadan, and shared dinners show that young Kashmiris are responding, turning homes into small sanctuaries.

Now, Mohsin hosts weekly gatherings. Strangers become friends over shared meals, stories weaving a growing web of belonging. Some nights the ache returns, but it's lighter.

"Srinagar feels less cold," he says, smiling at familiar faces across the table.

By opening his door, this Srinagar techie has found a piece of home, silently stitching hope into the valley's heart.

— The author is a cultural activist by passion and scribe by profession.



**Rooftop readings, community iftars during Ramzan, and shared dinners show that young Kashmiris are responding, turning homes into small sanctuaries.**

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## A Stranger's Lesson in Srinagar

One fleeting encounter in Srinagar taught me that a person's worth isn't in their clothes, wealth, or status, but in their courage, determination, and heart.



Nusrat Hassan

I remember that morning as if it were yesterday. The house buzzed with festive sounds. Plates clinked, pans sizzled, and the smell of saffron rice mixed with fresh bread.

I had dressed carefully, or maybe too carefully: silk that caught the light, gold earrings heavy enough to swing, a handbag that announced itself even before I said a word. I felt ready to be admired, to belong.

Then I saw her. She stood at the edge of the hall, her mother beside her, wrapped in a simple shawl that made her almost invisible against the crowd. Something about her made me walk over, as if I had known her all my life. "Why aren't you taking pictures with the bride?" I asked.

Her smile was calm and gentle. "People are valued for their clothes," she said. Her voice was soft, yet it carried a kind of certainty I couldn't ignore. "We have none of this: no fine dresses, no jewelry, no courage to sit with people like these. We are recognized only by what we wear."

When she left, she promised we would meet again. I wanted to believe her. I wanted to.

Days passed, weeks, months. Life moved on. The memory of her stayed, flickering in the corners of my mind. Then illness came, fast and fierce. I ended up in the hospital, sur-

rounded by white walls, the hum of machines, the soft steps of nurses. And there she was. Calm, composed, unassuming. "How are you feeling?" she asked, her voice carrying the same warmth I had remembered.

Recognition came slowly, then all at once. She was the same girl from that feast, the one I had overlooked. Only now, she was a doctor. She had become someone who could save lives, someone who had carved a path through everything that tried to hold her back.

I realized something that day, something I try to remember every morning: we often judge people by their clothes, their cars, the houses they live in. Real strength, real beauty, lies deeper.

She taught me to see, to look past the surface, to never judge a book by its cover. And in Srinagar, where appearances often matter more than they should, that lesson has stayed with me.

— The author is a graduate student at GDC Ganderbal.

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## The Paradox of Prosperity in Kashmir

Why rising land prices, expensive credit, and concentrated growth leave ordinary Kashmiris behind, even as India climbs global economic charts.

Malik Daniyal

Recently, I had the chance to sit down with a respected politician from Kashmir. Our conversation ranged across politics, society, and, most of all, the economy. It was thoughtful, raising questions that, in their simplicity, go straight to the heart of what growth and dignity mean for ordinary people.

The first issue was deceptively simple: why are land prices in Kashmir so high? He asked whether these prices were driven by demand or by limited supply. On paper, land should behave like any other commodity. When demand drops, prices stabilize. And when economic conditions worsen, prices should even fall.

But in Kashmir, the opposite happens. Inflation climbs, businesses slow, people spend less and save more, and land prices keep rising.

This paradox exposes structural flaws in the economy. Speculation plays a major role. For those with disposable wealth, land feels safe and tangible, especially when other investments, like stocks, businesses, ventures, seem risky.

Add to this the rigid supply of land, shaped by geography, regulation, and bureaucratic bottlenecks, and prices face relentless upward pressure.

A stagnant economy with limited investment options ironically fuels a land boom, pushing ordinary families out of property ownership.

But while households tighten belts and businesses scale down, land continues to defy logic. It exposes systemic gaps: weak regulation, opaque markets, and speculative capital flows. Land becomes both a symbol and a symptom of an economy where wealth concentrates, affordability vanishes, and opportunity narrows.

Our conversation then turned to the cost of money. Why is borrowing so expensive in India? Why is credit still hard to access for ordinary citizens and

businesses, even as the country proudly claims to be the fourth-largest economy in the world?

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businesses, even as the country proudly claims to be the fourth-largest economy in the world?



Growth confined to abstract indicators may impress globally but leaves ordinary people behind. For a Kashmiri shopkeeper, farmer, or entrepreneur, the promise of a top-four economy feels distant. The question is not whether India grows, it does, but whether that growth translates into opportunity, and inclusion.

Small businesses in Kashmir feel this acutely: loans for equipment or seasonal needs come with interest that eats away already thin margins. High borrowing costs discourage aspiration, trapping people in survival rather than growth.

We discussed a technical concept: the money multiplier, as explained by economist Richard Verner. In theory, central bank liquidity should flow through banks, multiplying and spreading credit widely, fueling economic activity. But high borrowing costs weaken this multiplier. Money exists on paper, in bank reserves, but rarely reaches those who need it most. Entrepreneurs hesitate, banks tighten assessments, and households retreat. Macro indicators show liquidity, but micro reality shows scarcity.

This gap raises a deeper question: what does it mean to be the fourth-largest economy? GDP figures and capital markets tell one story, everyday citizens often tell another. If credit remains inaccessible, borrowing costly, and land unattainable, where does growth actually reside?

The paradox extends further. High inflation pushes families to save more and spend less, dampening consumption. Sluggish business activity reflects costly credit and shrinking demand. Yet land prices rise. Governments celebrate rank-

ings, but the money multiplier falters. These contradictions prevent growth from reaching everyday life.

What emerges is a dual reality. The economy expands and modernizes, claiming a larger global role. But ordinary people struggle with affordability, liquidity, and access. This duality is unsustainable. Growth without inclusivity breeds disillusionment, while prosperity without accessibility deepens inequality.

Reflecting on that conversation, I am reminded that economics is people. Rising GDP matters, but what matters more is whether citizens can borrow without fear, buy land without speculation, and run businesses without crushing costs.

Growth that fails to deliver these essentials risks being a mirage: impressive on paper, disappointing in practice. I end with the same question that stayed with me: what does it mean to be a global economic power if money is costly, land unreachable, and opportunities constrained?

It is a question that deserves serious attention in public discourse. For now, it remains a mirror, reflecting the paradox of prosperity in our times.

— The author is a student of Economics at Delhi University and regularly writes on Kashmir's economic issues. He can be reached at mdaniyal054@gmail.com.



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# Trump Rips UN For 'Empty Words,' Inaction On War

## Claims Credit For Ending Global Conflicts in UNGA Address

### Agencies

New York: Standing before more than 150 world leaders and senior United Nations officials at the 80th session of the UN General Assembly, U.S. President Donald Trump delivered a blistering critique of the international body while touting his administration's achievements and personal role in global diplomacy.

In a speech marked by sharp criticism, nationalist rhetoric, and sweeping claims, Trump accused the UN of failing to live up to its potential, dismissing its efforts as little more than "empty words."

"I've always said the UN has such tremendous, tremendous potential. But it's not even coming close to living up to that potential," Trump declared. "For the most part, at least for now,

all they seem to do is write a really strongly worded letter and then never follow that letter. It's empty words and empty words don't solve wars."

Bragging on U.S. Strength  
Wasting little time, Trump pivoted to his familiar theme of American exceptionalism, hailing the United States as "the hottest country anywhere in the world" and "the best country on Earth to do business." He claimed that under his leadership the U.S. economy is "bigger and even better" than during his first term, which he described as "the greatest ... in the history of the world."

He further asserted that the U.S. is "respected again like never before," drawing a sharp contrast with his predecessor, former President Joe Biden. At least twice during the address, Trump attacked Biden, continuing a



pattern of injecting domestic political rivalries into an international forum where such partisanship is typically avoided.

That brand of national chest-thumping, while popular with Trump's supporters at home, is generally frowned upon in the diplomatic setting of the UN. The tone echoed his recent speeches abroad, including

during his state visit to the United Kingdom.

Claiming to Have Ended Seven Wars  
In one of the most dramatic portions of his speech, Trump claimed to have ended seven long-running wars across the globe in just seven months. "They said they were unendable... Some were going for 31

years. Two of them, 31, think of it, 31 years. One was 36 years, one was 28 years," he told world leaders.

He listed conflicts he said had been brought to a halt with U.S. mediation, including those in Cambodia and Thailand, Kosovo and Serbia, the Congo and Rwanda, Pakistan and India, Israel and Iran, Egypt and Ethiopia, and Armenia and Azerbaijan.

"Likewise, in a period of just seven months, I have ended seven unendable wars," Trump declared, without providing details of the agreements or peace frameworks.

Renewed Claim on India-Pakistan Mediation  
Among his most repeated assertions, Trump again insisted that he had personally brokered peace between India and Pakistan, a claim he has now made nearly 50 times since first

announcing it on social media in May. At the time, Trump wrote that both countries had agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire after what he described as a "long night" of U.S.-mediated talks.

"Since then, India and Pakistan have been at peace because of my intervention," Trump reiterated at the UN.

However, India has consistently and firmly rejected any suggestion of third-party mediation, maintaining that its issues with Pakistan are strictly bilateral. Officials in New Delhi have dismissed Trump's assertions as factually inaccurate.

Opening with Humor, Ending with Politics  
Trump began his General Assembly address with a lighthearted joke about a malfunctioning teleprompter, quipping that he preferred speaking without it because "that way, you

speaking more from the heart." He joked that whoever was responsible for the technical glitch was "in big trouble."

But the light moment quickly gave way to Trump's signature blend of self-praise, sharp attacks on international institutions, and pointed jabs at his domestic political rivals.

The speech highlighted Trump's ongoing strategy of framing himself as a dealmaker on the world stage while contrasting his presidency against both his predecessor and the broader international community.

Whether his claims of ending wars and settling disputes stand up to scrutiny remains unclear. But before the world's largest diplomatic gathering, Trump ensured that the narrative of American strength — and his personal role in projecting it — was front and center.

## French President Stopped By NY Police, Calls Trump For Help

### Press Trust Of India

New York: The New York City gridlock during the high-level UN General Assembly session did not spare even visiting French President Emmanuel Macron, whose entourage was stopped by police due to strict traffic restrictions in place for US President Donald Trump's motorcade.

A video going viral on social media shows Macron and his delegation standing on the sidewalk as a New York police official, while apologising to them, says that they cannot cross the road as traffic has been stopped for a motorcade.

"I'm sorry, President, I'm really sorry. Just that everything has been frozen right now. There is a motorcade coming

right now this way. I'm sorry," the police officer tells Macron. Macron told the police official that he has to go to the French embassy, pointing to the direction across the road.

"If you don't see it, let me cross," Macron tells the police, who gesture that they can hear the cavalcade coming.

The video then shows Macron on the phone, saying with a laugh, "How are you? Guess what, I am waiting in the street because everything is frozen for you."

Sirens can be heard in the background as Macron talks on the phone, apparently with Trump.

According to sources in the entourage, whenever the US president travels to the United Nations headquarters,

security measures impose what is known as a "freeze", shutting down traffic across several blocks around the UN.

"That was the case yesterday as we were leaving the building, with the American presidential motorcade on its way. Taking advantage of the pause, the president placed a phone call to Donald Trump. The exchange was described as warm and friendly, and provided an opportunity to touch base on a number of international issues," sources said.

Macron is then seen walking on the sidewalk, talking on his phone, accompanied by his delegation. He obliges as passersby take photographs with him, as France's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Jérôme

Bonnafont clicks the picture as Macron stands with the couple for a photograph.

Trump arrived in New York City Monday evening to attend the 80th session of the UN General Assembly.

He will address world leaders from the iconic green podium in the UNGA hall Tuesday morning, his first address at the UNGA General Debate in his second term as US president.

The annual high-level General Assembly session brings not only world leaders to the UN headquarters but gridlocks, severe traffic congestion and heavy security across New York City as Manhattan is fortified for a week for the visiting heads of state and government, foreign ministers and their high-powered delegations.

## Mohanlal, Shah Rukh, Rani Mukerji, Vikrant Massey Conferred National Awards

### Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday conferred National Awards for acting to Shah Rukh Khan, Vikrant Massey and Rani Mukerji while Malayalam superstar Mohanlal was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke lifetime achievement award in a ceremony that doffed its hat to mainstream popular cinema.

Filmmakers Vidhu Vinod Chopra, who took home the best film prize for "12th Fail", and Karan Johar and Apoorva Mehra, who received the award for "Rocky Aur Rani Kii Kahaani" for best popular film providing wholesome entertainment, completed the starry ensemble at the 71st National Film Awards. The best director award

went to Sudipto Sen for "The Kerala Story".

The National Awards for 2023 were announced in August. It's the first National Award for friends and frequent collaborators Shah Rukh and Rani as well as for Vikrant. While Shah Rukh got it for his role in "Jawan", sharing his win with "12th Fail" star Vikrant, Rani bagged it for "Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway".

There were whistles and loud cheers as Rani and Shah Rukh went up to receive their awards at the traditionally sober ceremony. Mohanlal, recognised for a remarkable career spanning five decades and more than 360 films, got a standing ovation from the crowd gathered at the city's Vigyan Bhawan. "I got to know that when

Mohanlal's name was announced for Dadasaheb Phalke, there was wave of happiness among people. It shows that he has made a space for himself in countless people's heart," the president said in her address after the award ceremony.

"He has presented the softest of the soft and toughest of the tough emotions quite naturally," Murmu added in a speech in which she congratulated all the winners and touched on various issues, including the plurality of Indian cinema, Indian sensibility and women-centric films.

"Now we see women in many places in cinema like actors and producers. I have seen films about mothers, women uniting against societal wrongs, and strong women who raise their voices.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Cabinet Proposes

sitting of the previous session was held on April 29, and given the rule that no more than six months should pass between sessions, the next session must be held by October 28.

Officials said the upcoming session is expected to feature extensive discussions on developmental and financial issues. Reports on housing, infrastructure, and flood relief works, some of which were cleared at Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, are likely to be tabled. "The Cabinet cleared a series of decisions related to housing and development. These measures are designed to address immediate needs while sustaining longer-term growth," an official confirmed.

The timing of the session carries political weight for the National Conference-led government. For Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who returned to power last year after a prolonged period of central rule in Jammu and Kashmir, the October sitting will be an opportunity to consolidate his administration's position before the Assembly.

Opposition lawmakers are expected to corner the government over flood management, unemployment, and road connectivity, while treasury benches plan to highlight welfare measures and revival of horticulture and tourism.

The detention of APP MLA Mehraj Malik and the hindrances in the movement of fruit trucks on the Srinagar-Jammu highway are also expected to come up for discussion.

In the last Assembly session, three resolutions on statehood lapsed due to disruptions, following the rejection of an adjournment motion brought by its legislators on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

The issue of reservation also surfaced repeatedly during discussions in the House, with PC President and MLA from Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone, strongly criticizing the government over the matter.

### UN Chief Warns

whether Israel has committed genocide in Gaza, he referred to the case South Africa brought to the UN's highest court under the genocide convention by name — and stressed its legally binding provisional measures, first and foremost to protect Palestinian civilians.

Since the International Court of Justice issued that ruling in January 2024, Guterres said, killings have intensified, and famine has been declared in parts of Gaza. He said the court's measures "must be implemented — fully and immediately."

The UN also is facing financial cuts as the US and some other nations pulled back funding or have yet to pay their dues. Guterres said aid cuts are "wreaking havoc," calling them "a death sentence for many."

US President Donald Trump, in one of the gathering's most closely watched speeches, said he felt the UN has "tremendous potential" but isn't coming close to fulfilling it.

"For the most part, all they seem to do is write a really strongly worded letter," and not follow up, he said as he portrayed the UN as an

ineffectual institution, from its policies to even its escalators. One of them had stopped unexpectedly as he and first lady Melania Trump were riding it toward the Assembly hall.

The US president's "America First" credo has always been a tricky fit with the UN's commitment to global-scale shared decision-making. Returning to the Assembly rostrum five years after he last addressed the gathering by video during the coronavirus pandemic, Trump also touted his own foreign policy moves and told his peers that "your countries are going to hell" because of "uncontrolled migration."

Israeli-Palestinian conflict takes centre stage  
With global support for a Palestinian state growing, Israel's devastating war in Gaza is expected to take centre stage. But humanity's myriad conflicts, rising poverty and heating planet will also be in the spotlight.

The General Assembly's big week of meetings began Monday with events including a conference on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Tuesday kicked off the "General Debate" — more of an agglomeration of speeches — in which presidents, prime ministers, monarchs and cabinet members give their annual take on the state of the world and their own nations.

Besides Trump, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Jordan's King Abdullah II, French President Emmanuel Macron, South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa were among those scheduled to speak Tuesday.

Da Silva — speaking first, under a longtime tradition dating to when Brazil was the only nation that volunteered to lead off — worried aloud that the UN's authority was waning.

"We are witnessing the consolidation of an international order blocked by repeated concessions to power play," he said.

Geopolitical problems keep getting more complex

While the debate's theme is "Better Together," observers can expect a roundup of ways in which the world is falling apart.

Gaza already has seized attention at the General Assembly. Monday's conference, co-chaired by France and Saudi Arabia, focused on garnering support for the longstanding idea of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Almost all UN member nations have signed up to take their turn during the Assembly's six-day-long speechfest. The speakers' list so far includes 89 heads of state, 43 heads of government, 10 people who are vice presidents or deputy prime ministers and 45 foreign ministers and other ministerial-level officials.

### J&K Floods: 150

An official said that the relief has already been disbursed in all these cases.

On agricultural losses, more than 12,500 hectares of land got affected and nearly 315 hectares were hit in Horticulture sector, primarily in Anantnag, Kulgam and Pulwama districts with estimated losses of about Rs 59 lakh.

In Jammu, 12,800 houses were damaged. Of them, 4,200 houses were fully damaged and over 8,600 partially damaged. The

data revealed that the worst-hit districts are Udhampur and Jammu.

Besides, 758 were declared unsafe after the government conducted a safety audit of 8,800 schools in Jammu division.

It may be recalled that soon after the flash floods and landslides hit Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Jammu on August 31 and toured the flood-hit Jammu and assured the victims of relief and rehabilitation.

Shah was accompanied by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Leader of Opposition in the J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma and other top officials toured different areas in Jammu region to assess the situation.

He met the flood victims at Mangu Chak, one of the worst-hit villages near Jammu Airport, and took the first-hand account of the situation. He interacted with the villagers and assured them proper relief and rehabilitation.

Shah also visited Tawi bridge near Bikram Chowk and inspected the damage along the riverbanks.

Shah during his Jammu visit also chaired a meeting attended by LG Sinha, CM Omar, LoP Sharma, the DGP of police, and several officials of the Centre and the Union Territory administration.

Shah also reviewed the damage caused to the border security grid by the flash floods

Before the Home Minister's visit, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Jammu on August 24 to take stock of the situation following flash floods triggered by a cloudburst in Chisoti village in Kishtwar district. However, Singh's plan to visit the devastated village couldn't materialize due to inclement weather and the blocking of a road by a landslide in Paddar Sub-division. (KNO)

### Startup Ecosystem

India scheme, launched in 2016, aims to promote innovation and build a robust startup ecosystem. Shah said that in 2014 India had only 500 startups and four unicorns. Today, there are 1.92 lakh registered startups, with 120 unicorns collectively valued at over USD 350 billion.

He added that 52% of startups are in tier-II and tier-III cities and 48% are initiated by women, while the ecosystem has generated employment for 17.90 lakh people. On average, 17,000 startups are set up annually, with 9,000 in smaller cities.

Shah also highlighted government support measures, including a 10,000 crore fund of funds, increased loan limits from 10 crore to 20 crore, and various tax concessions.

Speaking on Gujarat's role, Shah said the state has led the startup revolution for the past four years, with 16,000 startups statewide and 6,650 in Ahmedabad alone, making it one of the top-performing states in the sector.

He urged industry leaders to invest in startups, noting that "one of them may turn into a unicorn one day and increase your wealth."

### PM: Ayushman Bharat

This initiative anticipated future healthcare

needs, ensuring top-quality and affordable services for all. Thanks to it, India is witnessing a revolution in public healthcare. It has ensured financial protection and dignity."

He added, "India has demonstrated how scale, compassion, and technology can advance human empowerment."

According to an official handle tagged by the Prime Minister, the scheme now covers over 55 crore citizens, making it the "world's largest health assurance programme," with more than 42 crore Ayushman cards issued so far.

It has led to the government's health expenditure rising from 29 per cent to 48 per cent, while out-of-pocket cost dropped from 63 per cent to 39 per cent, it added. "Millions of families saved from financial ruin during illness," it said.

When illness strikes, it shouldn't mean financial ruin, the statement said, claiming that the scheme has protected more than six crore families from poverty every year.

### HC Dismisses

filed an application for release of vehicle, which action of the Appellant is neither tenable from reading of Section 25 of the UA(P) Act nor is permissible in view of the complete mechanism provided under Section 25 of the UA(P) Act," the court observed.

"The present appeal is also not maintainable for the reason that Section 21 of the NIA Act provides for an appeal from any judgment or order not being an interlocutory order of the Special Court to the High Court, both on facts and law," the bench said.

It is trite law that an Order rejecting the application for release of seized property is interlocutory in nature as it does not finally determine the rights of the parties, the court said.

"Therefore, having regard to the bar created under Section 21 of the NIA Act, the present appeal, yet for this reason, is also not maintainable." The accused had been arrested on November 27, 2023 by a police team in collaboration with 3rd RR nafri camp near Sirhama in Anantnag district of south Kashmir.

The specific allegation against the duo is that during spot personal search of both the accused, 90 live rounds of AK 47 were recovered from the possession of Mehran-ud-Din Dar (one of the accused) and one live hand grenade was also recovered from the possession of Yasir Ahmad Bhat (another accused), respectively.

As per prosecution, both the accused had allegiance with Lashkar-e-Taiba outfit and have been actively involved in terrorist related activities, including instigation of youth to join terrorist cadres, etc.

During investigation, police seized one load carrier (JK03L-4982) which was allegedly used for subversive activities.

### SC Rejects

The petition, moved by Panun Kashmir on behalf of displaced Kashmiri Pandits, argued that thousands were forced to leave their ancestral homes in the Valley during the turmoil of the late 1980s and early 1990s. It further alleged that the exclusion of Kashmiri Hindus

from age-relaxation benefits amounts to hostile discrimination.

The Court, however, maintained that the matter lies within the domain of policymakers and dismissed the petition.

The petition also raised the issue of what it called "hostile discrimination" against Kashmiri Pandits, stating that while other riot-affected communities have been granted concessions, similar treatment has not been extended to this group.

It argued that the victims of the Kashmir violence fall within the same class as those affected by other communal disturbances for whom age-relaxation policies have been framed.

The Supreme Court, however, did not accept this line of reasoning, stating that it was not the proper forum to seek such relief. The bench made it clear that such requests involve executive decisions that are within the scope of government policy and must be taken up with the appropriate authorities. (inputs from KNT & KNO)

### Cheque Bounce

the matter after six weeks.

In its May 2022 order, the top court said the special courts under the NI Act would be set up in Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan in view of a large number of pending cases.

"The pilot study shall be conducted in 25 special courts in total. One special court shall be established in each of the five judicial districts which have been identified as having the highest pendency by each of the five high courts of the states with the highest pendency of NI Act cases," it said.

It said for operationalising the special courts under this pilot study, retired judicial officers and retired court staff, preferably those who had retired within the past five years, may be employed.

The top court said the concerned high court shall ensure that no vacancy arises, during this period.

It said the pilot study will be conducted for a duration of one year from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023.

It said the special courts shall adjudicate upon only those cases in which summons were duly served and the accused had entered appearance through a lawyer or in person.

Earlier, the apex court came out with a slew of directions to ensure speedy disposal of cheque bounce cases across the country and asked the Centre to amend laws to ensure clubbing of trials in such cases if they were lodged against a person within a year related to the same transaction.

The top court in March 2020 had taken cognisance of the humongous pendency of cheque bounce cases and had come out with the directions to ensure speedy disposal of such matters, which stood at Rs 35.16 lakh as of December 31, 2019, out of a total of 2.31 crore pending criminal cases in the country.

On March 5, 2020, the top court registered a suo motu case and decided to evolve a "concerted" and "coordinated" mechanism for expeditious disposal of such cases.

## CS Inaugurates Mega Health Camp At Ganderbal



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday inaugurated a Mega Health Camp at District Hospital Ganderbal under the Sewa Parv programme and Swasth Naari Sashakt Parivaar Abhiyaan.

The camp was inaugurated in the presence of Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD), Aijaz Asad; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg; Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore along with other officers from district administration.

As part of the Abhiyaan, a wide range of healthcare services were made available to the public. Senior citizens above 70 years of age were issued Golden Health Cards under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, enabling them to access free and quality healthcare services.

The camp also featured Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screenings, general medical check-ups, Tuberculosis (TB) screenings, and mental health stalls, benefiting large sections

of the community.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary also reviewed several ongoing health infrastructure projects in the district, including the 50-bed Critical Care Block and the District Integrated Public Health Care Lab, a state-of-the-art facility along with block-level laboratories which will function on a hub and spoke model. He also inspected the Mortuary Building, Administrative Building and Public Canteen being constructed under UT Capex Scheme.

Later, the Chief Secretary visited the Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tulmulla to review the ongoing Yatri Niwas project.

He inspected the progress of the work and received a detailed briefing on timelines for the remaining components. Secretary, RDD, Aijaz Asad, apprised him of the current status and pace of execution.

Emphasizing the significance of the project, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of adhering to approved timelines and maintaining high-quality standards. He directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work to ensure timely completion.

## CM Sanctions Rs 3.77 Cr For Various Works In Ganderbal

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday sanctioned Rs 3.77 crore from his constituency development fund for various works in Ganderbal assembly segment.

This includes Rs 67 lakh for

procuring a high-end radio diagnostic system for District Hospital Ganderbal, a spokesperson of the ruling National Conference said.

"These funds will be used to augment education infrastructure and civic amenities like drainage, street lights and roads," the spokesperson said.

## HC Judge Virtually Presides Over Court Proceedings From Gurez

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** In a first, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, the senior-most judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, virtually presided over the proceedings of a division bench from Gurez on Tuesday, marking a new chapter in the technologically-enabled justice-delivery system where geographical barriers no longer hinder access to courts.

Justice Kumar is on an official trip as the executive chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority regarding the child-friendly scheme of the NALSA, 2024.

He heard all the listed cases from the Munsiff Court in Gurez virtually, an official spokesperson said.

The historic bench comprised Justices Kumar and Sanjay Parihar. While the former joined from Gurez, the latter was in the Jammu wing of the high court.

The lawyers also attended their cases from the Jammu and Srinagar wings of the court

through video-conferencing.

Forty-five cases from the Jammu wing and five from the Srinagar wing were heard, exhausting the entire cause list for the day, the spokesperson said.

Justice Kumar directed the central project coordinator of the high court's e-court, Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi, to ensure a seamless service of e-filings, the display of timely case information and a real-time display of the cause list for the information of all the litigants to prevent any deprivation of such facilities.

For the immediate installation of a kiosk in the Gurez Munsiff Court, a direction was passed by the judges to provide various e-courts services to the people of Gurez.

Justice Kumar, who is also the chairman of the high court's Information Technology Committee, exhorted upon improvising the existing IT infrastructure to ensure leverage between the physical and digital platforms for the ease of court business and enhancing digital access to physical platforms.

## Kashmiri Journalist's Daughter Killed In Hyderabad Accident

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A pall of gloom descended on the family of Hyderabad-based Kashmiri journalist Khursheed Wani on Tuesday after his elder daughter lost her life in a hit-and-run road accident in Telangana. The heartbreaking incident has stunned the journalist fraternity and plunged his relatives in south Kashmir into mourning over the untimely demise of the young student, who was on her way to college.

According to family sources, the tragedy occurred in the Hayat Nagar locality of Hyderabad when an unidentified vehicle hit the girl and sped away from the scene. Locals present nearby rushed her to a hospital, but despite all medical efforts, she could not be saved.

"She was on her way to college

when the mishap occurred. The driver did not stop and immediately fled the spot. Sadly, she could not withstand the injuries she suffered," a relative recounted.

Hyderabad police have taken cognizance of the case and confirmed that an investigation has been launched to track down the vehicle involved in the fatal incident. A police official said that CCTV footage from the area is being examined to ascertain the identity of the driver.

The grieving family said her mortal remains will be flown to Srinagar before being taken to her native village of Diver in Tral, Pulwama district, where she will be laid to rest.

Khursheed Wani, who hails from Diver in south Kashmir, has been residing in Hyderabad for the last six years. He is currently working as an editor with ETV Bharat.

## Growing Number Of Kashmiri Women Diagnosed With PCOS, Say Doctors

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), one of the most common hormonal disorders among women of reproductive age, is becoming a growing health concern in Kashmir and across the country.

Doctors warn that the lack of awareness and delayed treatment often worsen the condition, leading to infertility, diabetes, and heart problems later in life.

Dr Shazia, a Gynaecologist at GMC I Srinagar, explained that PCOS occurs when women's ovaries produce higher-than-normal amounts of male hormones (androgens). "This hormonal imbalance interferes with the regular release of eggs during the menstrual cycle. As a result, multiple small cysts can form in the ovaries," she said.

Dr Rukhsana Akhtar, a gynaecologist posted in south Kashmir, said PCOS does not have a single cause but is linked to several factors. She said that excess androgen production disrupts ovulation,

high insulin levels increase androgen production, leading to irregular cycles and weight gain.

"Women with a family history of PCOS are more prone to the disorder, and sedentary lifestyle, poor diet, and stress are major contributors," she added.

Gynaecologists warn that untreated PCOS has both

fectively. Lifestyle modification is the first line of treatment. "Weight control through regular exercise and a balanced diet is crucial," Dr Rukhsana added.

Doctors said that women experiencing irregular cycles or excessive hair growth should seek medical advice early. They added that depending on symptoms, doctors may

**6 WOMEN WITH A FAMILY HISTORY OF PCOS ARE MORE PRONE TO THE DISORDER, and sedentary lifestyle, poor diet, and stress are major contributors."**

short-term and long-term consequences. "Initially, patients complain of irregular periods, excessive hair growth, acne, or weight gain. But over time, PCOS can lead to infertility, type-2 diabetes, high blood pressure, endometrial cancer, and serious mental health issues like depression," Dr Rukhsana added.

She said that while PCOS cannot be completely cured, its effects can be managed ef-

prescribe hormonal therapy, insulin-sensitising agents, or fertility treatment.

According to doctors, counselling helps patients deal with stress and anxiety linked to PCOS. They urged women not to ignore symptoms, adding, "We see a rising trend of PCOS among young girls, even teenagers. Timely consultation and lifestyle changes can prevent lifelong complications."—(KNO)

## Dy. CM Conducts Extensive Tour Of Srinagar, Ganderbal Districts

Reviews Road Widening From Nehru Park To Kralsangri

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, along with Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, on Monday conducted an extensive tour of Srinagar and Ganderbal districts to inspect the progress of ongoing road and bridge projects. Beginning his tour in Srinagar, the Deputy CM visited Nehru Park to review the preparedness for the widening of the Boulevard Road from Nehru Park to Kralsangri, a significant project expected to substantially augment road connectivity, ensure long-term public convenience, and boost economic activity for the residents of Srinagar.

Interacting with officers of the executing agency, the Deputy CM said the Boulevard project will provide a major fillip to both connectivity and local economic prospects.

Later, while visiting Ganderbal, the Deputy CM assessed the progress on Hospital Road and Gozhama Bridge. He inspected the road stretch from Bus Stand to District Hospital, sanctioned under NABARD at a cost of ₹7.51 crore, and directed the Executive Engineer to ensure its early execution to provide hassle-free hospital access.

At Gozhama Bridge in Shilwat, the Deputy CM was informed that the double-lane bridge, with a span of 208 metres, has a DPR worth ₹44.25 crore submitted for approval.



**6 THE DEPUTY CM INSPECTED THE UNDER-CONSTRUCTION NOOR JAHAN BRIDGE AT QAMARWARI, where officials said the 127-metre span bridge will ease traffic and improve connectivity between Noorbagh, Qamarwari, Khanyar, Nallamar Road and nearby areas.**

The project includes the main bridge approved at a cost of ₹12.77 crore and approach roads estimated at ₹5.74 crore. He instructed officials to expedite all pending formalities for its earliest completion.

The Deputy CM also inspected the ongoing construction of Noor Jahan Bridge at Qamarwari. Officials briefed him that once completed, the 127-metre span bridge will serve as an alternative link across the Jhelum, significantly easing traffic congestion and improving

connectivity between Noorbagh, Qamarwari, Khanyar, Nallahmar Road and adjoining areas.

Emphasizing timely completion, the Deputy CM reiterated the Government's resolve to ensure all critical infrastructure works in Jammu & Kashmir are finished within stipulated timelines. He directed the concerned departments to monitor progress closely and ensure the Noor Jahan Bridge is dedicated to the public as per the announced schedule.

## Maharaja Hari Singh's 130th Birthday Celebrated

Agencies

**JAMMU:** Streets in Jammu came alive with fervor and unity on Tuesday as thousands gathered to honor the 130th birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh, the last Dogra ruler of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The day, observed as a public holiday across the Union Territory, saw processions, rallies, and tributes that underscored the enduring legacy of the visionary leader known for his progressive reforms and commitment to justice.

The celebrations kicked off early with a massive rally organized by the Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS), which snaked through the heart of Jammu city, drawing participants from diverse communities chanting slogans in praise of the Maharaja.

Members of the Shri Amar Kshatriya (Rajput) Sabha gathered at Maharaja Hari Singh Park near Jogi Gate, where floral tributes were laid at the statue, accompanied by speeches, highlighting his role as a so-

cial reformer who championed education, women's rights, and welfare for the underprivileged.

"His motto, 'Justice is my Religion,' remains our guiding light," said one attendee, echoing sentiments shared widely on social media.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha led the official tributes, posting on X: "Tributes to Maharaja Hari Singh Ji on his Janm-Jayanti. A statesman of excellence & harbinger of change, he introduced landmark reforms to ensure welfare of the common man. His legacy of inclusive governance, progressive vision & contributions to the motherland continues to inspire us."

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh also joined commemorative events, attending gatherings alongside senior BJP leaders. Family members and political figures added personal touches to the day's observances.

Vikramaditya Singh, grandson of the Maharaja and former Member of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Council, shared on X: "Respectful homage to

my grandfather Maharaja Hari Singh of Jammu & Kashmir on 130th birth anniversary!"

PDP Youth President Aditya Gupta, however, used the occasion to critique the 2019 abrogation of Article 370, arguing it undermined the State Subject laws introduced by Hari Singh to protect local identities, calling the celebrations "hypocrisy" without restoring those safeguards.

Social media buzzed with heartfelt posts, from videos of rallies to reflective messages on the Maharaja's integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India via the 1947 Instrument of Accession.

One user captured the spirit: "Every caste, every Dogra, every corner of Jammu stood united... This is the power of Dogra legacy — unity above caste, faith & politics."

Born on September 23, 1895, to Maharaja Amar Singh, Hari Singh ruled from 1925 until the monarchy's end in 1952. His reign modernized the state through reforms like compulsory primary education and anti-untouchability laws, leaving an indelible mark on Dogra heritage—(KNO)

## LG Ladakh Kavinder Gupta Calls For Timely Prevention Of Cancer

Announces Installation of MRI Machine at District Hospital Kargil



Observer News Service

**KARGIL:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Kavinder Gupta, today inaugurated a Cancer Screening and Awareness Programme organised by Al Reza Health Care and Research Foundation in collaboration with Yatharth Super Speciality Hospital in Kargil.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor underlined that cancer is one of the major global health challenges of our time and stressed the importance of prevention, awareness, and early detection to save lives. He congratulated Al Reza Health Care and Research Foundation for its noble initiative and commended its dedicated service to the underprivileged sections of society since 2017.

Highlighting the government's initiatives, Shri Kavinder Gupta said that upgradation of healthcare facilities across Ladakh is being undertaken in a mission mode, with focused attention on diagnostics, specialised treatments, and health infrastructure. He announced that the long-pending MRI machine at District Hospital Kar-

gil will be installed soon and assured that the demand for a 200-bed hospital in Kargil will be actively explored.

The Lt Governor appreciated the efforts of Al Reza Health Care and Yatharth Super Speciality Hospital for establishing a satellite clinic and cancer screening facility, which will provide timely access to expert consultations for patients within Ladakh.

Adding a community perspective, President Jamiat Ul Alam Isna Asharia Kargil Sheikh Nazir-ul-Mehdi expressed gratitude to the LG for gracing the occasion and supporting initiatives aimed at improving public health in the region.

Later, Shri Kavinder Gupta visited former Minister of the erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir State Shri Qamar Ali Akhoun, enquired about his health condition, and wished him a speedy recovery.

The event was attended by senior officers including Deputy Commissioner Kargil Shri Rakesh Kumar, SSP Kargil Shri Shree Ram R, ADC Kargil, doctors from Yatharth Hospital, volunteers of Al Reza Health Care, and members of civil society.

## Sakeena Itoo Addresses 10th National Ayurveda Day Celebrations

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo virtually addressed the 10th National Ayurveda Day celebrations organised by Directorate of Ayush, J&K at Convention Centre, Jammu.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Director Ayush, J&K, Dr. Suresh Kumar Sharma; Director Health Services, Jammu, Direc-

deeply connected to nature. The theme 'Ayurveda for People and Planet' reminds us that the health of individuals and the health of the environment are inseparable. It is our responsibility to preserve this knowledge and make it accessible to every household," Minister Sakeena said.

The Minister called upon all the participants to carry out a dedicated awareness campaign on the benefits of Ayurveda so that people take due benefits from it.

"These celebrations will be



tor Family Welfare J&K, MD JK-MSCSL, former Directors of Ayush, Healthcare professionals and other officers also attended the event, either in person or through video conferencing.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister underlined the significance of Ayurveda as one of the oldest and most effective systems of holistic healthcare. "Ayurveda embodies India's cultural wisdom, offering a lifestyle and healthcare model

fruitful only when the message of benefits of Ayurveda reach the common masses in every district, in every panchayat and every area of Jammu and Kashmir," the Minister said.

The Health Minister further said that there is not much awareness about Ayurvedic medicines, highlighting that people should be made aware that Ayurvedic medicines have less side effect as compared to general medicines.

## Tenth Ayurveda Day Celebrated At AYUSH Health & Wellness Centre

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** Ayurveda Day was celebrated at the AYUSH Health & Wellness Centre, Kenihama, Budgam with a series of activities held under the guidance of District AYUSH Officer Budgam, Dr. Firdous Malik. The theme for this year's celebration was "Ayurveda for People & Planet."

On the occasion, Medical Officer, Dr. Nusrat Bashir, highlighted the importance of Ayurveda, stating that it is not just a system of healthcare but a complete science of life, based on the principle of harmony between the individual and the environment. She said that the observance of Ayurveda Day reflects the collective resolve to harness the full potential of Ayurveda for global wellbeing and a healthier planet.

As part of the programme, lectures were delivered on the role of Ayurveda in healthy living and disease management. Free medical check-ups were conducted



for the needy and disease-specific medicines were distributed among the patients. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material was also disseminated for creating public awareness regarding preventive and promotive healthcare practices.

An awareness lecture on Yoga was also organised, highlighting its significance for overall physical and mental well-being. Besides, Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screening of individuals was undertaken, while special focus was laid on anemia screening of the needy.



## Racing Prodigy Atiqa Mir Shines In Slovakia, Narrowly Misses Out On Podium

Press Trust of India

**ORECHOVA:** India's racing sensation Atiqa Mir finished an impressive fourth after being in the running for a famous victory for the majority of the action-packed race in the Champions of the Future Academy (COFTA) karting series here.

Srinagar-born Atiqa showed exemplary race craft to put herself in a winning position before narrowly missing out on a podium finish in round 4.1 of COFTA, a series which is keenly tracked by the top brass of the F1 Academy.

The 10-year-old, who won in

the DAMC series in Dubai earlier this month, is the first Indian to be supported by Formula 1 and is part of the F1 Academy DYD program

Atiqa finished just 0.32 seconds behind the race winner in the mini category, reflecting the highly competitive nature of a male dominated grid at Slovakia Karting Centre. It was the first time that an Indian driver managed a top-four in the championship history and was the highest finish by a female in the ongoing season.

In the second race of the weekend, Atiqa was running in a comfortable third place until she got hit from the back by another com-

petitor on lap seven, forcing her off the track and as a result she lost multiple places to finish 11th.

The podium eluded her last weekend but with a performance like that, Atiqa again showed her exceptional talent against a very strong international grid.

Reflecting on her weekend, the AKCEL GP driver said: "I was so close to the win and the podium but happy at the same time with my progress and performance against this top European Grid. It's nice to see all the hard work and training paying off."

Atiqa comes from a racing family and her father Asif Nazir

Mir, a Formula Asia Vice Champion, travels with her daughter to races around the world. He too was left impressed.

"It was an incredible drive by Atiqa against this quality of drivers. Her hard work is beginning to pay off now. She along with her team of coaches, trainers and mechanic worked incredibly hard to achieve this result. Atiqa is probably the least experienced on the grid and yet is able to give such performances," said Asif.

Atiqa had made history last year in this championship by becoming the first Indian to get a podium the Mini Under 10 category at Round 6 in Abu Dhabi.

## Srinagar To Host 2nd Edition Kashmir Marathon On Nov 2



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The second edition of Kashmir Marathon 2025, a flagship sporting event, is all set to be held on November 2 in Srinagar with the authorities keeping the registration open for the event. The event winners will get prizes up to Rs 3 crore.

"Join the Kashmir Marathon 2025 on 2nd November in Srinagar. With prizes up to Rs 3 Crore, this is your chance to shine on the global stage. Register today," Kashmir Marathon post reads on X.

Earlier this month, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a meeting to

review preparations for the upcoming Kashmir Marathon-2025, a flagship sporting event aimed at promoting sports, fitness, tourism, and Kashmir's vibrant culture.

The Chief Minister emphasised that the marathon must go beyond being a sporting event to become a holistic cultural and tourism experience.

The Director of Tourism, Kashmir, made a detailed presentation on the preparations and proposed plan of activities for the marathon.

He had also suggested introducing 10 km and 5 km runs for local participants in addition to the full and half marathons. (KNO)

## UT Level U19 Boys Football C'ship Kicks Off In Baramulla

Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** The three-day Inter-Division UT Level Under-19 Boys Football Championship began Tuesday at Showkat Ali Stadium in Khawaja Bagh Baramulla.

The mega event is being organised by the Department of Youth Services & Sports under the chairmanship of Anuradha Gupta, Director General, DYSS, and the supervision of Rashid Kohli, Joint Director DYSS, Kashmir Province, with DYSSO Baramulla as the host.

Two strong teams from

Jammu division and Kashmir division are featuring in the championship and will compete in six thrilling matches over the course of three days.

The competition serves as a platform for talented footballers to prove their mettle, with the best performers earning the honour of representing J&K at the national level.

In the opening clash between the two divisions, Kashmir division took an early lead, scoring 2-0. The tournament will run its full course and culminate on September 25.



## J&K Police Excels At All India Police Wrestling Cluster In Haryana



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K Police team has put up a stellar performance in the ongoing All India Police Wrestling Cluster being held in Haryana, securing five medals so far – three in Wrestling, one in Boxing, and one in Arm Wrestling.

Adding to the pride of the team, World Police Meet Gold Medalist Isaac Ahmed has stormed into the finals and is set to face

Haryana on Wednesday in a much-anticipated clash for the Gold Medal.

On this remarkable achievement, Anand Jain, IPS, Additional Director General of Police, Armed J&K, congratulated all the medal winners for bringing laurels to the organization.

The success of the J&K Police contingent at this prestigious event once again underscores their determination, discipline, and sporting spirit.

## India v Bangladesh: Another Charged Battle With 'Spin Punch'

Having overpowered Pakistan in an intense tussle, a battle-hardened Indian team will square off in another potentially volatile Asia Cup Super 4 game against Bangladesh on Wednesday when it is expected to encounter some quality spinners.

In terms of statistics, this is supposed to be another lopsided one as Bangladesh have won only once in 17 head-to-head encounters between the two teams in the T20 format.

But since the 2015 ODI World Cup and a benefit of doubt life to Rohit Sharma at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, it has gotten bitter between the two teams, thanks to the partisan young fans, many of whom perceive India as an adversary.

On paper, Bangladesh are no match for India. T20s aren't even Bangladesh's strength and if all goes well, it could be another thumping win for Suryakumar Yadav's men. (PTI)

## Argentina Likely To Play Australia In Kerala Mid November

The Argentina football team, along with star player Lionel Messi, will most likely play a match against Australia in Kochi when the South American squad visits Kerala in November, official sources in the Sports department said.

No date has been fixed for the friendly match, but it will take place in Kochi on any day between November 12 and November 18 when the Argentina team and Messi are in Kerala, the sources said. Australia will most likely be the opponent of the South American team, which won the 2022 World Cup, the sources said.

There were some controversies involving the Argentina team's visit to Kerala, with some reports in early August this year saying that the South American squad, with Messi, will not come to the state. However, later the same month, state Sports Minister V Abdurahiman had said that the team would arrive in Kerala in November. (PTI)

## Shreyas Iyer Takes Break From Red-Ball Cricket, Informs BCCI

Middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer has informed the chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar that he cannot take the rigours of red-ball cricket at this point owing to a stiff back, and also asked not to consider him for the upcoming home Test series against the West Indies.

Shreyas had pulled out of the India A's ongoing second four-day unofficial Test against Australia A at Lucknow, and now it has emerged that he has taken a temporary break from the red-ball format.

He was named captain of the India A but Dhruv Jurel stepped in in the absence of the Mumbaier.

In fact, Shreyas has made his request formal through a letter to Agarkar.

It makes Shreyas, who had led Punjab Kings to IPL 2025 final, a doubtful starter for the Ranji Trophy season starting on October 15.

PTI understands that Shreyas will now head to the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru for further evaluation of his back, and for the recovery process. (PTI)

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