

Hello, Kashmir

DON'T MAKE IAS/JKAS A 5 YEAR PLAN..

RATHER START EARLY AFTER CLASS 12TH

Join **EXCEPTIONAL'S 03 Year Foundation Course**



New Batch's **commencing** on

September 22, 2025 | IAS

September 30, 2025 | JKAS

To register, visit www.exceptionalacademy.co.in

Kashmir Watches An Ancient Hydraulic System Slip Away

Scientists warn that Kashmir's natural flood machine is breaking before its workings are fully understood

Sibtan Shafi

Srinagar: In the first week of September this year, rain began over Srinagar as a slow, dark evening drizzle and soon thickened into a relentless sheet that drummed on streets. Rooftops rattled under the pounding water. Lights reflected in puddles that grew into streams along alleys.

Houseboats on the Jhelum bobbed and groaned. Ashiq Ahmad, a man who has lived on the river all his life, stood on his deck, tying ropes to a sagging poplar and moving furniture to higher floors. "The water should have spread into the marshes," he said, his eyes fixed on the black surface climbing the moorings. "Now it comes straight for us."



It came all night. Side streams overflowed, and the Jhelum crept over its banks. Between August 22 and September 4, Srinagar received nearly three times its usual rainfall. The next week, more than three and a half times the normal amount fell. By mid-August, floods and landslides had claimed sixty lives and left more than two hundred people missing across

Jammu and Kashmir. The valley had once managed such rains differently. A network of lakes, marshes, and floodplains acted as sponges. Dal, Wular, Anchar, and dozens of smaller marshes absorbed torrents, filtered sediments, and released water slowly back into the Jhelum. That network is breaking apart, piece by piece. Government | [More on P6](#)

Leh Calm As Curfew Eased
Wangchuk Under Probe For Pak Links
Observer News Service

Leh: For the first time since curfew was imposed three days ago in Leh town of Ladakh, authorities on Saturday eased restrictions for a few hours, providing relief to residents. Shops selling essential commodities reopened, and people queued at ATMs as security forces maintained a vigilant presence.

The Director General of Police, Ladakh, S D Singh Jamwal, said curfew was relaxed in two phases: two hours from 1 PM to 3 PM in old city areas and two hours from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM in newer areas. The move came after a high-level security review chaired by Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta. The curfew followed widespread violence on Wednesday after a shutdown called by the Leh Apex Body (LAB) demanding statehood and | [More on P6](#)

Leh Was At Risk: Ladakh DGP

Press Trust Of India
Ladakh Director General of Police S D Singh Jamwal on Saturday said forces were compelled to open fire on protesters, else the entire Leh would have been burned to the ground. The | [More on P6](#)

J&K Assembly Session From October 23



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, has formally summoned the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly

to meet in Srinagar on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. The decision follows a revision by the J&K Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. The Cabinet | [More on P6](#)

Each MLA Allowed 10 Questions, 2 Resolutions & 1 Bill

The Legislative Assembly Secretariat on Saturday announced the rules for submissions ahead of the upcoming autumn session of the House. According to the bulletin, each MLA is permitted to submit up to 10 questions—five starred and five unstarred | [More on P6](#)

World Rabies Day: Cat Bites Surpass Dog Bites At SMHS

Over 8,300 Animal Bite Cases Reported In 6 Months, 80,000 Since 2015

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Over 8,346 animal bite cases, predominantly involving dogs and cats, have been reported at the Anti-Rabies Clinic (ARC) at Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital in Srinagar in the last six months. Medical officials attribute the increase in dog bites to the growing number of stray dogs across the city, leading to

more human-dog confrontations. Meanwhile, cat bites have surpassed dog bites, as more households keep cats as pets since the COVID-19 pandemic. From April 1 to September 26, 2025, the ARC recorded 3,799 dog bite cases, 4,394 cat bite cases, and 153 cases involving other animals. Officials estimate that if this trend continues, the total could reach around 15,000 cases | [More on P6](#)



A flock of sheep grazing in a meadow at Gulmarg. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Centre Sanctions Over 5,000 Houses For Calamity-Hit J&K

LG Thanks PM Modi; Says Approval To Restore Safety, Stability Across Households

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Government has sanctioned the construction of 5,061 houses in Jammu and Kashmir under a special project of the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), aimed at providing relief to families whose homes were damaged in recent natural calamities across rural areas of the Union Territory.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, while expressing



gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Rural Development

'Rights of Pahari Ethnic Groups Will Be Ensured'

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday reaffirmed the government's commitment to the empowerment and inclusive

development of the Pahari tribal community. Addressing a gathering in Srinagar, the LG highlighted the vision of sustainable growth | [More on P6](#)

NGT Orders Fresh Fines For Doodh Ganga Pollution

Syed Sammar Mehdi

Srinagar: The J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that environmental compensation will be imposed on the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and the municipal councils of Chadoora and Budgam within six weeks, following reports of persistent pollution in the Doodh Ganga stream and Mamath Kul.

Officials cited ongoing contamination along stretches of Doodh Ganga in Srinagar and Chadoora, alongside Budgam's Mamath Kul, noting that untreated sewage and waste continue to affect water quality despite previous penalties.

The NGT has also pressed the Commissioner Secretary of the J&K Environment and Forest Department for a clear timeline on the construction



of sewerage treatment plants (STPs) along the river. These plants are intended to address long-standing pollution and ensure 100 percent household connectivity.

Government counsel requested time to respond to allegations that illegal mining over the past three to four years weakened river embankments, leading to landslides and breaches in three irrigation channels—Kralpur Kul, Doyan Kul, and Masar Kul—which irrigate more than 5,000 kanals of farmland. The case was | [More on P6](#)

3 Held For Circulating Fake Currency Notes

Agencies

Srinagar: Police in Magam have apprehended three individuals, including two students, for their alleged involvement in circulating fake Indian currency notes (FICN). Officials confirmed that the arrests were made during a routine operation following credible inputs about suspicious monetary dealings in the area.

According to police sources, the accused have been identified as Bashrat Bashir Rather, a 17-year-old student from Archander Hama in Budgam; Mohammad Shafie Ganaie, 37, from Mazhama Magam in Budgam; and Abid Manzoor, 17, a higher secondary student from Kawoosa Khalisa. Police said that | [More on P6](#)



Presents

MIRCHI

BACHPAN BACHAO



SCREEN HATAO, BACHPAN LAUTAO

Presented By



Co-Presented By



Parenting Partner



Food Partner



Print Partner

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Outdoor Partner



Advertising Partner





To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327
Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
**Office Of The Assistant Director
Handloom Devdepartment Baramulla**

No:ADHL/BLA/Estt/432-35. Dated: 26.09.2025.

Subject: Notice for public auction of Unserviceable/Dead stock items(wooden/steel/electronic/furniture, raw material etc)

AUCTION NOTICE

Assistant Director Handloom Development Department Baramullainvites parties/agencies for auction / sale of various unserviceable/dead stock articles at **11.00 am on 04.10.2025**at Azad Gunj Baramullaas per the following terms and conditions:

Terms and Conditions: -

- The articles are offered for disposal on "AS IS WHERE IS" basis.
- The articles may be inspected by the interested parties from **29/09/2025 to 03/10/2025**(between 10.30 am 3.30pm) on all working days, from where the delivery of the stocks will be given on AS IS WHERE IS BASIS(list of articles can be obtained from the office of undersigned).
- CDR of Rs.5000/- (Rupees Five thousand only) pledged in favour of Assistant Director Handloom Development Department Baramulla has to be deposited by the participants on **03.10.2025** within Office Hours. Auctioneer without CDR will be outrightly rejected.
- Each bidder will be allowed at the most only one helper to be with him/her on the auction day
- In the event of successful bidder, the bidder will be required to deposit an amount not less than 100% of the bid value on the spot.
- Auction will be undertaken by an authorised Unified Committee constituted vide Order No. 327-DHHK of 2025, Dated: 10.07.2025
- Additional taxes and duties if any, levied by the government will have to meet by the buyer/party
- Further 2 days shall be allowed for lifting of the articles, No transportation for lifting the auction items shall be provided by the department
- If the party fails to lift the entire stock within stipulated time or fails to make payment within stipulated time, his/her CDR shall be forfeited. In case of any dispute, decision of Unified Committee mentioned at Point No. 06 shall be final.
- The Competent Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason and does not bind himself to accept any bid.
- For more information, Mr. Mohd Ismail Dar, Handloom Training Officer, Baramulla may be contacted on 9622932385.

DIPK-6606/25 dated: 27-09-2025

Sd/
Assistant Director,
Handloom Development Department, Baramulla.
(Member Secretary)

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: SBI Platinum Jubilee Asha Scholarship 2025-26

Description: The SBI Platinum Jubilee Asha Scholarship 2025-26, one of India's largest scholarship programs, is an initiative of the SBI Foundation. This program aims to provide financial assistance to meritorious students from low-income families across India, ensuring the continuity of their education.

Eligibility: The SBI Platinum Jubilee Asha Scholarship 2025-26 supports meritorious Indian students from economically weaker families. Eligible applicants include school students (Classes 9-12), undergraduates, postgraduates, medical students, and those enrolled in IITs, IIMs, or premier Indian institutions (Top 300 NIRF/NAAC A+) with family income up to 6 lakh (3 lakh for school level). Overseas applicants must be pursuing PG or higher courses in top 200 QS/THE-ranked universities. Minimum eligibility is 75% marks/7 CGPA in the previous year (67.5%/6.3 CGPA for SC/ST).

Half of the slots are reserved for females, and 50% for SC/ST, with systematic reallocation of unfilled seats.

Prizes & Rewards: Scholarships of up to INR 20,00,000 will be awarded to students depending on the category. (*T&C Applied)

Note: SBI strives to extend its financial support to students throughout their course. *Scholarship renewal is subject to students meeting the minimum eligibility criteria every year.

Last Date to Apply: 15-11-2025

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SBIF513

QR Code:

Scholarship Name 2: JK Tyre Shiksha Sarthi Scholarship Program 2025-26

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

Eligibility: Open to female students who are

HMV Driver's daughters and are enrolled in general or professional undergraduate or diploma courses. Applicants must have secured a minimum of 55% marks in their previous academic year. Annual family income must be less than or equal to 5,00,000.

Applicants must be residents of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. Children of employees of JK Tyre and Buddy4Study are not eligible to apply.

Prizes & Rewards: Annual Fixed Scholarship Details: Professional Undergraduate Courses: INR 25,000 General Undergraduate Courses: INR 15,000 Diploma Courses: INR 15,000

Last Date to Apply: 06-10-2025

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/JKTS3

QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qk10r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/jk-tyre-shiksha-sarthi-scholarship-program-2025-261757751527.png>

Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
(R&B) DIVISION PATTAN**

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

e-Tender NIT No: 38 /RnB/ Pattan of 2025-26/ 2430-35 DATED: 26.09.2025

E-tenders (In single cover system) from qualified contractors registered with the J&K UT Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments are invited for Snow Clearance (Stage-wise) on a **Percentage Rate basis** for a contract period of one year that may be extended to three years depending on the performance of the successful bidder.

S. No	Stage Name	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Snow Clearance Stage-1	200/-	5000/-	3054 Snow Clearance	ALL Classes
2	Snow Clearance Stage-2	200/-	5000/-	3054 Snow Clearance	ALL Classes
3	Snow Clearance Stage-3	200/-	5000/-	3054 Snow Clearance	ALL Classes
4	Snow Clearance Stage-4	200/-	5000/-	3054 Snow Clearance	ALL Classes
5	Snow Clearance Stage-5	200/-	5000/-	3054 Snow Clearance	ALL Classes
6	Snow Clearance Stage-6	200/-	5000/-	3054 Snow Clearance	ALL Classes
7	Snow Clearance Stage-7	200/-	5000/-	3054 Snow Clearance	ALL Classes
8	Snow Clearance Stage-8	200/-	5000/-	3054 Snow Clearance	ALL Classes
9	Snow Clearance Stage-9	200/-	5000/-	3054 Snow Clearance	ALL Classes
10	Snow Clearance Stage-10	200/-	5000/-	3054 Snow Clearance	ALL Classes
11	Snow Clearance Stage-11	200/-	5000/-	3054 Snow Clearance	ALL Classes

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

Sl. No	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26.09.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27.09.2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	27.09.2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	13.10.2025 upto 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	14.10.2025 11.00 AM Office Of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan

The Department shall be at liberty to add or delete a road or a stretch thereof from the listed stage contract scope.

2 Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3 All bidders are required to submit bid security or earnest money for an amount of Rs.5000/= at the time of tendering in the form of CDRs, FDRs, or BGs pledged to the authority responsible for receiving bids, in this case Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan in strict accordance with the Government's circular and other instructions as required, the successful bidder will be required to provide performance security in the amount of Rs.10,000/= at the time of contract award. Following the fixing of the contract in favour of the successful bidder, the unsuccessful bidders will receive the earnest money/bid security. The successful bidder's performance security will be released only after completed successfully performance of the Contract.

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

4 The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

5 The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-

- Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within three days from the date of intimation.
- Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 15 days.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Pattan

No.2430-35
DIPK-6595/25 DATED: 27.09.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

In my Driving License bearing DL NO. JK-0520080004147 name is mentioned as AFAQ MUSATAFA WAGAY. But my actual name is A F A Q MUSTAFA WAGAY, and my father's Name is mentioned as GH. MUSATAFA WAGAY But my actual name is GULAM MUSTAFA WAGAY. Now I want to correct it if anybody has any objection, he/she may contact ARTO OFFICE SOPORE within the period of 7 days; after that, no objection will be accepted.

Name: AFAQ MUSTAFA WAGAY
S/O: GULAM MUSTAFA WAGAY
R/O Hadipora BLA.Hadipora BARAMULA,JK
Pincode : 193101

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Date of Birth of my son somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the MC Beerwah within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Bilal Ahmad Pandith
F/o Mohammad Anas
R/o Kandhama Beerwah

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son the name is entered as HASNAIN ABBAS while his actual name is HASNAIN ABBAS MIR. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

FIRDOUS AHMAD MIR
F/o HASNAIN ABBAS MIR
R/o KACHERPORA BUDGAM
CELL. 6005582757

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son the name is entered as MAISAM HAIDER WANI while his actual name is MEESAM HAIDER WANI. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

ZAHOR AHMAD WANI
F/o MEESAM HAIDER WANI
R/o PALLER BUDGAM
CELL. 9858000922

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL
TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM**

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in Name in data to the License No. JK-0420230002894 issued in favour of GULAM ABASS MALIK Parentage ALTAF HUSSAIN MALIK

Whereas an application has been received by one GULAM ABASS MALIK Parentage ALTAF HUSSAIN MALIK wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as GHULAM ABASS MALIK Which needs to be changed as GULAM ABASS MALIK.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL
TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM**

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-0420170036123 issued in favour of MANZOOR AHMAD WAGAY Parentage MOHAMMAD SUBHAN WAGAY

Whereas an application has been received by one MANZOOR AHMAD WAGAY Parentage MOHAMMAD SUBHAN WAGAY wherein he claimed that the Fathers Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as MOHAMMAD SHABAN WAGAY Which needs to be changed as MOHAMMAD SUBHAN WAGAY.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer
MCBBudgam Kashmir

Published Since 1997
**KASHMIR
OBSERVER**
<https://kashmirobserver.net>

**IS AVAILABLE IN SOUTH KASHMIR
AT FOLLOWING PLACES**

JANISAR NEWS AGENCY	ANANTNAG
REYAZ NEWS AGENCY	ANANTNAG
RESHI NEWS AGENCY	ANANTNAG
BUDROO NEWS AGENCY	BIJBEHARA
GHULAM HASSAN NEWS AGNECY	SRIGUFWARA
LOORI NEW AGENCY	SANGAM
IRSHAD NEWS AGENCY	KOKERNAG
FRIENDS NEWS AGNECY	KULGAM
JAVAIID NEWS AGENCY	KULGAM
MALIK NEWS AGENCY	AERWANI
IRSHAD NEWS AGENCY	KOKERNAG
RAYEES NEWS AGNECY	AWANTIPORA
PAMPPORE NEW AGENCY	PAMPPORE
SANGAM NEWS AGENCY	SANGAM
GAZI KHURSHED NEWS AGENCY	PULWAMA
MANZOOR NEWS AGENCY	PUWLAMA
ALTAF NEWS AGENCY	PULWAMA
MANZOOR NEWS AGENCY	NORPORA
JAVAIID NEWS AGENCY	AWANTIPORA
LONE NEW/ADVT AGENCY	RATNIPORA, PULWAMA
BOOZE NEWS AGNECY	AWANTIPORA
3 WAY TRAL NEWS AGENCY	TRAL
SYED MAQBOOL NEWS AGNECY	TRAL
DAR NEWS AGENCY	PULWAMA
SHAFI NEWS AGENCY	RAJPORA
REYZ NEWS AGENCY	PAMPPORE
QUDOOS NEWS AGENCY	SHOPIAN
TURRAY NEWS AGENCY	SHOPIAN
FAROOQ NEWS AGENCY	KAKAPORA PULWAMA
JAVAIID NEWS AGENCY	QAZIGUND
NISAR NEWS AGENCY	BANIHAL

FOR ANY QUERY, CALL CIRCULATION DEPTT. : 0194-2502327

از نیابت یگوم احمد پورہ
عنوان درخواست:
منجانب عرفان حسین ریشی ولد محمد اسحاق ریشی ساکنہ موضع گوم احمد پور تحصیل پٹن ضلع بارہمولہ

نسیبت:
(D O B) سرٹیفکیٹ بحق پسر خود بادی عرفان ریشی

معلمہ مندرجہ عنوان البدر کے نسبت کاغذات عدالت ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہیں۔ نیز مطابق بیانات لمبردار و چوکیدار علاقہ، مسائل مندرجہ طور پر گوم احمد پور تحصیل پٹن میں ہی رہائش پذیر ہے۔ نیز مطابق اسکول ریکارڈ، مسائل مندرجہ کا پسر خود بادی عرفان مورخہ 14-05-2008 کو پیدا ہوا ہے، جس کے نسبت مسائل مندرجہ اپنے پسر خود کے حق میں تحت ضابطہ (D O B) سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے

سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشہر اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت ہذا کو دفتری اوقات کے دوران پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار
NTGAP/178/2025

Liquor Sales Witness Rise In Kashmir

Agencies

Srinagar: Liquor consumption is witnessing a notable rise in Kashmir, marking a shift in the Valley's social landscape where alcohol use was once largely confined to non-locals and tourists. Bar employees say beer has become the most popular choice among visitors, though some customers also opt for hard liquor.

"Most of the visitors ask for beer. A section of people go for whiskey or rum, but beer clearly tops the list," said an employee at a Srinagar-based bar, adding that the trend has steadily grown over the past few years.

Traditionally, alcohol use in Kashmir was limited and largely restricted due to religious and cultural sensitivities. However, shopkeepers and bar operators claim that changing lifestyles, exposure to outside cultures, and growing tourism have all contributed to a gradual rise in consumption.

Observers link the development to a mix of factors including urbanisation, increased disposable income, and evolving social attitudes

Most of the visitors ask for beer. A section of people go for whiskey or rum, but beer clearly tops the list

among the youth. "The Valley is going through cultural changes. Global media exposure and frequent travel have had a strong impact. Young people today are less hesitant about experimenting with things that were once taboo," said a sociologist based in Srinagar.

Bars and licensed liquor shops in the Valley, although few in number, have reported a consistent increase in sales. Officials monitoring excise revenue also confirm that collections from liquor sales have shown an upward trend in recent years. According to figures shared by the Excise Department earlier, government earnings from alcohol sales in Jammu and Kashmir have crossed significant milestones, reflecting rising demand. KNT



LG Sinha Stresses Economic & Ecological Integrity

Felicitates Bravehearts At Pride Of J&K Awards

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha emphasised the importance of maintaining both ecological and economic integrity for the vision of Viksit Bharat and rapid national growth. He said biodiversity protection should become a national mission, calling on all sections of society to work collectively towards the protection, restoration and regeneration of natural resources.

He was speaking at the 'Pride of J&K' award ceremony organised by Network 18 Group in Srinagar. The event honoured outstanding individuals and organisations that have played a pivotal role in Jammu and Kashmir's development and stood as pillars of courage and hope during disasters.

On the occasion, LG Sinha felicitated personnel from the Army, NDRF, SDRF, J&K Police, NGOs and Civil Administration for their exemplary service and

Network 18's Pride of J&K Award recognizes their selfless acts in rescue and relief and their conspicuous courage under extremely dangerous circumstances,"

selfless dedication during the recent natural catastrophe in the Union Territory.

"These heroes offered hope and aid in the face of destruction. Network 18's Pride of J&K Award recognises their selfless acts in rescue and relief and their conspicuous courage under extremely dangerous circumstances," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He lauded Network 18's initiative, saying such recognitions inspire citizens to contribute actively to community development and resilience-building efforts.

Reaffirming the Government of India's commitment under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, LG Sinha said the administration is working at speed to restore normalcy and boost development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Calling upon the public to stand firmly behind the security forces, he said, "The ecosystem of separatist elements is now breathing its last. Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police and all security agencies have been given a free hand to decisively crush terrorists and their sympathisers."

The ceremony was attended by Shri Brajesh Kumar Singh, Group Editor-Convergence, Network 18 Group, along with senior officials from the Army, police, civil administration, NGO representatives and prominent citizens from various fields.

Kashmir's Flood Management Strategy Under Review

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg chaired a high-level meeting of officers to review the region's flood mitigation strategy and river management measures.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC Fazlul Haseeb; Vice Chairman LCMA; Chief Engineer I&FC; and senior officers from ERA, JTFRP, SDA, UUED and other concerned departments.

At the outset, officials from the Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Department gave a detailed presentation on Kashmir's topography and flood-related challenges. The presentation covered key aspects including the highest yearly gauge recordings at Sangam between 1955 and 2025, the September 2014 floods and associated rainfall patterns, and the flood management plan for the

Jhelum basin.

It also highlighted the prioritization of works under the Comprehensive Flood Management Plan post-2014, as well as the Central Water Commission's recommendations and findings of the CWPRS and EPTISA models.

A threadbare discussion was held on critical interventions such as the diversion channel from Jhelum near Sangam to Wular Lake, raising of flood protection walls at key locations in Srinagar, resectioning of the Flood Spill Channel, and addressing choked portions of the Jhelum within the city.

The meeting also deliberated on creating sediment control basins on identified Jhelum tributaries, implementing flood zoning and land-use regulations, and adopting erosion and sediment control measures to mitigate future flood risks.

SKIMS Holds Workshop On Head & Neck Cancer Contouring

Director SKIMS Emphasizes Patient-Friendly Delivery

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Addressing the workshop on "Head and Neck Cancer Contouring & Treatment Planning" organized by the Department of Radiation Oncology SKIMS, Director SKIMS & EOSG Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie emphasized that patient-friendly care is central to patient management. He

said treatment outcomes largely depend on the doctor-patient relationship, where faith and trust significantly impact recovery. He urged young medics to show compassion and empathy, remarking that robots and AI can never replace clinicians.

Prof. Ashraf Ganie also highlighted the role of technological advancement in enhancing pa-

tient care, stating that SKIMS is working at multiple levels to ensure precision, accuracy, and safety in treatment delivery—crucial for avoiding collateral damage. Appreciating the Department of Radiotherapy, he commended its efforts in carrying forward the legacy of senior faculty including former Heads Prof. Maqbool and Prof. Fir Afroz.

Seva Parv-2025:

DC Srinagar Leads Public Grievance Redressal Drive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of the ongoing Seva Parv-2025 celebrations, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Saturday presided over a mega awareness-cum-public grievance redressal camp at Harwan. The camp aimed to bring governance to the grassroots level through on-the-spot grievance redressal and mass awareness.

The event witnessed enthusiastic

participation from residents of Harwan, Dara, Fakir Gujri, Darbagh, Mullaqa, Khimber, Syedpora, Shalimar and adjoining areas.

Senior district officers including Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tehsildar North, BDO Harwan, BMO Hazratbal, and representatives from Education, Agriculture, Horticulture, Rural Development, J&K Bank and other line departments were also present.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of 9th pass Discharge certificate bearing Admission No: 2379, Year 2013. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the GHS Hazratbal Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Azra Zainab inf
D/o Gh Hassan Teli
R/O Check Bagh Srinagar

NOTICE

I, Iqbal Ahmad Shah, R/o Akhzer Avenue, Sector 2nd near Power Grid Station, hereby declare that the name of my son has been wrongly recorded in the school records of GD Goenka Public School, Lal Bazar, Srinagar as **Mohammad Aalim Shah**. The correct name is **Peer Zada Mohammad Aalim Shah**. If anyone has any objection to this correction, they may contact the Principal of GD Goenka Public School, Lal Bazar Srinagar within 7 days of this publication.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ashiq Hussain Khan, hereby notify that my daughter **Rutba Jan**, had her Date of Birth (D.O.B) incorrectly recorded in the school records as **20-12-2015**. The correct Date of Birth is **05-07-2013**, as per Aadhaar issued by the competent authority. Anyone having any objection to this correction may kindly contact the Principal, **Govt. Boys Primary School, Gujer Daji Nagri**, within 7 days of this notice. After that, no objection will be entertained.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD
Muthi, Akhnoor Road, Jammu/ZamZam Complex Rambagh, Srinagar.
www.ikssb.nic.in

Subject: - Document Verification of candidates falling under consideration zone for the various posts for which the OMR based written examination was held on 15.06.2025 - regarding.

Notification

In continuation to Notification No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/23/2025-03(7699962) dated 24.09.2025, all such candidates who were shortlisted for the post of Driver, advertised vide Notification No. 01 of 2025 under Item No. 01 are required to submit an Undertaking in the shape of an Affidavit, where the prescribed qualification is minimum Matric and maximum 10+2. The undertaking should be in the shape of an Affidavit duly attested by the Magistrate 1st Class to the effect that:

- He/She is possessing the minimum qualification of Matric and maximum of 10+2 and he/she is not possessing the higher qualification than that is prescribed for the post as on cut-off date.
- If at any stage of the selection or later on, it has been found that he/she is possessing the higher qualification than that is prescribed for the post, his/her candidature shall be cancelled ab-initio, without any further notice and he/she shall have no objection if his/her name for the said post be rejected.

DIPK-6626/25
dated: 27-09-2025

(Reyaz Ahmad Malik) JKAS,
Controller of Examination
J&K Services Selection Board.

No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/23/2025-03(7699962) Dated: 26.09.2025.

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

AIRPORTS
SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
04 Rabi-ul-Sani
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 00
ZUHR	12:22
ASR	4: 39
Magrib	6:25
ISHA	7: 45

This Day In History

- 1906 - US troops reoccupy Cuba, stay until 1909
- 1914 - German forces move into Antwerp Belgium (WW I)
- 1915 - Battle of Kut-el-Amara: British defeat Turks in Mesopotamia
- 1923 - Abyssinia (Ethiopia) leaves League of Nations
- 1924 - French government names Gen Serrail governor-general of Syria
- 1926 - Russia & Latvia treaty of neutrality signed
- 1928 - Prussia forbids speech from Adolf Hitler
- 1928 - US acknowledge Chinese government of Chiang Kai-shek
- 1939 - Estonia accepts Soviet military bases
- 1939 - German-Soviet Frontier Treaty is signed by Joachim von Ribbentrop and Vyacheslav Molotov; redraws German and Soviet spheres of influence in central Europe and transfers most of Lithuania to the USSR
- 1944 - Battle of Arnhem, Germans defeat British airborne in Netherlands
- 1950 - Indonesia becomes 60th member of UN
- 1959 - Explorer VI reveals an intense radiation belt around Earth
- 1961 - Syria withdraws from United Arab Republic
- 1972 - Japan & Communist China agree to re-establish diplomatic relations.

From KO Archives

Political Strands in Jobs Racket Revealed

'NC Block President Has Earned Rs 40 Lakh Duping Jobless Youth'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Several political strands appear to be attached to the recently unearthed fake jobs scandal in Shopyan, with a block president of a political party arrested along with a gazetted officer and four others so far.

Scores of fake appointment orders for government jobs are reported to have been seized from the arrested persons.

Investigations have revealed that the arrested political functionary has extracted Rs 40 lakh from jobless youth so far by luring them with promises of government jobs, and the network was spread all over the valley. The sensational racket came to light when a Chatragam resident, Abdul Ghaffar Bhat, filed a complaint with the Zainapora police that one Ali Muhammad Ganai of his village had demanded a bribe of Rs 1 lakh from his son for securing him a job in the Social Forestry Department, and gobbled up Rs 70,000 as advance.

The complaint said that to dupe people, Ganai used fake appointment orders prepared by his son, Altaf Ahmad.

The Zainapora-police station registered a case under sections 419, 420 and 467 of the RPC, and handed the case over to the superintendent of police for Shopyan, Joginder Singh.

In the meantime, the police arrested Altaf Ahmad, and seized a Social Forestry uniform, an identity card and a fake appointment order from his possession.

The superintendent of police said that a suspicious list of 200 employees under the name of the Social Forestry Department was published in a newspaper, and on investigations it was found to have been issued by a shopkeeper in Budshah Chowk, Srinagar, Manzoor Ahmad.

As the case was pursued, Manzoor told the police that the list had been given to him by an acquaintance who often came to his shop and passed himself off as a DFO.

The superintendent of police laid a trap and arrested the phony DFO when he next visited the shop. He was later identified as Ghulam Nabi Bhat of Kawoosa, Budgam, who was an employee of the forest department.

"Twenty fake appointment orders and a number of identity cards were seized on the instance of Bhat, and during interrogation he had revealed the names of several of his accomplices, following which a gazetted officer of the civil secretariat, Abdul Majeed Zargar of Neehama, Beeru, and Muhammad Yaqoob Sheikh of Makhdoom Sahib Srinagar and Ghulam Nabi Bhat of HMT were arrested.

A further 40 fake appointment orders, state subject certificates and educational certificates were recovered after their questioning.

The SP said that Zargar used to work in the secretariat's General Administrative Department, and had been suspended in a case of fictitious appointments, but had later been reinstated. (Kashmir Observer, September 28, 2000)

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

Betrayal and Blood

A surge in murders, betrayals, and family violence exposes a deeper moral crisis in Kashmir today. Can the valley reclaim its soul?

There was a time when a single murder, even far away in the mainland, would shake this valley. People would whisper: "Nearbi che Na Ek Nafran Moarmut Nafar." One human has slain another.

News carried weight, piercing the collective conscience. The skies seemed to bleed with grief: "Azi che Asmaan Wazul."

Today, that distant horror has arrived at home.

In 2025, crime in Kashmir has surged. Reports of rapes, murders, and betrayals come from every part of the valley. Even Ganderbal, long celebrated for calm streets and pastoral serenity, faces rising violence.

The National Crime Records Bureau shows that criminal incidents across Jammu and Kashmir, including rape, murder, theft, and domestic violence, have increased steadily. Family disputes, friendships turned fatal, and minor quarrels escalating to murder reflect a breakdown of moral and social norms.

In July, Safapora in Ganderbal was shaken by the murder of a 28-year-old mother of two. She had gone to her brother-in-law for what was reported as a dental emergency. Investigations revealed a brutal truth: he lured her under false pretenses, assaulted, and killed her in an isolated field.

The community protested, demanding justice. Police arrested the accused within a day. The incident raised a haunting question: when the home can no longer protect, where is safety?

In August, a 17-year-old girl killed her 14-year-old sister near Batsar-Sehpora. She first claimed they had been abducted, but investigators uncovered the truth: a dispute over a lost watch escalated into fatal violence.

Families across Kashmir struggled to comprehend how a sibling bond could be transformed into an instrument of death.

In September, Ganderbal faced another betrayal. Ajaz Ahmed Rather, 22, was killed by friends after a cricket match argument. They strangled him with a wire and dumped his body in a canal to stage an accident.

Local journalist Hadi Hidayat described the grief: women wept, families cried, even police could not hide their pain. He wrote, "Some stories pierce straight into the heart."

Trust had been shattered. Friend-



The community protested, demanding justice. Police arrested the accused within a day. The incident raised a haunting question: when the home can no longer protect, where is safety?

ship, once sacred, became lethal.

These cases raise pressing questions. Are perpetrators, especially juveniles, receiving appropriate punishment?

NCRB data shows that juveniles in conflict with the law in Jammu and Kashmir rose from 171 in 2020 to 361 in 2022, contrary to the national trend.

How should society respond to a minor capable of murder?

Mehjoor's words echo with relevance: "Shakli chus insaan magar insanityat Nish bekhabar." Human in face, yet unaware of humanity within.

Several factors drive this surge in violence.

Drug abuse is widespread: an estimated 67,000 individuals in the valley are addicted, most daily heroin users. Unemployment stands at 17.1%, among the highest in India. Poverty, social inequality, and economic distress amplify frustration, fueling crime and weakening moral constraints.

The impact reaches beyond victims. Police, journalists, and social activists face trauma when confronting these crimes. Social media, intended to express sympathy, often violates privacy laws and compounds the trauma of victims' families.

The Safapora case revealed that sharing images and personal details can intensify suffering rather than

comfort communities.

Kashmir now stands at a moral crossroads. The valley that once embodied tolerance, compassion, and spiritual wisdom must confront the reality of betrayal, domestic violence, and community fractures.

The Safapora, Batsar-Sehpora, and Kangan cases reflect a deeper social crisis, where economic pressures, rapid social change, and the erosion of traditional values collide.

But there is hope.

The swift police response demonstrates institutional capacity. Community protests show moral awareness persists. Media reflection on ethical responsibilities indicates potential for reform.

Kashmir's journey from mourning distant tragedies to facing brutality at home is a story of profound social transformation.

The choice is stark: continue down a path of moral decay or reclaim the ethical foundations that made Kashmir a "Jannat-e-Benazir," paradise on earth.

The future depends on the collective resolve to protect trust, life, and humanity itself.

The author hails from Ganderbal and can be reached at ehsaanamy133@gmail.com

KO VIEW

Tea Tourism in Kashmir

This World Tourism Day, the conversation in Kashmir was about a cup of tea, and the young visionaries who are silently redefining what tourism in the valley can be.

For years, Kashmir's tourism industry has relied on familiar draws: alpine landscapes, adventure sports, heritage walks, and, increasingly, food tourism centered on the lavish Wazwan.

But a new wave of young tourism entrepreneurs is challenging that model. They are bringing creativity, energy, and fresh ideas to an industry that has long struggled under situational and seasonal disruptions.

On World Tourism Day, they proposed a bold experiment: tea tourism.

Kahwa, the saffron-infused green tea that has been a symbol of hospitality, is no longer just a drink. It is a way to explore the valley in a deeper, slower, and more intimate way.

Tea tourism invites travellers to visit estates, pick herbs with local families, learn the art of preparation, and sit down for conversations that connect generations and cultures.

It is experiential, personal, and refreshingly different from conventional sightseeing.

This call from young players is significant because it signals a departure from the static models of the past.

Tourism in Kashmir has often been reactive, shaped by circumstances rather than innovation.

Now, these creative interventions show a willingness to rebrand the valley, to make the industry dynamic, evolving, and resilient.

A cup of kahwa becomes both metaphor and medium: a simple ritual that fosters connection while telling the story of Kashmir beyond headlines and landscapes.

Kashmir's journey from mourning distant tragedies to facing brutality at home is a story of profound social transformation. The choice is stark: continue down a path of moral decay or reclaim the ethical foundations that made Kashmir a "Jannat-e-Benazir," paradise on earth. The future depends on the collective resolve to protect trust, life, and humanity itself.

Nuts, Streets, and Stories

A short shopping trip in Srinagar reveals how small changes in service, pricing and attitude could revive Kashmir's street economy.

Irshad Mushtaq

I went out on a crisp autumn afternoon to buy chestnuts and walnuts, expecting nothing more than a quick errand. Srinagar's markets thrived with their familiar pulse: vendors calling out prices, the scent of roasted corn hanging in the air, and some tourists threading their way through the local crowd.

But the few stops I made told a bigger story about how business is done in Kashmir and why it needs a fresh approach.

The first chestnut seller, a local, weighed out 80 grams for 100 rupees. He spoke of high cleaning costs and superior quality, but the numbers did not add up when other stalls nearby offered 100 grams for the same price.

I paused, and he quickly lowered his offer to avoid losing the sale. The price drop felt less like generosity and more like a hidden margin finally exposed.

Bargaining is part of Kashmiri culture, but it also signals how many vendors start with inflated rates and wait for resistance before revealing a fairer figure.

A few stalls ahead, another chestnut vendor, this one from outside the valley, worked differently. He displayed his prices on a small cardboard sign: 110 grams for 100 rupees, 250 grams for 200. He packed the nuts neatly, pointed to the cleaning process, and even re-



A better market culture builds credibility that attracts repeat customers and strengthens the valley's wider economy.

membered that I had bought from him the week before.

There was no guessing game, no last-minute discount, only a clear pitch and a friendly nod.

The contrast was hard to miss: where one relied on haggling, the other relied on trust.

The walnut stop sharpened the lesson.

The vendor sat scrolling on his phone, barely acknowledging me. After repeated questions he named a steep price, claiming his walnuts were polished and rare. When I mentioned a lower wholesale rate,

he stiffened and justified his figure by citing personal financial strain.

His story might have been true, many small traders in Kashmir struggle with high transport costs, unstable tourist seasons and weak credit access, but the approach pushed me away instead of drawing me in.

These brief encounters reveal three habits that hold Kashmiri street markets back. Customer engagement is the first. A greeting, a bit of recognition, or a simple explanation of quality can turn a casual buyer into a loyal one.

Transparent pricing is the second. Starting high and bargaining down may feel traditional, but it erodes trust and wastes time.

The third is adaptability. Clean packaging, digital payments, and clear signage are small upgrades that can set a stall apart in a crowded bazaar.

Kashmir economy leans heavily on small traders. According to government data, over 70 percent of local retail jobs are in the informal sector, which remains vulnerable to seasonal shocks.

Vendors face real hardships, like rising freight charges, unpredictable tourism, and limited access to bank loans. But these same challenges make service, clarity and innovation even more important.

A better market culture builds credibility that attracts repeat customers and strengthens the valley's wider economy.

I left the market with a heavier bag of chestnuts and walnuts, but the real takeaway was a lesson in business.

Transformation does not always need big investments or government schemes. Sometimes it begins with a vendor who looks up from his phone, greets a customer, and offers a price that makes sense the first time.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Saints, Sinners, and the Spaces Between

Kashmiris excel at devotion in public, but the marketplace tells a different story.

Zayd Ibn Umar

Step into a masjid on Friday and it feels like paradise has arrived. The air carries the scent of fresh perfume, neatly folded clothes glint in the sunlight, and sermons echo through the hall. People nod, voices rise in unison, and for a moment, the world seems aligned with devotion.

Then Saturday comes. Step into a marketplace, and paradise vanishes faster than melted snow. The same man who raised his voice in prayer now bends rules to fatten his pockets.

The milkman dilutes milk, the butcher weighs deception alongside meat and shopkeepers swear by God while selling spoiled goods.

Corruption is universally condemned in speeches, sermons, and social gatherings. But in practice, it seeps into every transaction.

Weddings offer the clearest reflection of this paradox.

Kashmiri families preach simplicity and quote religious texts cautioning against extravagance. But the banquets they serve could feed villages.

Fathers of brides and grooms toil sleepless nights to produce shows that religion itself discourages, while guests whisper judgments about the number of dishes.

Simplicity in Kashmir belongs to sermons, while spectacle dominates supper.

Even the markets reflect the divide between public piety and private profit. Walk past the food stores, and betrayal hangs in the air. A man may pray with fervour on Friday and sell rotten meat on Saturday, weighing deceit with a practiced hand.

Customers are deceived under the banner of "fresh and guaranteed," while

the seller chants verses of honesty. Outward devotion decorates the shop, while treachery stays inside.

Appearances matter more than values. A man may cheat, gossip, or deny wages, yet grow a beard, sit in the front row of prayers, and sprinkle Arabic phrases on social media.

Suddenly he becomes "Moulvi Sahib," holy in the eyes of others, despite inward flaws. Even beggars have caught on: asking for alms "for God's sake" while hiding a smartphone in their pocket.

Leaders thunder about integrity while travelling in convoys bigger than the weddings they criticize. They promise justice but expect preferential treatment in hospitals.

Accountability is optional, morality selective, and public service often performed only for cameras.

Hypocrisy has become an art form, and the public is expected to applaud politely.

Masjids overflow on Fridays, yet mercy seems scarce. Madrassas flourish, while honesty fades in the markets. We recite texts with passion, but fail to repay promises or debts to those who helped us.

Faith, in our hands, often becomes decorative: bright to look at, but ineffective in lighting the path.

So, are Kashmiris truly faithful, or simply actors in a performance of holiness?

Actions speak louder than words, and faith is meant to guide life, not embellish it.

Until devotion leaves the mosque and enters the marketplace, people remain Friday saints, Saturday sinners, and full-time practitioners of hypocrisy.

The author can be reached at mutedmaverick@gmail.com

The Art of Saving Hearts in Kashmir

World Heart Day reminds us that from Kahwa to walnuts, Kashmir's old habits can still heal modern hearts.

Iqbal Mehraj

At 5:30 a.m. sharp, Asma's alarm slices through the half-light like a muezzin's call, yanking her from sleep into the day she hasn't yet faced.

She rolls over in her Srinagar bed, with a distant view of Dal Lake if you squint hard enough through the haze.

At 32, she has the job everyone envies: a rising star in a tech firm, deadlines piling up like winter snow in her homeland. Her back aches from hours bent over screens, and her evenings echo through a flat that feels too big for one.

In silos, she often wonders: where did the laughter go, that childhood wandering through apple orchards, and those endless cups of noon chai with neighbours who felt like family?

Buried under emails and ambition, that's where.

Asma's story is the new soundtrack of Kashmir, a low hum of hearts giving out too soon. The numbers are chilling.

Reports show that 29.6 percent of deaths in Jammu and Kashmir are linked to heart disease. A quarter of those lives are lost between 25 and 69, people in their prime, chasing dreams that silently and suddenly turn into nightmares.

The question is, why is it happening to us?



Change, though, is possible. Asma is trying: a handful of walnuts at breakfast, a call to her mother, an evening stroll under chinars turning gold. She sips her Kahwa now. It's a start, a ripple.



Experts say we sit more than we move, glued to desks or doom-scrolling on phones. Greasy takeaways replace home-cooked food. And stress, years of unrest now mixed with the grind of modern hustle, wraps around us like barbed wire.

Walk through Srinagar's streets, past shikara hawkers and honking autos, and you can feel it. Markets buzz, roads jam, and hearts race from the clock.

The Indian Heart Journal spells it out: urban Kashmiris are drowning in risk. Cigarette stubs smoulder in alleyways. Blood pressure spikes like summer mercury. Bellies round from too much rice and too little burn. Obesity creeps in, hypertension follows close behind. And then there's the mental toll.

The valley carries deep scars from years of strife. Add the corporate grind, family pres-

sures, and the endless scroll of bad news, and you have a cocktail that clogs arteries and knocks heartbeats off rhythm.

We're drifting away from each other and from the earth beneath our feet. Old ways have faded like worn pherans left too long in the sun.

But don't turn away yet. Kashmir still whispers its cures. Look back and you'll find gold in our roots. Start with the real things. Walnuts from the orchards, crunchy and rich, loaded with omega-3s that doctors swear by. Almonds sprinkled on salads or eaten raw, fighting bad cholesterol like warriors.

And Kahwa, that golden brew of saffron, cardamom and almonds, warming the soul and easing the heart.

Our grandmothers knew the secret. Communal meals, wazwan feasts where stories

flowed as freely as the gravy. No lonely bites in front of flickering screens, just togetherness, laughter, and hearts that beat stronger for it.

And the land itself is God's own remedy. Step outside, lace up your shoes, and walk. Feel the crisp air fill your lungs, your steps syncing with the valley's pulse.

Science backs it up: chronic stress is a heart's worst enemy, tightening vessels and flooding the body with cortisol. But nature is the great unwinder. Just thirty minutes of walking a day can slash risks and pump life back in.

Picture Asma skipping the cab for a lakeside stroll, watching houseboats bob as her worries dissolve like morning mist.

World Heart Day, September 29, 2025, is a nudge for all of us. For Asma, it starts small:



In villages, people still rise with the sun, till the soil, and share harvests. Urban life has traded that for convenience, and we are paying the price.

swapping soda for Kahwa, trading screen glare for starlit chats.

Health experts keep it simple: get checked early, tweak your habits. Monitor blood pressure, trade fries for fruit, and, above all, stay connected.

Isolation can be as deadly as a blocked artery. Kashmir's bounty is our shield: saffron fields rich in antioxidants, apples crisp with fibre. Embrace it and we fight back.

This is essentially about reclaiming what's slipping away. Our cultural heartbeat: festivals that set blood racing, elders' stories that soothe frayed nerves.

In villages, people still rise with the sun, till the soil, and share harvests. Urban life has traded that for convenience, and we are paying the price.

Change, though, is possible. Asma is trying: a handful of walnuts at breakfast, a call to her mother, an evening stroll under chinars turning gold. She sips her Kahwa now. It's a start, a ripple.

Kashmir's heart is resilient, forged in snow and stories. We've weathered storms before, we can heal this too.

By weaving old threads into modern lives, including food that nourishes, paths that restore, and ties that bind, we can mend both our bodies and spirits.

— The author is a Srinagar-based scribe. He can be reached at iqbalmehtaj96@gmail.com

A Chef's Journey Through Taste and Service

In this first-person account, Mohammad Majnoo tells Gowher Bhat about his journey from a village kitchen helper to a mentor, sharing stories, lessons, and the rich culinary culture of Kashmir that shaped his life and his community.

Gowher Bhat

I still remember the smell of onions on my very first day in a kitchen. My hands fumbled, tears pricked my eyes, and I felt unsure.

Chef Abdul Khalif Bhat looked at me and said, "Patience, beta. Cooking is love and practice. You will get there."

That sentence changed everything. I realized cooking was about care, attention, and respect for those who would eat what I prepared.

From that day, I moved from one kitchen to another, carrying my knives, spices, and dreams.

Fifteen officers' homes, company messes, hostel kitchens. Each had its own rhythm. One officer liked food spicy, another mild. I learned to read tastes like people, listen without words, and understand what a meal could do to someone's day.

Cooking for hundreds in messes and hostels tested me. Every dish had to be perfect, fresh, and consistent. I learned to manage a team, keep spirits high, and work faster than I thought I could.

Every simmering pot, tray of bread, and carefully plated meal became practice in patience, discipline, and humility.

Travel took me outside Kashmir. I cooked on company tours, student trips across India. Students often fell ill from the strange food. I made sure they ate fresh, healthy, and warm meals that felt like home.

One student told me, "Majnoo uncle, you made our trip easy." I smiled and said, "You focus on the trip. I'll take care of the food."

It was about comfort, and creating a space where they could be themselves.

I never forgot my teachers. Chef Bhat showed me the basics. Working with different officers and companies taught me that skill alone isn't enough. Cooking is service, care, a way to touch lives. That lesson stayed with me, long after the kitchens emptied.



Now, I teach. I take young people from my village, with no training and guidance, and show them how to chop, sauté, and serve.

"There are opportunities if you are willing to work hard," I tell them. "Cooking is not just food. It is opportunity."

I watch them gain confidence, learn discipline, and start to imagine a life beyond the village. Some go on to hotels, hostels, or catering jobs. They carry their dignity, and I feel pride that is deeper than any praise.

People say I've changed lives. My friends

and neighbours tell me they see it too: "You transformed yourself, and now you transform others." I laugh, and I remember: it all began with a single onion and a lesson in patience.

Even my family feels the impact. My son is studying BSc Nursing. I hope he understands what I learned the hard way: success is nothing if it doesn't lift others. Each lesson, meal, and word of guidance is a chance to pass on what was given to me.

The work was never easy. Long hours, heavy pots, careful timing, high expecta-



I tell my students the truth: work is out there, but it requires skill, discipline, and sincerity. Hotels, hostels, companies need people who care about their craft. That is what I try to teach. If I can help even one young person find their path, I have done my job.

tions could have made me quit. Each mistake became a lesson. Each challenge, a step forward.

Even village weddings and community events became classrooms, where I could teach, serve, and guide, without seeking recognition. Students remember my words: "Come on, you will remember these lessons for life. Cooking is love!"

I tell my students the truth: work is out there, but it requires skill, discipline, and sincerity. Hotels, hostels, companies need people who care about their craft. That is what I try to teach. If I can help even one young person find their path, I have done my job.

When I think back on the trips across India, the hundreds of meals prepared, the lessons learned from my mentors and teams, I feel gratitude.

I am lucky, but luck alone never got me here. Work, patience, care is what built this life. And now, I pass it on.

— Gowher Bhat is a writer and educator from Pulwama.



When I think back on the trips across India, the hundreds of meals prepared, the lessons learned from my mentors and teams, I feel gratitude. I am lucky, but luck alone never got me here. Work, patience, care is what built this life. And now, I pass it on.

29 People Killed In Stampede At Vijay's Karur Rally

Press Trust Of India

Chennai: Twenty-nine people died in a stampede at the actor-politician Vijay's rally here on Saturday, state Health Minister Ma Subramanian said.

According to him, 29 persons were brought dead and over 45 are under treatment. Meanwhile, the chief minister convened a meeting of top state officials at the Secretariat to review the situation.

PM Modi, condoling the deaths, said: "The unfortunate incident during a political rally in Karur, Tamil Nadu, is deeply saddening. My thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones. Wishing strength



to them in this difficult time. Praying for a swift recovery to all those injured." According to officials, at least 30 people fainted while Vijay was actually addressing the rally and were rushed in ambulances to hospitals.

"Information from Karur is worrisome," Chief Minister M K Stalin said after the hospitalisation of several people.

Even as Vijay was addressing the massive gathering from atop his campaign vehicle, he halted

his speech mid-way when many workers raised alarm after noticing that people were fainting and falling down.

Many who fainted were waiting for hours together to see Vijay, and it included children.

Vijay himself requested a way for the ambulance and he threw water bottles from atop his campaign vehicle and also announced that a child had gone missing. He also urged police to come forward to help.

While those who fainted were rushed to hospitals, Vijay continued his speech. However, he ended it soon after sensing an abnormal situation at a section of the pretty huge gathering.

Govt Mulling 2-Year Tenure For Parliamentary Committees

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Government is mulling extending the tenure of parliamentary standing committees to two years, after some lawmakers complained that the current one-year term was too short to make any meaningful contribution. The government is expected to take a decision in this regard following consultations with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan.

The new term of the parliamentary panels usually starts either late September or early

October, depending on the date on which the committees, often described as 'mini-parliaments', are constituted.

Parliament sources said that some members had requested the government to extend the tenure of the committees from the present one year to at least two years so that the panels can effectively address the subjects chosen for deliberations.

The committees are set up soon after the new Lok Sabha is constituted in consultation with various political parties, who get to chair these panels in proportion to their strength in the House.

Usually, a chairman nominated at the start of the tenure of the new Lok Sabha continues in the post as the committees are constituted every year, unless there is a request from a political party for a change.

There are occasions when members also seek to become a part of a different committee and such requests are also considered favourably by the presiding officers of the respective Houses.

Of the 24 department-related standing committees, eight are chaired by members of the Rajya Sabha, while 16 are helmed by members of the Lok Sabha.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir Watches

records are stark. Jammu and Kashmir's wetland area fell from about 391,500 hectares in 2011 to 164,110 hectares in 2021. Dal Lake has lost a quarter of its open water since 1980. Wular, once Asia's largest freshwater lake, shrank from nearly 20,000 hectares to barely 2,400. Anchar Lake is down from 19.4 square kilometres to 6.8.

Around Srinagar, the changes are visible. Floodplains have been paved, drainage channels filled or walled, and the Jhelum runs narrower and silted, hemmed by concrete.

Upstream, forests have been cut, hillsides scarred by quarries, roads carve through slopes, and loose soil now rushes straight to the rivers. A 2019 study by University of Kashmir researchers warned that these changes had crippled the valley's natural flood cushion. Neighbourhoods now sit on marshes that used to drain slowly.

The impact is in daily life. Nine major wetlands failed water-quality standards last year, contaminated by sewage and low oxygen. Traditional wells and springs are drying, and families depend on tanker trucks or irregular piped water. Farmers report erratic irrigation. Fishermen speak of dwindling catches in weed-choked waterways. Nadru, the lotus stem harvested for local cuisine, has nearly vanished.

"We used to fill boats with lotus every autumn," said Naseem Begum, a former harvester at Anchar Lake. "Now the marsh is silted and empty." The geography compounds the problem. Srinagar sits in a bowl-shaped depression. Floodwaters that once spread into marshes now surge directly into homes and stay for days.

"We are dismantling a hydraulic system we barely understood," said Dr. Farooq Rashid, a Srinagar-based ecologist. "Every wetland lost removes another layer of protection. Without urgent restoration, heavier rains will bring heavier disasters."

Some restoration has begun. At Wular Lake, millions of cubic metres of silt and over two million invasive willows have been removed, and lotus flowers are returning. Work at Hokersar and Hygam has reopened clogged channels. Local harvesters are replanting lotus. But scientists caution that these efforts are only small fragments of what has been lost.

When the waters finally receded, Ashiq untied his ropes and scraped mud from his deck. He looked at the lake, its edges now meters closer than when he was a boy.

Another extreme season is approaching, and he wonders if the next surge will leave him anywhere to tie his boat.

Leh Calm As

extension of the Sixth Schedule to Ladakh. Four people were killed, and around 90 injured during clashes, which included arson at a local BJP office and stone-pelting on police and CRPF personnel.

Police Action
DGP Jamwal defended the security forces, stating that firing occurred only in self-defence to prevent larger destruction in Leh. About 6,000 people were involved in the rampage. Several police and CRPF personnel were injured while protecting government offices and local residents.

"If the CRPF had not been there, the entire town could have been burned down," Jamwal said. He emphasized that the forces acted to maintain law and order and prevent chaos.

Authorities detained climate activist Sonam Wangchuk under the National Security Act (NSA) and sent him to Jodhpur jail in Rajasthan. The DGP stated that Wangchuk, identified as the "main instigator," was being probed for alleged links with Pakistan, including connections to a Pakistani intelligence operative involved in the protests.

Wangchuk's provocative speeches, references to international movements like the Arab Spring, and continuation of his hunger strike despite government dialogue attempts were cited as contributing factors to the violence.

Investigation and Security Measures
Over 50 people have been detained following the unrest, including suspected ringleaders. Police intensified patrolling and checks in sensitive areas to prevent further incidents. Intelligence inputs also indicated potential attempts to disrupt peace, which justified CRPF deployment ahead of the protests.

Authorities stated that investigations into Wangchuk's foreign funding, FCRA violations, and overseas visits, including to Pakistan and Bangladesh, are ongoing.

The Directorate of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Ladakh, in a statement late Friday night, said: "Time and again it has been observed that Wangchuk has been indulging in activities prejudicial to the security of the state and detrimental to maintenance of peace and public order and services essential to the community."

It said that despite clear communication

from the government regarding the meeting of the High-Powered Committee (HPC) and the offer of prior meetings before the HPC, Wangchuk, with his "ulterior motive", continued his hunger strike in the town from 10 September.

"His series of provocative speeches, references to Nepal agitations, Arab Spring, etc, and misleading videos resulted in the violent protests of 24 September in Leh, where institutions, buildings and vehicles were burnt down, and, in the aftermath, police personnel were attacked, leading to the unfortunate death of four individuals.

"The entire episode could have been avoided if he could have risen above his personal and political ambitions by calling off the hunger strike when the dialogue with the government was resumed on the same agenda," the statement alleged, referring to the demands for statehood and extension of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to the region.

The statement said it was important to restore normalcy in the peace-loving Leh town of Ladakh.

It said the administration, based on specific inputs, took a considered decision to detain Wangchuk under the NSA and move him to Jodhpur prison in Rajasthan.

Return to Normalcy
With the phased relaxation of curfew, residents cautiously returned to normal life. Shops reopened, streets saw activity, and the administration ensured necessary arrangements for families of the deceased to perform last rites without inconvenience.

The situation remains under close monitoring, with strict restrictions still in place in other parts of the Union Territory, including Kargil. Authorities continue to urge residents to cooperate and maintain peace.

Leh Was At Risk:

violence that took place in the Union Territory's capital on Wednesday was without precedent, he said, and blamed "vested interests" and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk for it.

On Wednesday, four people were killed in police firing and scores of others were injured when a protest for statehood for Ladakh turned violent. Protesters set a local BJP office on fire and allegedly pelted police and CRPF with stones.

Jamwal dismissed the allegation by the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance, the bodies which have been spearheading the agitation, that forces fired indiscriminately, saying that it was done only in self-defence and to prevent a larger flare-up.

"If you look at the footage and the conditions in which our forces performed, they did a highly commendable job. I salute them for bringing the situation under control by 4 pm after the violence started around noon," the DGP said.

He said about 70 to 80 police and CRPF personnel were also injured in the confrontation.

"Do you want the force personnel to die? That is not possible. Everyone has a life. When they attacked a political party's office and set it on fire, four women constables of the Ladakh police were inside. We rescued them with great difficulty. The CRPF personnel posted there were severely thrashed, and one of them is still admitted to an army hospital with spinal injury," he said.

"The secretariat, where most of the offices are located, was attacked. Do you want the employees to burn to death? You don't want that," said the officer, who also sustained minor wounds.

"The violence was aimed at creating anarchy, and countering anarchy was our main task," he said.

Jamwal defended the deployment of CRPF in advance, saying there was intelligence that some elements, including Wangchuk, were trying to disturb the peace.

"If the CRPF had not been there that day, I am telling you with full confidence that the entire town would have been burned down.

"We do not want a force here. We want peace. But peace will only come when a citizen understands his responsibility," he said.

According to the police chief, around 6,000 people went on a rampage on Wednesday.

"I am posted for the second time here. I know the psyche of the people of Ladakh. I believe that the people of Ladakh have always supported the police and administration. Everyone I met is ashamed of this. No one anticipated this type of violence," he said.

Jamwal also recounted casualties among the force members, saying that this year, in three different incidents, two police constables and one inspector died in the line of duty.

"Last month, when there were floods and landslides, our force worked day and night. Before that, in March, 200-300 vehicles were stuck on the Changla Pass in the snow. We spent an entire night pulling people to safety," he said.

Jamwal said 1,800 government jobs have been advertised for recruitment, while a police

recruitment drive is also planned, as he sought the youths' support in keeping peace in Ladakh.

A passing out parade of some 500 police recruits was scheduled to take place the previous day but had to be postponed, he said. "We are with you and want you to join the police force."

Australian Tourists Stuck in Ladakh, Slam Govt's Lack of Clarity

What was meant to be a week-long holiday exploring the scenic landscapes of Ladakh has turned into days of uncertainty for many tourists following the imposition of curfew here on Wednesday.

Amanda V Varvocks, an Australian tourist who reached the town on Thursday, said she was confined to her hotel and rued the "lack of information" from the government.

Leh town was rocked by violent protests on Wednesday during a shutdown called by the youth wing of the Leh Apex Body (LAB) to press for advancement of talks between the centre and Ladakh representatives with regard to the primary demand of statehood and extension of the sixth schedule of the Constitution to the region.

Four people died and scores of others were injured in the firing as police and paramilitary forces struggled to control the situation amid rampaging crowds indulging in arson and stone-pelting targeting the hill council headquarters and a BJP office.

"This is nothing short of a nightmare...we have planned a visit to different places during our stay here, but the administration is not forthcoming. We have paid for our visit to Pangong Lake and also received the permit, but they are not allowing us, saying there is no signature on the slip," Vorvoks, also known by her nickname Mandy, told PTI.

Accompanied by Indian citizen Anuj Handoo, who works in a private bank in Delhi-NCR, she said the lack of clear communication from the officials is frustrating and urged the government to give a clarification so that tourists can decide whether to continue their stay or cut short their visit.

"The problem is only in the town where we are being forced to stay. There is no issue at other places, but they are not giving us any information," Vorvoks said.

The tourist said she had visited many places in India, and it was her long-cherished wish to visit Ladakh. "The wish was fulfilled, but I would not have liked it this way."

She said the hotel staff are also concerned about their guests, as they are running low on essential supplies due to the security lockdown.

Handoo said they have been trying to get the official's signature on the permit slip for visiting Pangong Lake for the last two days, but could not succeed due to the curfew.

"We are returning on October 2 and want the government to appoint a nodal officer to facilitate the smooth movement of tourists," he said.

Handoo said they have heard that some foreign tourists were cleared for the trip and have left for the lake.

"Most of the tourists are staying in their hotel rooms," he said.

Meanwhile, the Ladakh administration has asked job aspirants appearing in the examination for selection of civil judge (junior division), being conducted by the J&K Public Service Commission, to produce their admit cards, which shall be treated as curfew passes during their to-and-fro movement.

"In view of the restrictions currently put in place, candidates belonging to Leh and Kargil are hereby informed that they will be allowed to travel to Srinagar or Jammu (in J&K) for appearing in the examination (on September 28) on production of their admit cards, which shall be treated as curfew passes during their to-and-fro movement," an official announcement said.

Centre Sanctions

special project of PMAY-G will bring back safety and stability in the lives of thousands of households. A new home will enable the families to regain the economic stability significantly improving the family's well-being," the LG said in a statement.

Officials in the Rural Development Department said the sanctioned housing units would be executed on a priority basis to ensure early rehabilitation of affected families. The scheme is expected to not only restore shelter but also strengthen rural livelihoods by supporting construction-linked local employment. The announcement has been welcomed by locals and panchayat representatives, who described it as a timely measure for those who had lost their homes in floods and landslides earlier this year.

'TRF Narrative On

terror-free and left-wing extremism confined to a few districts. He expressed confidence that these threats would be eradicated from the country in the coming months.

"Few areas in Karnataka, Kerala, and especially J&K have been affected by terrorism for a long time. It is imperative that terror should

be wiped out," the LG said, adding that terrorism remains the biggest hurdle to development and job creation.

Highlighting the improved situation in J&K, Sinha noted that street violence and stone-pelting incidents have declined significantly. "Schools, colleges, and businesses are functioning normally. No top commander of any major terror outfit is alive, and only a single local recruitment into terror ranks has occurred this year," he said.

Pointing to Pakistan's role in supporting terror activities, the LG said, "Rather than focusing on building their own country, Pakistan attacked India and J&K after partition. They fought four direct wars and lost. Unable to win directly, they are now indulging in a proxy war by radicalising people."

Sinha stressed the human cost of terrorism, noting that over 40,000 people have lost their lives due to violence. "How long will this continue? While it is the duty of the government and forces to stop this, the people also have a responsibility. They should come forward to stop it," he added.

Without naming individuals, the LG warned that some statements made by certain people mirror the messaging of the terror outfit The Resistance Front (TRF). "When narratives are created like this, it causes huge damage. If our statements echo what TRF posts on social media, it becomes dangerous," he said, describing such narratives as a "serious threat" if ignored.

Sinha called on the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir to remain vigilant and responsible, emphasizing that ending terrorism requires active participation from the people themselves alongside security efforts.

'Rights of Pahari

and inclusive prosperity as key to building a resilient and prosperous Union Territory.

"The vision of sustainable growth and inclusive prosperity will shape a brighter future for the tribal community in J&K," the LG said, emphasizing that bringing the Pahari tribal community into the mainstream is a top priority of the Central Government.

Sinha recalled the historic decision by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to grant Scheduled Tribe status to Pahari ethnic groups last year, saying that the empowerment of tribal communities is crucial for achieving inclusive growth. "There is a need for continuous efforts to ensure the development of the community who were provided Scheduled Tribe status by Parliament, as their prosperity is fundamentally linked to our inclusive growth goal," he said.

Responding to the demands of the Pahari representatives, the LG assured that the community would fully enjoy their rights as per the act passed by Parliament.

The Lieutenant Governor also urged tribal communities and society at large to unite against terrorism and actively counter extremist propaganda. "Some divisive elements are trying to peddle fake narratives like the terror outfit TRF. It poses a serious threat and people must counter it," he said.

On the occasion, Sinha paid tributes to tribal leader Bhagwan Birsu Munda. The event was attended by former Deputy Chief Minister Muzaffar Hussain Baig, former MLC Zafar Iqbal Manhas, Chairman of Pahari Culture and Welfare Forum Raja Aijaz Ali, various Pahari leaders, and a large gathering from the community.

The LG's address highlighted the dual focus of the government on development and security, stressing that the empowerment of tribal communities and unity against extremist influences are essential for J&K's progress.

J&K Assembly

had initially recommended convening the autumn session starting October 13 for approximately seven days, concluding on October 20.

However, after discussions with the Speaker of the Assembly, the cabinet revised the date of commencement of session to October 23 to allow sufficient time for submission of questions, bills, and resolutions and for their examination by the Assembly Secretariat.

"I, Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in exercise of powers conferred upon me under Section 18(1) of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, do hereby summon the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly to meet at Srinagar on Thursday, the 23rd October, 2025 at 10.00 AM," the LG said in an order.

The assembly secretariat urged the members to "make it convenient to attend the session of the legislative assembly on the appointed date, time and place".

Each MLA Allowed

—along with two resolutions and one bill. The deadlines for submission are October 4 for questions and bills, and October 7 for resolutions.

The upcoming session is expected to be stormy, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the largest opposition party, led by Leader of

Opposition Sunil Sharma, poised to corner the government on issues including floods, unemployment, and alleged failures in fulfilling electoral promises.

The ruling National Conference (NC)-led alliance is expected to actively counter opposition attacks, with Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakina Itoo taking lead roles.

NGT Orders Fresh

heard Thursday before the Principal Bench of Justice Prakash Srivastava, Chairman of the NGT, and Dr. Senthil Veil, expert member, in New Delhi.

Environmental lawyer Rahul Chowdhary, representing petitioner Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat, highlighted that illegal mining with heavy machinery has eroded riverbanks and damaged irrigation channels, compounding the region's vulnerability during recent floods.

The NGT expressed dissatisfaction with the government's response on the status of STPs along Doodh Ganga, from Barzulla to Chadoora. The bench directed the Environment Secretary to submit a fresh affidavit detailing the outer time limit for completion and commissioning of the STPs, along with full household connectivity.

The tribunal also noted the joint committee's report of September 24, 2025, which flagged violations of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, by the municipal councils.

JKPCC's Member Secretary confirmed that environmental compensation would be imposed and an action report submitted within six weeks.

Past enforcement actions have already levied significant penalties on the municipal councils. SMC paid Rs 1 crore in 2022 and Rs 42 crores last year. Chadoora and Budgam each paid Rs 1 crore in 2022, with the Mining Department in Budgam also contributing Rs 1 crore.

Lawyers for the petitioner emphasized that despite previous fines, little progress has been made in restoring Doodh Ganga and preventing further erosion.

The NGT has now demanded a definitive timeline for completing the STPs and addressing pollution along the river to prevent ongoing environmental and agricultural damage.

The government has been granted six weeks to file a counter response on the illegal mining, landslides, and breach of irrigation channels caused by recent floods. Environmentalists say swift action is critical for the river, which remains central to the region's ecology, agriculture, and drinking water.

World Rabies Day

by the end of March 2026. Reviewing data since April 2015, a total of around 80,000 bite cases have been registered at SMHS. Experts noted that while most dog bites are from stray animals, cat bites are increasing rapidly due to their popularity as pets.

Medical experts warn that dog bites remain a serious public health concern, as rabies—a fatal viral disease—can develop if victims are not vaccinated promptly. Rabies is responsible for approximately 59,000 human deaths globally each year, predominantly in Africa and Asia.

September 28 marks World Rabies Day, dedicated to raising awareness about rabies prevention and celebrating progress against the deadly disease. The day also commemorates Louis Pasteur, the French microbiologist who developed the first rabies vaccine.

Officials emphasize that timely vaccination and public awareness are crucial in preventing rabies-related deaths and controlling animal bite incidents in the community. (inputs from KNO)

3 Held For

fake notes amounting to 27,500 rupees were recovered from the possession of Bashrat Bashir Rather, while counterfeit currency worth 5,500 rupees was seized from Abid Manzoor. The total recovery from the operation amounted to 33,000 rupees in fake notes.

A senior police officer in Magam stated that further investigation is underway to ascertain the source of the counterfeit currency and whether the arrested individuals were part of a larger network. "We are probing how the notes reached them and whether more people are involved in the circulation racket," the officer said.

The arrest of two students has sparked concern among locals, who urged authorities to raise awareness among the youth about the serious consequences of engaging in such illegal activities. Locals said the easy availability of counterfeit notes not only damages the economy but also risks drawing impressionable youth into criminal networks.

Police have registered a case at Police Station Magam and further questioning of the accused is in progress. Officials added that strict action will be taken against those found guilty of spreading counterfeit currency in the district. [KNT]

LG Invites Tourists To Visit "Crown Jewel Of India"



Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday appealed to the people of the country to visit Jammu and Kashmir, saying the 'crown jewel of India' is a cherished year-round destination that offers breathtaking beauty and unmatched hospitality.

The LG's appeal comes on World Tourism Day amidst a bleak tourism season in J-K.

"On World Tourism Day, I invite you all to visit Jammu and Kashmir. Blessed with stunning landscapes, a rich cultural heritage & unmatched hospitality, the crown jewel of India is a cherished year-round destination, offering breathtaking beauty & spiritual experience," the LG said in a post on X.

Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a sluggish tourism season in the aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed. (Observer News Service)

PM Modi Virtually Lays Foundation For IIT Jammu Phase-B Works

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday laid the foundation stone for Phase-B infrastructure works of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu through virtual mode, officials said.

The development marks a major step in expanding the capacity of one of India's third-generation IITs, established in 2016, the officials said.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh, who physically participated in the ceremony on the institute campus here, hailed the IIT Jammu as a rising hub of innovation and start-ups.

"The IIT Jammu has emerged as a priority institution for the government from its inception, conceived to address long-standing aspirations for a premier technical institute in the region," the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office said.

He recalled that Phase-A construction, including academic blocks, lecture theatres, hostels, dining facilities, and utility buildings, has already been completed, enabling the institute to grow rapidly in its formative years.

"The Phase-B expansion, sanctioned at a cost of Rs 1,398 crore, will include new academic and residential infrastructure, laboratories, and a dedicated research park,"



"The Phase-B expansion, sanctioned at a cost of Rs 1,398 crore, will include new academic and residential infrastructure, laboratories, and a dedicated research park,"

of Jammu, which enables collaborative projects and interdisciplinary research. Singh also said that the Union Cabinet has approved capacity expansion across five new IITs — Tirupati, Bhubaneswar, Dharwad, Jammu, and Palakkad — with an overall outlay of Rs 11,828 crore.

"This investment will allow these institutions to collectively increase their student strength to nearly 12,000 in the coming four years, alongside creation of faculty positions and advanced facilities," he said.

Recalling the initial challenges of setting up IIT Jammu, including difficulties in attracting leadership and faculty in its formative years, he praised the dedication of Director Manoj Singh Gaur and his team and noted that under their stewardship the institute has overcome early hurdles and earned national recognition within a short span of time.

The minister expressed gratitude to the prime minister for his continued focus on Jammu and Kashmir's development, stating that IIT Jammu's expansion reflects India's broader vision of becoming a global centre for research, education, and innovation.

Highlighting IIT Jammu's steady rise, the minister noted that the institute secured the 56th rank in the 2025 NIRF Engineering rankings, a sign of its progress in less than a decade of establishment.

He also pointed to the unique advantage of IIT Jammu's location, surrounded by institutions such as AIIMS, IIM Jammu, and the Central University

Traders Welcome Reopening Of 12 Tourist Spots

Thank LG Sinha For Timely Step

Agencies

Srinagar: The trade bodies in Kashmir on Saturday welcomed the Jammu & Kashmir administration's decision of reopening 12 more tourist destinations from Monday (29th September), terming it a positive move for the Valley's struggling tourism sector.

However, the trade bodies including the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashmir (CCIK) appealed for the immediate reopening of all destinations to prevent further economic losses.

The decision was taken during a high-level review meeting chaired by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Seven destinations in Kashmir Division — including Aru Valley, Rafting Point Yanner, Akkad Park, Padshahi Park, and Kaman Post — and five in Jammu Division — including Dagan Top (Ramban), Dhaggar (Kathua) and Shiv Cave in Salal (Reasi) — will reopen for visitors.

KCCI President said the

"We are grateful to the Lieutenant Governor for considering the concerns of the business community and taking measures to support the tourism ecosystem"

reopening was a "timely step" to revive business sentiment. "We are grateful to the Lieutenant Governor for considering the concerns of the business community and taking measures to support the tourism ecosystem," he said.

CCIK President Tariq Gani also welcomed the announcement, calling it a much-needed measure. "It is a positive step, but the government must also ensure that other destinations are cleared and reopened at the earliest. The entire tourism chain de-

pends on the full revival of these spots," he said.

The trade bodies said that the continued closure of other sites, shut since April 22 after the Pahalgam attack, should also be lifted. "Hotels, houseboats, guest houses and transporters are reporting negligible occupancy and earnings. Traders, artisans, ponywalas, shikarwalas and guides are equally affected. The losses are mounting by the day," the Chamber noted.

Traders linked with handicrafts and travel also pressed for a broader revival package. "We need marketing campaigns and special incentives for businesses linked to tourism. Without comprehensive support, the sector will take much longer to recover," a Srinagar-based trader said.

The Chambers also reiterated their commitment to work with the government and stakeholders. "Tourism remains a key pillar of J&K's economy and a lifeline for thousands. We will continue to extend full cooperation to strengthen it further," they said—(KNO)

Court Stays Eviction Of Royal Park Hotel After GDA Takeover

Agencies

Srinagar: A day after the Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA) formally took over possession of the Royal Park Hotel following the expiry of its lease agreement, a local court in Baramulla, restrained the authority from evicting the current operator until further orders.

On Friday, officials of the GDA confirmed that the government-owned property had been reclaimed after the expiry of its lease period.

The hotel, leased out nearly two decades ago, was not granted renewal after the stipulated 20-year term ended earlier this year. Following the lapse, the authority moved to prevent any unauthorized occupation, taking physical possession of the premises in the presence of officials.

The action came just weeks after GDA repossessed the historic 137-year-old Nedous Hotel in Gulmarg in August as part of its ongoing campaign to retrieve government properties whose leases have expired.

However, on Saturday, the 1st Additional District

Judge, Baramulla, took up a plea filed by Bilal Ahmad Shah, the current operator of Royal Park Hotel, who challenged the eviction.

Shah, through his counsel, argued that the lease granted in 2005 was valid until November 2025, and that he had already paid advance rent while also seeking an extension of the lease term in April this year.

The plea further contended that the GDA's oral eviction threats were unlawful, particularly as the representation for lease renewal was still pending before the government.

After hearing preliminary submissions, the court directed issuance of notice to the GDA and ordered that the matter be listed again on October 7, 2025. The judge also noted that the plaintiff had filed an application under Order 39 Rule 3 CPC seeking interim relief against eviction.

The order effectively stalls the eviction process for now, as the court observed that the plaintiff's representation for extension of the lease period remains under consideration with the Tourism Department—(KNO)

S H O T T A K E S

Revival Of Over 400 Heritage Sites On Cards

Srinagar: Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Jammu and Kashmir Saturday said that the government is committed to the preservation and revival of the Union Territory's heritage and religious sites, stating that over 400 projects will be taken up in the upcoming third phase of restoration.

Director Archaeology & Museums, K.K. Sidha said that under the government's heritage revival scheme, several prominent monuments and shrines are being restored. "The revival is not just about repairing structures but about preserving the cultural and religious sentiments associated with them," he said.

Sidha said that the foundation of three major religious projects was laid today, including the historic Martand Temple at Mattan. "The Baba Naseebud-Din Gazi shrine revival is a project of around Rs 4 crore, while the Lokbhan shrine restoration is pegged at Rs 4.45 crore. Work at the Martand Sun Temple will also commence shortly," he said.

He said facilities like universal accessibility, ramps and washrooms for specially-abled persons are being added in line with Supreme Court guidelines. "We are also installing solar energy facilities in shrines to make them sustainable," he added.

The Director underlined that after years of neglect, a systematic focus is being placed on heritage. "The third phase, which is about to be approved, includes 350 to 400 sites across J&K that will be restored and revived. This is a historic step," Sidha said.

He further said that the department has three wings—archival, archaeological and museums—and nearly 70 per cent of archival records have been digitized.

"For the first time in the history of this department and UT, excavation will also begin at Baramulla, where an ancient Buddhist site has been identified, in collaboration with the University of Kashmir," he said.

On Museums, Sidha said the long-shut SPS Museum, which had remained non-functional since 2007, is being revived under a project of Rs 19.5 crore. He added that rare manuscripts, including the oldest Girgit manuscript, are being preserved.

Highlighting the government's approach, the Director said that many sites in J&K showcase unique interfaith heritage. "You can see temples, Mosques and Gurdwaras in the same premises. Our revival plan will not only restore monuments but also strengthen ancestral harmony," he said—(KNO)

NGT Issues Notice to J&K Govt on CRPF Camp Near Wildlife Reserve

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The National Green Tribunal has issued a notice to the Jammu and Kashmir government over the construction of a CRPF battalion camping site near a wildlife reserve here, seeking a reply from the state government at least a week before the next hearing.

A bench of Justice Prakash Shrivastava (chairperson) and A Senthil Vel (expert member) was hearing the plea challenging the construction of the proposed battalion camping site for the 61st, 79th, 117th and 132nd battalions of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Thursday.

The applicant alleged violation of the environmental norms in the process of setting up of the camping site in 1,324 kanals (67 hectares) of land at the Brain area near Nishat locality.

The tribunal on Thursday said that according to the applicant, the identified site is around the protected area and wildlife corridors and it affects the Brain Nishat Conservation Reserve. The area is also a buffer/green belt in the Srinagar Master Plan of 2035, the applicant said.

The site in question is home to the "critically endangered" Kashmiri Stag, and the "vulnerable" Asiatic Black Bear, the applicant said.

The application further stated that neither seismological assessment nor the carbon footprint evaluation has been undertaken before permitting the construction at the site.

"Applicant also alleges that in the setting up of the CRPF camp, large scale felling of the trees is likely to take place," it added.

The next date of hearing is on November 24.

'Udyam Yuva Festival' Concludes At Govt Polytechnic For Women

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The two-day "Udyam Yuva Festival" aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and innovation among students, successfully concluded today at the Government Polytechnic for Women, Srinagar. The event was organized under the visionary "Mission YUVA" project of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, aimed to foster entrepreneurship, innovation, and holistic development among the youth. The valedictory ceremony was graced by esteemed dignitaries, marking a fitting end to the vibrant event.

Principal of the college, Er. Imtiaz Ahmad Shaw, presented the welcome address and shed light on the imperative need for organizing such events, followed by lamp lighting and cultural program by students of Government Polytechnic for Women, Srinagar.

Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Srinagar, presided over the inaugural Ceremony as the Chief Guest.

In her address, the Chief Guest, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, lauded the initiative and emphasized the critical importance of students excelling beyond their academic curricula. She stressed the need for continuously enhancing skills to remain competitive and employable in diverse professional spheres. Smt. Qureshi particularly highlighted the significance of instilling an entrepreneurial mindset in young women, encouraging them to become job creators rather than job seekers, thereby contributing directly to the economic development of the region. She also distributed cash prizes along with appreciation certificates among the winners of the competitions held in Essay, Speech, Quiz, and Painting events.

Various stalls were erected across the college campus wherein the students displayed an impressive array of prototypes and items meticulously prepared by the students, demonstrating their technical skills and entrepreneurial potential. The Chief Guest took a keen interest in the projects, interacting with the students and appreciating their hard work and innovation.

Besides other officers Shaquaat Ara, Principal, Kashmir Govt. Polytechnic College, Srinagar, Shah Ismail, DSEO, Srinagar and HODs, Faculty & Students from KGP also participated during the Fest.

J&K Police Launches Massive Cleanliness Drive Under Swachhta Abhiyan

Srinagar: In a major push to promote hygiene and environmental awareness, the Jammu and Kashmir Police has launched an extensive cleanliness drive as part of the nationwide Swachhta Abhiyan. The campaign commenced with pledge ceremonies and is being led by Police Wing Heads, with Unit Heads supervising activities in their respective jurisdictions and establishments.

The initiative focuses on restoring and maintaining cleanliness in and around police establishments as well as nearby neighborhoods. Personnel are actively involved in clearing debris, removing accumulated waste, ensuring proper sanitation, and promoting hygienic practices.

Key highlights of the drive include clearing flood and landslide debris in vulnerable areas, conducting sensitization sessions for personnel on hygiene best practices, promoting ecological restoration through tree plantations, and engaging local youth volunteers to enhance community participation.

J&K Bank Distributes Hundreds of Sanction Letters Across UT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: J&K Bank organized Login Day events across the Union Territory this week under the Government's flagship program, Mission YUVA, handing over hundreds of sanction letters to aspiring entrepreneurs. The initiative aims to transform youth into job creators rather than job seekers.

Senior government officials praised the Bank's efforts, urging youth to leverage Mission YUVA schemes to establish their ventures. The Bank emphasized that its staff is working in mission mode to achieve the program's objectives.

Deputy Commissioners, General Managers, Zonal Heads, Cluster Heads, and local administration officials participated in events across Baramulla, Budgam, Reasi, Rajouri, Pulwama, Kathua, Anantnag, and Doda, distributing sanction letters to beneficiaries.

BSF Closely Monitors LoC With Advanced Tools: IG Yadav

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Inspector General of Border Security Force (BSF) Kashmir Frontier, Ashok Yadav, on Saturday said security forces along the Line of Control (LoC) are maintaining a high level of readiness to prevent any infiltration attempts by terrorists.

Speaking at the BSF headquarters in Humhama here during the unveiling of a T-shirt for the upcoming Wular Half Marathon 2.0 on October 12, 2025, Yadav said the BSF has made its highest efforts to secure the border areas.

"The BSF is working closely with the Indian Army to monitor the LoC effectively and has successfully stopped two infiltration attempts so far this year," he said, adding that the use of advanced surveillance tools and equipment has strengthened the security presence along the border.

According to Yadav, infiltra-

tion attempts tend to rise in the period leading up to winter when harsh weather conditions make crossing more difficult.

He said terrorists try to cross the border before snowfall blocks the mountain passes, which usually happens by November. "With two months remaining before winter fully sets in, security agencies are anticipating possible attempts and have prepared accordingly," he added.

According to KNO, the IG further outlined the challenges associated with the upcoming winter months, highlighting the continued presence of terrorist training camps across the border. These camps, located opposite sectors such as Bandipora, Kupwara, and Baramulla, are under close observation, he said.

Yadav said the forces are monitoring these activities carefully to prevent any disturbances to peace in the area.

Seva Parv Day 9 Highlights Inter-Generational Games In Budgam

Dabirah Hassan

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam carried forward its Seva Parv Activity Calendar into Day 9, with a mix of sports competitions and innovative community-based programs across the district. The fortnight-long celebrations, being held from September 17 to October 2, continue to witness wide participation and enthusiastic community involvement.

The day featured volleyball, kabaddi, cricket and traditional games across all zones of Budgam, where students competed with energy, teamwork and sporting spirit while also keeping indigenous games alive. Adding a special dimension to

the celebrations, Zones Khanshib, Dreygam, Charari Shareef and Nagam organised "Inter-Generational Fun Games," pairing students with senior citizens. The initiative was aimed at promoting respect, bonding and shared joy between the younger and older generations, while encouraging senior citizens to remain active and engaged.

The activities are being carried out under the leadership of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam, Ghulam Hassan Lone, who emphasized that Seva Parv goes beyond sports.

The Seva Parv Calendar will continue with more programs in the coming days, before culminating on October 2, Gandhi Jayanti, with a grand concluding ceremony.

Sheetal Devi Becomes Para World Archery Champion At 18

Press Trust of India

GWANGJU (SOUTH KOREA): Eighteen-year-old Indian armless archer Sheetal Devi scripted history by defeating Turkiye's world No.1 Ozgur Cure Girdi 146-143 to bag the women's compound individual category gold at the Para World Archery Championship here on Saturday.

Sheetal, the only armless archer in the competition, shoots using her feet and chin, and this was her third medal of the championships.

She had earlier won a mixed team bronze in the compound event with Toman Kumar, defeating Great Britain's Jodie Grinham and Nathan MacQueen 152-149.

In the compound women's open team event, Sheetal and Sarita settled for silver after losing to Turkey in the final.

The individual final was a tense battle but Sheetal stayed consistent and shot with composure. The first end was tied at 29-all, but Sheetal fired three 10s in the second end to take an



early lead, winning it 30-27.

The third end was also tied at 29-all. Sheetal's only slight lapse came in the fourth end, where she scored 28 as Girdi took it by one point, yet Sheetal still held a two-point lead at 116-114.

She then sealed her maiden gold with a flawless final end, hitting three perfect arrows for 30.

Earlier in the semifinals, the Jammu and Kashmir archer produced a commanding 145-140 victory over Great Britain's Jodie Grinham to reach the final.



The Finale: Only Win Counts As India Face Bitter Foes Pakistan

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Winning isn't everything but for 11 Indian cricketers it would be the only thing on their minds when they take on an unpredictable Pakistan in the Asia Cup final here on Sunday after a high-voltage build-up that has blurred the lines between on-field sport and off-field politics.

In the words of American political activist and author Mike Marqusee, it is "War Minus Shooting".

Over the years, this contest has never lacked in adrenaline, but seldom has it arrived with such a volatile backdrop, where cricket seems inseparably knotted with off-field tension, provocative gestures, and fines slapped on both camps.

Yet, beyond the noise, the cricket itself has been compelling, headlined by Abhishek Sharma's audacious 200-plus strike rate and Kuldeep Yadav's 13 wickets on return. Sadly, even these feats have often been overshadowed by flash-points and feuds.

It began with India's "No Handshake Policy" in the opening clash, with skipper Suryakumar Yadav turning away at the toss and post match.

Pakistan's pacer Haris Rauf responded with taunts, abuses, and even an aircraft-crash gesture, igniting a storm that brought both under ICC scrutiny and 30 per cent fines. The barbs have lingered all the way to the final.

To add fuel to the fire, Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, who also happens to be the Pakistan Cricket Board and the Asian Cricket Council chief, has been constantly putting cryptic but provocative posts on his 'X' timeline.

On paper though, India are unbeaten juggernauts in the tournament, Sri Lanka alone pushing them to a Super Over in six back-to-back wins overall.

Pakistan, by contrast, stumbled and staggered to the finale. But as their head coach Mike Hesson wryly noted after beating Bangladesh: "The final is the only match that counts."

In this fixture, pedigree counts for little.

Even India's own support staff echoed the sentiment. Bowling coach Morne Morkel, dispatched for pre-match duty, admitted that aesthetics don't matter anymore: "Winning it ugly is still winning."

SQUADS:

India: Surya Kumar Yadav (C), Shubman Gill (VC), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (WK), Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Varun Chakaravathy, Kuldeep Yadav, Sanju Samson (WK), Harshit Rana, Rinku Singh.

Pakistan: Salman Ali Agha (C), Abrar Ahmed, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Hasan Nawaz, Hussain Talat, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Harris, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Waseem Jnr, Sahibzada Farhan, Saim Ayub, Salman Mirza, Shaheen Afridi, Sufyan Moqim.

Match Starts: 8 pm IST.

District Level U-19 Cricket Tournament Inaugurated In Baramulla



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Minister for Agriculture Production, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, and Election departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, on Saturday inaugurated the Inter-School/Inter-Zonal District Level Under-19 Cricket Tournament (Boys) at Showkat Ali Stadium, Khawaja Bagh, here.

The tournament was declared open by the Minister in presence of Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport Department, Satish Sharma; MLA, Wagoora-Kreeri, Advocate Irfan Hafeez Lone and MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Javid Dar underlined the importance of sports in de-

veloping physical fitness, discipline, team spirit and leadership among the youth. He reiterated the government's commitment to strengthen the sports ecosystem at the grassroots level and provide ample opportunities for young players to excel.

Speaking on the occasion, Sports Minister Satish Sharma highlighted the department's initiatives to promote sports culture across Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, the Ministers also distributed sports kits and equipment among students from 18 zones of the district and felicitated students who performed in the cultural programme.

During the inaugural ceremony, students presented colourful cultural performances showcasing the vibrancy and talent of Baramulla's youth.

Abhishek v Shaheen Will Be Edge-Of-Seat Battle: Morkel

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Abhishek Sharma's flamboyance will meet its match in Shaheen Shah Afridi's precision in what promises to be an "edge of the seat" battle in the Asia Cup final on Sunday, according to India's bowling coach Morne Morkel, who has worked with both the talented youngsters.

Morkel had earlier worked briefly as a bowling consultant with the Pakistan team where he got a chance to coach the left-arm speedster.

"Shaheen is obviously an aggressive bowler that will try and knock you over. And Abhishek is not going to hold back. I think so far, every time these two went

head-to-head, we all as cricket supporters and fans are on the edge of our seats, and that's great for the game," Morkel said.

Both the players are 25. However, while Shaheen has been around for sometime now, the left-handed Abhishek has taken world cricket by storm with his dashing stroke-play in the ongoing Asia Cup.

The Indian hasn't endured a single failure in six games, logging three fifties and three scores of 30 or more. In both the India vs Pakistan games held here so far, Abhishek tore Shaheen apart.

He started the September 14 game with a straight-driven boundary off a full-toss and on September 21, hooked him for a six behind square. (PTI)

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

Achieve financial freedom

Set up Systematic Investment Plans in Exchange Traded Funds (Shariah Based ETF)



Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475

1, 10 Samad Complex, Ma Link Road, Srinagar, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar - 190001