



A collage of various people and scenes, including a man with a laptop, a woman with arms crossed, a man with glasses, a man with a beard, a man in a suit, a woman in a blue dress, a family group, and a man with a beard, set against a yellow background.

DIPK-NB-2070/25 Dated:30.09.2025

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2

Radiation Therapy Reduces Risk Of Pelvic Relapse In Bladder Cancer Patients: Study

Mumbai, Sep 30 (PTI) Radiation therapy after surgery safely reduces the risk of 'pelvic relapse' in patients with locally advanced, muscle-invasive bladder cancer, Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) Mumbai said on Tuesday.

Pelvic relapse refers to the return or progression of cancer within the pelvic area after a patient has initially responded to treatment or

achieved remission.

A research study led from India, the 'Bladder Adjuvant Radiotherapy (BART) trial', is the largest randomized trial in the world to evaluate the role of radiation therapy after bladder cancer surgery, the TMC said.

For the first time, this study has been selected for the Plenary Session of the American Society for Ra-

diation Oncology (ASTRO) Annual Meeting, the world's largest radiation oncology conference, an official release said.

The BART trial offers compelling evidence supporting adjuvant radiotherapy as a standard option for high-risk cases following cystectomy, it said.

"This is a proud moment for Indian cancer research as work led from

India is being showcased on the biggest international stage in radiation oncology. It shows that discoveries made here can benefit patients not just in our country, but across the world," Tata Memorial Centre Director Dr Sudeep Gupta said.

Bladder cancer is a major health challenge, with thousands of new cases coming to light in India every year.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180016

Website: <http://jkpsc.nic.in>

Jammu: 0191-2566533

Subject: Written Examination for the posts of Lecturer(s) [Arabic, Geology and Dogri] in the School Education Department - Provisional Answer Key(s) thereof.

Notification No. PSC/Exam/S/2025/35
Dated: 29.09.2025

In pursuance of Rule 10(c) of the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission (Conduct of Examination) Rules, 2022, as amended upto date, the Provisional Answer Keys of Question Papers pertaining to the written examinations for the posts of Lecturer(s) [Arabic, Geology and Dogri] in School Education Department, held on 29.09.2025 (Forenoon Session), are hereby notified for seeking the objections from candidates.

Provisional Answer Key (Arabic)

Test Booklet Question No. (Series A)	
Q1	C
Q2	D
Q3	C
Q4	D
Q5	A
Q6	B
Q7	B
Q8	B
Q9	C
Q10	B
Q11	C

Test Booklet Question No. (Series A)	
Q12	C
Q13	B
Q14	A
Q15	D
Q16	B
Q17	D
Q18	D
Q19	C
Q20	A
Q21	D
Q22	C

Test Booklet Question No. (Series A)	
Q23	A
Q24	C
Q25	D
Q26	A
Q27	B
Q28	C
Q29	D
Q30	B
Q31	B
Q32	D
Q33	C

Test Booklet Question No. (Series A)	
Q34	C
Q35	A
Q36	B
Q37	C
Q38	C
Q39	B
Q40	A
Q41	A
Q42	B
Q43	D
Q44	B
Q45	D
Q46	C
Q47	B
Q48	C
Q49	A
Q50	C
Q51	A
Q52	B
Q53	D
Q54	D
Q55	C
Q56	D

Test Booklet Question No. (Series A)	
Q57	C
Q58	D
Q59	A
Q60	D
Q61	C
Q62	B
Q63	B
Q64	C
Q65	D
Q66	A
Q67	B
Q68	C
Q69	B
Q70	B
Q71	C
Q72	A
Q73	D
Q74	B
Q75	C
Q76	B
Q77	D
Q78	C
Q79	B

Test Booklet Question No. (Series A)	
Q80	C
Q81	C
Q82	B
Q83	C
Q84	D
Q85	C
Q86	C
Q87	A
Q88	B
Q89	B
Q90	A
Q91	A
Q92	C
Q93	D
Q94	B
Q95	D
Q96	C
Q97	C
Q98	C
Q99	C
Q100	C

Test Booklet Question No. (Series A)	
Q1	B
Q2	A
Q3	A
Q4	B
Q5	A
Q6	D
Q7	D
Q8	C
Q9	A
Q10	C
Q11	A
Q12	D
Q13	B
Q14	C
Q15	A
Q16	A
Q17	A
Q18	A
Q19	B
Q20	A
Q21	D
Q22	B
Q23	A
Q24	D
Q25	B
Q26	D
Q27	C
Q28	D
Q29	B
Q30	C
Q31	D
Q32	A
Q33	C
Q34	B

Test Booklet Question No. (Series A)	
Q35	D
Q36	B
Q37	D
Q38	A
Q39	B
Q40	D
Q41	A
Q42	C
Q43	B
Q44	D
Q45	C
Q46	A
Q47	D
Q48	B
Q49	C
Q50	A
Q51	D
Q52	C
Q53	D
Q54	B
Q55	C
Q56	D
Q57	A
Q58	C
Q59	D
Q60	B
Q61	A
Q62	D
Q63	A
Q64	C
Q65	B
Q66	D
Q67	B
Q68	D

Test Booklet Question No. (Series A)	
Q69	A
Q70	C
Q71	A
Q72	C
Q73	D
Q74	A
Q75	B
Q76	C
Q77	A
Q78	D
Q79	B
Q80	C
Q81	A
Q82	B
Q83	C
Q84	B
Q85	D
Q86	C
Q87	A
Q88	D
Q89	A
Q90	B
Q91	C
Q92	A
Q93	D
Q94	B
Q95	D
Q96	A
Q97	B
Q98	C
Q99	D
Q100	B

Test Booklet Question No. (Series A)	
Q1	B
Q2	C
Q3	A
Q4	A
Q5	B
Q6	C
Q7	A
Q8	A
Q9	D
Q10	B
Q11	D
Q12	A
Q13	B
Q14	D
Q15	B
Q16	B
Q17	B
Q18	C
Q19	C
Q20	A
Q21	D
Q22	B
Q23	A
Q24	A
Q25	C
Q26	A
Q27	A
Q28	C
Q29	D
Q30	A
Q31	D
Q32	B
Q33	B
Q34	D

Test Booklet Question No. (Series A)	
Q35	C
Q36	A
Q37	B
Q38	C
Q39	B
Q40	B
Q41	C
Q42	A
Q43	A
Q44	A
Q45	D
Q46	B
Q47	D
Q48	D
Q49	B
Q50	D
Q51	A
Q52	B
Q53	A
Q54	A
Q55	B
Q56	C
Q57	A
Q58	D
Q59	D
Q60	B
Q61	A
Q62	B
Q63	D
Q64	A
Q65	A
Q66	C
Q67	A
Q68	B

Test Booklet Question No. (Series A)	
Q69	A
Q70	B
Q71	B
Q72	A
Q73	B
Q74	A
Q75	D
Q76	B
Q77	D
Q78	A
Q79	B
Q80	D
Q81	C
Q82	A
Q83	B
Q84	C
Q85	A
Q86	D
Q87	A
Q88	C
Q89	D
Q90	B
Q91	C
Q92	B
Q93	C
Q94	A
Q95	D
Q96	B
Q97	B
Q98	C
Q99	A
Q100	D

The candidates are advised to refer to Question Booklet (Series A) to match the corresponding question(s) in their respective Question Booklet Series and if any candidate feels that the key to any of the question(s) is/are wrong, he/she may represent on prescribed format/proforma annexed as Annexure-A along with the documentary proof/evidence (hard copies only) and fee of Rs.500/- per question in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favour of COE, J&K PSC (refundable in case of genuine/correct representation) to the Controller of Examinations, Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission, from Tuesday i.e. 30.09.2025 to 06.10.2025. The candidates are further advised to clearly mention the question(s) objected to with reference to its serial number as it appears in the Question Booklet of Series A of the provisional answer key(s).

Any objection/application not accompanied by the requisite Demand Draft of Rs.500/- as prescribed, shall not be considered/entertained under any circumstances. Candidates are, in their own interest, advised to adhere to these instructions and not submit any objection unaccompanied by the Demand Draft as required under extant rules. The Commission shall not entertain any such representation(s) after the expiry of the stipulated period i.e. after 06.10.2025 (Monday), 05.00 pm.

Further, objection(s) submitted in any other mode will not be entertained.

The provisional answer key(s) are also available on the website of the Commission <http://www.jkpsc.nic.in>.

DIPK-6680/25 Dated: 30.09.2025

No. PSC/Ex-Secy/2025/21

(Sachin Jamwal) JKAS
Controller of Examinations
J&K Public Service Commission

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is an information for general public that i have lost my 9th class pass Marks Card bearing Admission No:5675, Class Roll No:71, Session 2015, Annual, Now i want to apply for its duplicate in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the principal Govt Higher secondary school Aragam Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Suriya Akhtar.
D/O Ghulam Nabi Khatana.
R/O Aragam Bandipora.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son has been wrongly recorded in his Date of Birth certificate as Faizan Bashir, whereas his correct name is Uzair Bashir, who was born on 23-01-2019, as per the certificate issued by the Office of Government Boys Middle School, Chichilora. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of the Block Medical Officer Magam within seven (7) days from the date of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained. Bashir Ahmad Chopan
F/o Uzair Bashir
R/o Chichilora

bmgr

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card of my Daughter bearing No 779600053963 the name is entered as SABIT SHABIR while her actual name is SIBAT JAAN. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

SHABIR AHMAD GANIE
F/O SIBAT JAAN mcb
R/o SHOLIPORA BUDGAM.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want change my electric connection under consumer No. 02040100003659, installation No. 19708, Div-IV Khanyar, Sub Division Khanyar, from Ab. Rashid Kundangar S/o Mohammad Ramzan, Address Daribal Srinagar to Wazira W/o Ghulam Mohammad Kawa.

In this regard objection/s if any may be communicated in the office of the Sub Division Khanyar within the period of seven days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

From: Wazira
W/o Ghulam Mohammad Kawa

inf

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam

Sub... Application of Sajad Mansoor Yatoo s/o Mansoor Ahmad Yatoo R/o Tilgam for issuance of Dependent certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is inform to general public that applicants father's dependent certificate is under process in this office in this matter report was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants father namely Mansoor Ahmad Yatoo s/o Mohd Sultan Yatoo R/o Tilgam died on 29/07/2025 and dependents of deceased are as under..

Details of Dependent(s)

Name	Age (In Years)	Relationship with Deceased	Marital Status	Occupation
Saleema Begum	55	Wife	WIDOWED	House wife
Farhat Mansoor	31	Daughter	UNMARRIED	Student
Rahila Mansoor	27	Daughter	UNMARRIED	Student
Ronak Mansoor	15	Daughter	UNMARRIED	Student
Sajad mansoor Yatoo	21	Son	UNMARRIED	Student

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

SD
fko Naib Tehsildar Tilgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card of my Son bearing No 242071505332 the name is entered as ZIYAAN NISAR BHAT while his actual name is SAAD BIN NISAR. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

NISAR AHMAD BHAT
F/O SAAD BIN NISAR mcb
R/o RAWALPORA ASTANPORA SRINAGAR.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in Name in data to the License No.JK-0420170035247 issued in favour of SYED ABDUL WARRIS QADRI Parentage MOHAMMAD SHAFI QADRI Whereas an application has been recieved by one SYED ABDUL WARRIS QADRI Parentage MOHAMMAD SHAFI QADRI wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as SYED ABDUL WARIS QADRI Which needs to be changed as SYED ABDUL WARRIS QADRI.

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

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Sub: Application of Ashiq Hussain Lone S/o Ab Rahman lone R/o Kreeri issuance of Dependent certificate.

NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above ,in this context. As per the death certificate and report submitted by the patwari concerned reveals that Mohammad Akbar Lone S/o Ab Rahman Lone has passed away on 11/10/2002 . The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has following dependents.

S. NO	NAME OF DEPENDENT	RELATION WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION
1	Khatija Begum	Mother	76	Old age
2	Ashiq Hussain	B/o	38	Zamindar
3	Hilal Ahmad	-	42	Dailywage
4	Saleema	Sister	55	H/M
5	Javida	-	45	--

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

fko Naib Tehsildar

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER J&K , POLICE PUBLIC SCHOOL, BEMINA, SRINAGAR.

Police Control Room, Srinagar-190009 Tel-0194-2497353

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Application on plain papers are invited alongwith attested copies of testimonial & latest passport size photographs from the desirous candidates for the below mentioned posts/vacancies (Male/Female) in Police Public School Bernina, Srinagar on the monthly pay/honorarium with qualification as shown against each

Name of the Post/Vacancy	No. of Posts	Minimum	Monthly Gross Pay / Honorarium
Driver	09	10th Pass	12000+DA 15%
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Cook	01	10th Pass	7200+DA 15%
Helper	09	10th Pass	7200+DA 15%
Sweeper	08	10th Pass	7200+DA 15%

Terms and Conditions:

- > The age of the candidate must be between 18 to 35 years.
- > The appointment shall be subject to verification of qualification documents, experience certificates (if any), character verification and production of medical fitness certificate.
- > The appointment/salary/leave and other service-related matters shall be as per the J&K Police-Public Schools Revised Rules and Regulations 3rd Edition-2020 and subject to further revision/amendments of these rules.
- > The applications shall be received in the office of Principal J&K Police Public School, Bemina, Srinagar during office hours of all working days between 01.10.2025 to 15.10.2025.
- > Further details can be had from Principal JKPPS, Bemina, Srinagar.

No.GB/PPS/07/2025/14049-50

DIPK-6700/25

Dated:-30-09-2025

Shahid Mehraj-IPS,
Dy, Inspector General of Police,
Armed Range Kashmir, Sgr
Administrative Officer JKPPS Bemina)

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J&K Crime Cases Drop By 2,000 In 2 Yrs: NCRB

No Sedition, No Communal Violence Registered In 2023

Observer News Service

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a steady decline in overall crime incidents over the last two years, with the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 2023 report noting a fall of 2,080 cases between 2021 and 2023.

The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday released the 71st edition of the NCRB annual report, providing a detailed analysis of crime statistics across the country for the year 2023.

According to the report, total crime cases—including those under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL)—dropped from 31,675 in 2021 to 30,197 in 2022, and further to 29,595 in 2023.

While IPC cases saw a decline, falling by 2,320 incidents during | [More on P10](#)

Overall Crime Cases	31,675 (2021) 30,197 (2022) 29,595 (2023)
IPC Cases	27,447 (2021) 25,915 (2022) 25,127 (2023)
SLL Cases	4,228 (2021) 4,282 (2022) 4,468 (2023)
Murder Cases: 84 (101 victims)	
Kidnapping Cases: 1,004 (1,010 persons)	
Rioting Cases: 425 (655 persons)	
Communal/Religious Violence: 0	
Deaths due to Negligence: 673	
Road Accidents/Hit-and-Run: 639	
Dowry Cases: 9	
Abetment to Suicide: 44	
Attempt to Murder: 438	
Attempted Suicide: 434	
Crime Rate (cognizable): 184.3 per lakh	
Murder Crime Rate: 0.6 per lakh	
Rape Cases: 231	
Assault on Women: 1,352	
Sexual Harassment: 70	

J&K Tops UTs In Cyber Crimes Against Women In 2023

Overall Crimes Against Women In J&K Dip 7.21%

Observer News Service

Crimes against women in Jammu and Kashmir have seen a decline over the past two years, but the Union Territory continues to lead in cyber crimes targeting women, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 2023 report. The total number of crimes against women fell 7.21%, from 3,937 cases in 2021 to 3,653 cases in 2023. Despite the overall decline, Jammu and Kashmir | [More on P10](#)

ECI To Conduct J&K RS Polls From Assembly Complex

Secretary LA To Be Returning Officer

Agencies

Srinagar: The Election Commission of India (ECI) will set up a polling booth inside the Assembly complex here for the Rajya Sabha polls.

Officials said that a polling booth would be established in the Assembly complex, where MLAs will cast their votes to elect four representatives to the Upper House of Parliament. "The polling booth will be set up in a lobby of the Assembly complex," they said.

According to the officials, the Secretary Legislative Assembly

will be designated as Returning Officer for the polls.

"Besides him, an additional secretary rank officer of the Assembly secretariat will be designated as Assistant Returning Officer," they said, adding that ECI will also appoint an observer for the polls.

Last week, the ECI announced that elections for four Rajya Sabha seats of J&K are scheduled on October 24.

As per the schedule, the last date for filing nominations is October 13, while scrutiny of nominations will take place on October 14. The | [More on P10](#)

Will Resign Than Ally With BJP For Statehood: CM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday ruled out any alliance with the BJP, saying he would rather resign than compromise on the issue of statehood for the Union Territory.

Speaking at an event in Achabal, Anantnag district, Omar emphasized that he is committed to achieving statehood through democratic and peaceful means.

"If it is needed to include the BJP in the government, then accept my resignation. Make any MLA here the chief minister and form the government with the BJP—I am not ready



for that," he said.

Omar acknowledged that including the BJP might have hastened the restoration of statehood but stressed that he would not make political compromises. He cited the 2015 PDP-BJP alliance as an

example, noting that statehood could have been pursued without involving the BJP.

"The Congress and National Conference were ready to form the government without the BJP, but an excuse was made to give them representation," Omar said. He added that his government ensured representation for Jammu and Pir Panjal regions without including the BJP, pointing out that the current deputy chief minister is from Jammu.

The NC vice president also highlighted the evolving situation in Ladakh. "People there celebrated the August 5, 2019 decision, but today they are protesting and | [More on P10](#)

Those Who Disrespect Our Martyrs Will Not Be Spared: LG

» Addresses Closing Ceremony Of Police Martyr's Football Tournament

» Says J&K Is Saturated with Sacrifice of Our Brave Forces

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday paid a heartfelt tribute to the sacrifices of Jammu and Kashmir's police, army, and CAPFs martyrs, while warning that strict action under the law will be taken against anyone who disrespects their memory or challenges the sovereignty of India.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 20th J&K Police Martyr's Memorial Football Tournament, the Lieutenant Governor said, "Those who speak the language of separatists and terrorists insult the sacrifices of our martyrs and hurt their soul. Strictest possible action as per law of the land will be taken against such elements."

He described Jammu and Kashmir as "saturated with the blood and sacrifice of our



brave forces for the nation," and stressed that preserving the memories of martyrs is the responsibility not only of the forces but also of the public.

"Our brave hearts gave up their lives to fulfil the dreams of society. The peace, progress,

and prosperity we enjoy today have been made possible by their ultimate sacrifice. Society can never repay the debt of their immense sacrifices, but we must honour our fallen heroes and their family members," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the J&K Police for empowering youth through the Civic Action Program, highlighting the role of sports and community engagement in promoting positive values | [More on P10](#)

Youth Must Unite Against Divisive Forces: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday urged the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to play a proactive role in nation-building and remain vigilant against forces trying to destabilize the country, while attending the valedictory function of 'Viksit Bharat Ke Rang-Kala Ke Sang' here.

Organised by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts

(IGNCA) in collaboration with the Divisional Administration Jammu, the event brought together school and college students for a vibrant art workshop aimed at encouraging young minds to imagine and depict their vision of a developed India.

Addressing the students, the Lieutenant Governor applauded the Yuva Shakti of the region and said, "The responsibility of creating a developed India not only on canvas but in reality, too, is in their hands." He added that under the | [More on P10](#)

Leh Sees Relief As Curfew Eased, Markets Reopen



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Authorities on Tuesday relaxed the curfew in violence-hit Leh town for almost the entire day, allowing markets to gradually reopen and providing relief to residents who had been under week-long restrictions, officials said.

Earlier, the curfew had been eased for just two hours on Monday, following the completion of last rites for four people, including a retired Army personnel, who lost their lives during clashes between protesters and security forces on September 24.

On Tuesday, the curfew was initially | [More on P10](#)

JKP Fight Terror, Drugs While Empowering Youth: DGP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Tuesday said that Jammu and Kashmir Police are not only fighting terrorism and narcotics but are also actively engaging youth through sports and rehabilitation initiatives.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 20th J&K Police Martyr's Memorial Football Tournament 2025, DGP Prabhat highlighted the force's dual focus on security and social engagement.

The tournament was held in memory of the 1,614 police personnel who | [More on P10](#)

New Timings For Kashmir Schools From Oct 3

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director General of School Education Kashmir, G N Itoo, on Tuesday issued orders revising the school timings for all government and private schools across the Kashmir division, effective from October 3.

According to the orders, schools within the Srinagar municipal limits will now function from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, while schools outside the municipal limits will operate from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

The directive applies to both government and recognised private schools across the division. "It is ordered that new school timing both in respect of government as well as recognised private schools in the Kashmir Division shall | [More on P10](#)

Tri-Services Synergy In Op Sindoor Sets Benchmark: DM

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The tri-services synergy with unified real-time operational coherence demonstrated during Operation Sindoor was a "living example" of delivering decisive results and it must become the benchmark for all future military actions, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

In an address at an event, he asserted that jointness among the three services is not only a matter of policy but a matter of survival in the fast-changing security environment, seen | [More on P10](#)

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Trump Says Israel has 'Full Backing' of US to Defeat Hamas

Associated Press

Washington- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu used a White House visit on Monday to extend a formal apology to his Qatari counterpart for a recent military strike targeting Hamas officials in the Gulf emirate that infuriated Arab leaders and triggered rare criticism by the US of Israel.



While Netanyahu was meeting with President Donald Trump, the White House released a Trump plan for ending the Israel-Hamas war and Gaza governance. There's no immediate word on whether Israel or Hamas has accepted the 20-point plan.

The plan calls for a temporary governing board that would be headed by Trump and include former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The plan does not require people to leave Gaza and calls for the war to end immediately if both sides accept it. It also calls for all remaining hostages to be released within 72 hours of Israel accepting the plan.

Trump says Israel would have the "full backing" of the United States to take steps to defeat Hamas if it doesn't accept proposed peace deal.

"I think we are beyond

very close," Trump said at the start of a news conference with Netanyahu where he detailed the deal.

Netanyahu made the call to Qatar's prime minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, as he met with Trump for critical talks aimed at ending the war in Gaza and developing a US plan on postwar governance in the war-battered Palestin-

ian territory, according to the White House.

"As a first step, Prime Minister Netanyahu expressed his deep regret that Israel's missile strike against Hamas targets in Qatar unintentionally killed a Qatari serviceman," the White House said in a statement. "He further expressed regret that, in targeting Hamas leadership during hostage negotiations, Israel violated Qatari sovereignty and affirmed that Israel will not conduct such an attack again in the future."

The White House talks, and apology from Netanyahu, come at a tenuous moment. Israel is increasingly isolated, losing support from many countries that were long its steadfast allies. At home, Netanyahu's governing coalition appears more fragile than ever. And the White House is showing signs of impatience.

Internet Blackout Hits Afghanistan as Taliban Enforce 'Morality' Crackdown

Associated Press

Islamabad: An internet blackout hit Afghanistan on Monday, with local media reporting a potential nationwide cut of fiber-optic services as part of a Taliban crackdown on immorality.

It's the first time Afghanistan has experienced a shutdown of this kind since the Taliban seized power in August 2021.

Earlier this month, several provinces lost their fiber-optic connections after Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada issued a decree banning the service to prevent immorality.

On Monday, internet-access advocacy group NetBlocks said that live metrics showed connectivity in Afghanistan had "collapsed" to

14 per cent of ordinary levels, with a near-total nationwide telecoms disruption in effect.

"The incident is likely to severely limit the public's ability to contact the outside world," the group added.

The Associated Press was unable to contact its Kabul bureau, as well as journalists in the eastern and southern provinces of Nangarhar and Helmand. There was no confirmation of the blackout from the Taliban government, which relies heavily on messaging apps and social media for its external and internal communications.

The private TOLO News TV channel said sources had confirmed that fiber-optic internet could be cut all over the country starting Monday. (AP)



Bihar Electoral Roll 65 Lakh Voters Marked Absent, Shifted or Dead

Press Trust Of India

Patna: The Election Commission on Tuesday announced that it has come out with the "final electoral roll" in Bihar ahead of the assembly polls, taking into account all the claims and objections to the draft voters' lists, which were published as part of special intensive revision (SIR).

The Chief Electoral Officer in Bihar made the announcement on its Facebook page, tagging the Election Commission of India.

"In the light of Special

Intensive Revision, the final electoral roll has been published on 30.09. 2025. People can look up their names by clicking on the link voters.eci.gov.in," said the social media post.

State-wide data was awaited on the final list.

The number of voters in the draft roll was 7.24 crore, following deletion of about 65 lakh names declared as "absent", "shifted" or "dead".

The Bihar assembly elections are likely to be announced soon, and the mammoth SIR exercise, which the EC intends to un-

dertake across the country in due course, has stirred a controversy.

Opposition parties, some of which have moved the Supreme Court, have been alleging that SIR was aimed at the wrongful deletion of names of voters who were less likely to vote for the ruling BJP-led NDA.

However, BJP leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, have asserted that SIR was essential to flush out "infiltrators" whom the INDIA bloc allegedly wanted to protect and give voting rights.

Over 10,700 Farmers Committed Suicide in 2023: NCRB

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi, Sep 30 (PTI) More than 10,700 people from the farming sector committed suicide during 2023 and 38.5 per cent of them were from Maharashtra and 22.5 per cent from Karnataka, according to a report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

A total of 66.2 per cent (1,13,416) of the total suicide victims (1,71,418) in 2023 were having an annual income of less than Rs 1 lakh.

As many as 10,786 people involved in the farming sector, consisting of 4,690 farmers or cultivators and 6,096 agricultural labourers, committed suicides during 2023, accounting for 6.3 per cent of total suicides victims in the country, the report said.

Out of the 4,690 farmer or cultivator suicides, a total of 4,553 were male and 137 were female and out of the 6,096 suicides committed by agricultural labourers during 2023, as many as 5,433 were male and 663 were female.

Majority of suicide victims engaged in the farming sector were reported in Maharashtra (38.5 per cent),

As many as 10,786 people involved in the farming sector, consisting of 4,690 farmers or cultivators and 6,096 agricultural labourers, committed suicides during 2023, accounting for 6.3 per cent of total suicides victims in the country, the report said

Karnataka (22.5), Andhra Pradesh (8.6), Madhya Pradesh (7.2) and Tamil Nadu (5.9 per cent).

However, certain states and union territories namely, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Chandigarh, Delhi and Lakshadweep reported no suicides of farmers or cultivators as well as agricultural labourers.

The NCRB also reported on the economic status of suicide victims. A total of 66.2 per cent (1,13,416) of the total

suicide victims (1,71,418) in 2023 were having annual income of less than 1 lakh. As many as 28.3 per cent (48,432) of suicide victims belong to annual income group of 1 lakh to less than 5 lakh.

Among the suicides committed by un-employed persons, 15.4 per cent were in Kerala (2,191 out of 14,234 suicides), 14.5 per cent in Maharashtra (2,070 suicides), 11.2 per cent in Tamil Nadu (1,601 suicides) and 9.1 per cent in Uttar Pradesh (1,295 suicides).

Majority of suicides committed by persons engaged in business activities were reported by Maharashtra (16 per cent), Karnataka (14.1 per cent), Tamil Nadu (8.9 per cent), West Bengal (8 per cent), and Madhya Pradesh (6.8 per cent).

The maximum numbers of suicide victims (24.6 per cent) (42,238) were educated up to matriculation/ secondary level, whereas middle level educated accounted for 18.6 per cent (31,834), higher secondary / intermediate/ pre-university educated (17.5 per cent) (29,920), primary educated (14.8 per cent) (25,303), and illiterate (11.8 per cent) (20,149).

UGC Declares 54 State Private Universities Defaulters

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- At least 54 state private universities have been declared defaulters by the University Grants Commission (UGC) for not submitting mandatory information under section 13 of the UGC Act, 1956, and making public disclosures on their website, according to officials.

Citing several reminders through e-mails and online meetings, the UGC said the universities had been directed to submit detailed information for inspection purposes, along with supporting documents duly attested by the registrar.

"They were also directed to upload the filled-in format and appendices on their website by giving a link on the home page so that the information is accessible to the students and the general public. The above was followed by several reminders through e-mails and online meetings," UGC Secretary Manish Joshi said.

According to the guidelines on public self-disclosure,

the higher education institutions must maintain a functional website for imparting information to stakeholders.

"The information disclosed on the website should be easily accessible to everyone, on the home page, without any need for registration or login. Additionally, there should be a 'search' facility available for easy navigation," the guideline stated.

Madhya Pradesh at 10 had the maximum number of defaulter universities, followed by Gujarat, Sikkim and Uttarakhand at eight, five, and four such institutions.

The UGC circulated the list of defaulting universities and warned them to take corrective steps immediately.

According to UGC officials, further action could follow if the institutions continue to ignore the instructions.

The higher education regulator has tightened its monitoring of private universities in recent months.

In July, it had warned 23 institutions for not appointing ombudspersons.

Students In Delhi Schools To Learn About RSS Under New Programme

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- Students of Delhi government schools will soon be taught about the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), featuring lessons on freedom fighters including Veer Savarkar, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Education Minister Ashish Sood said on Tuesday.

"The chapter on RSS is being added under this programme to inculcate civic and social consciousness among students and to bring Fundamental Duties into fo-

work, such as blood donation drives, food supply, rescue efforts during disasters like the Kedarnath and Bihar floods, and relief activities during the Covid pandemic.

The chapter will also trace the history of the RSS, founded in 1925 in Nagpur, Maharashtra, by Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar. It will underline the organisation's focus on cultural awareness, discipline, service and social responsibility, and mention leaders such as former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi who have been asso-

The chapter on RSS is being added under this programme to inculcate civic and social consciousness among students and to bring Fundamental Duties into focus,"

cus," Sood said.

A new chapter under the educational programme titled 'Rashtraneeti' has been designed to promote civic awareness, ethical governance and national pride among students from Class 1 to Class 12.

As part of the course, children will be taught about the origin and history of the RSS, its ideology and the role of its workers in extending help during natural disasters and the freedom struggle. The lessons also aim to address misconceptions about the organisation, a source told PTI.

According to him, the contributions mentioned in the text will highlight RSS participation in the freedom struggle, along with its social

ciated with it.

A separate section will be dedicated to unsung heroes. Students will learn about figures such as Veer Savarkar, Subhas Chandra Bose and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, the source added.

Teacher handbooks have already been prepared and training sessions are under way at SCERT, he said, adding that more details on the curriculum are still being discussed, including the decision on which class groups will study the new chapters.

"This course is being introduced across all classes to give students practical exposure to governance, democracy and active citizenship," the source said.

Netanyahu Apologizes to Qatar

Associated Press

Washington- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu used a White House visit on Monday to extend a formal apology to his Qatari counterpart for a recent military strike targeting Hamas officials in the Gulf emirate that infuriated Arab leaders and triggered rare criticism by the US of Israel.

Netanyahu made the call to Qatar's prime minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, as he met with President Donald Trump for critical talks aimed at ending the war in Gaza and developing a US plan on postwar governance in the war-battered Palestinian territory, according to the White House.

"As a first step, Prime Minister Netanyahu expressed his deep regret that Israel's missile strike against Hamas targets in Qatar unintentionally killed a Qatari serviceman," the White House said in a statement. "He further expressed regret that, in targeting Hamas leader-



ship during hostage negotiations, Israel violated Qatari sovereignty and affirmed that Israel will not conduct such an attack again in the future."

The White House talks, and apology from Netanyahu, come at a tenuous moment. Israel is increasingly isolated, losing support from many countries that were long its steadfast allies. At home, Netanyahu's governing coalition appears more fragile than ever. And the White House is showing signs of impatience.

The question now is whether Trump, who has offered steadfast backing to Netanyahu throughout the war, will change his tone and turn up the pressure on Israel to wind down the conflict.

As he welcomed Netanyahu to the White House, Trump responded affirmatively when asked by reporters whether he was confident a deal would be soon reached to end the fighting between Israel and Hamas.

"I am. I'm very confident," Trump said. Netanyahu's apology for strike that angered US ally

Israel struck the headquarters of Hamas' political leadership in Qatar on Sept. 9 as the group's top figures gathered to consider a US proposal for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

The strike on the territory of a US ally was a stunning escalation and risked upending talks aimed at winding down the war and freeing hostages. No senior Hamas officials were killed in the strike.

The attack on an energy-rich Gulf nation hosting thousands of American troops, which has served as a key mediator between Israel and Hamas throughout the war and even before, was described by Trump as out of step with Israeli and U.S. interests. And Trump sought to move quickly to assuage his Qatari allies.

Trump to Receive \$24.5M from YouTube Over Account Ban

Associated Press

San Francisco- Google's YouTube has agreed to pay USD 24.5 million to settle a lawsuit by President Donald Trump over his 2021 account suspension following the January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol.

According to documents filed in federal court in California, USD 22 million of the settlement will be contributed to the Trust for the National Mall and the rest will go to other plaintiffs, including the American Conservative Union.

Google is the latest big tech company to settle lawsuits brought by Trump. In January, Meta Platforms agreed to pay USD 25 million to settle a lawsuit over his 2021 suspension from Facebook. Elon Musk's X agreed to settle a similar lawsuit brought against the company then known as Twitter for USD 10 million.

The settlement does not constitute an admission of liability, the filing says. Google



Google is the latest big tech company to settle lawsuits brought by Trump. In January, Meta Platforms agreed to pay USD 25 million to settle a lawsuit over his 2021 suspension from Facebook

confirmed the settlement but declined to comment beyond it.

The disclosure of the settlement came a week before a scheduled October 6 court hearing to discuss the case with US District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez-Rogers in Oakland, California. (AP)

3 Injured In Vendor-Buyer Scuffle At Lal Chowk

Observer News Service

Srinagar: At least three people were injured in an alleged scuffle between street vendors and fruit buyers in the Goni Khan area of Lal Chowk, Srinagar, on Tuesday evening, officials said.

According to a police official, the altercation broke out near Naaz Cinema when tensions escalated between the vendor and some buyers. Three men sustained injuries during the incident and were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital.

Their condition is reported to be stable.

One of the injured, Owais Mukhtar Mir (20), son of Mukhtar Ahmad from Bemina Hamdaniya Colony, sustained cuts to his eyebrow and head after being attacked with a sharp-edged object. The other two injured are Fariq Ahmad (17), son of Riyaz Ahmad Reshi, and Riyaz Ahmad Reshi (45), both residents of Mehjoor Nagar, Srinagar.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident and initiated an investigation into the scuffle, officials added.

KU Must Become Hub of Opportunity & Innovation: Itoo

Calls for Student-Centric Reforms, Timely Grievance Redressal



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today underscored the need for higher education institutions of Jammu and Kashmir to align themselves with aspirations of students and modern academic standards.

The Minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review academic and administrative functioning of the Kashmir University (KU).

The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan; Registrar KU, senior officers of KU and Higher Education department.

During the meeting, the Minister took a comprehensive assessment of university's progress across multiple fronts, like teaching and research output, infrastructure development, student welfare measures and other initiatives of the university.

She emphasized that the student community must remain at the core

of every policy and reform initiative, as they are the true stakeholders of the education system.

The Minister observed that many challenges faced by students stem from delayed administrative processes, lack of timely communication. She called on the university administration to adopt a student-friendly model that ensures smoother functioning of academic and administrative services.

“Students should be the top priority of all our academic institutions. They should feel that their concerns are heard and addressed promptly,” she said.

Stressing the importance of building trust, Minister Sakeena urged the university leadership to institutionalize transparent systems for examinations, admissions, financial management and research programs. She added that openness in decision-making and clarity in procedures will reduce grievances, prevent delays, and enhance the credibility of the university in the eyes of its students and society.

Srinagar DC Unveils Plan For Scientific Traffic Decongestion

Agencies

Srinagar:As a significant move to tackle the growing traffic congestion in Srinagar, the district administration Tuesday said that it is working on a comprehensive, scientific decongestion plan to ease vehicular movement across the city.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo said that efforts are underway to streamline traffic flow through coordinated action involving all key departments, while also improving public infrastructure in high-footfall areas.

Speaking about developments, the DC Akshay Labroo said that two important tehsil offices including Eidgah and Khan- yar are being developed to better serve the public.

“Both tehsils were operating from rented accommodations. Today, we started work on the new office for Tehsil Eidgah, while the Khanyar tehsil office project is in its final stage,” he said.

The DC added that such projects are crucial in areas where public footfall is high, as they help reduce unnecessary movement and ease pressure on roads.

Highlighting the broader traffic plan, the DC said that decongesting a city like Srinagar cannot be achieved through isolated measures. “It requires coordinated efforts from all line departments, including Traffic Police, Revenue, R&B, SMC and others. Together, we are working on practical ideas for short-term, mid-term, and long-term solutions,” he said.

He said that a detailed meeting with all stakeholders was recently held to discuss and finalise key design interventions.

“In the next 10 days, we will finalise the plan and submit it to the Divisional Commissioner and the government. After that, its implementation will begin, ensuring Srinagar’s traffic is decongested in a scientific and planned manner,” DC Labroo added. (KNO)



Tourists take a stroll in Nishat Bagh, Srinagar, on Tuesday. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Shalteng–Bemina Bypass Wrong-Side Driving Puts Lives In Danger

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Shalteng–Bemina bypass, one of Srinagar’s busiest traffic arteries, has become a dangerous stretch for both motorists and pedestrians.

Despite the presence of traffic police, wrong-side driving has become routine at three critical points—Shalteng, Fruit Mandi, and the Bemina flyover—putting countless lives at risk. Vehicles, including cars, motorcycles, and heavy-load carriers, often move against the flow, forcing oncoming traffic to stop abruptly and leaving pedestrians terrified. Locals say that while challans are sometimes issued, the dangerous practice mostly goes unchecked.

“This has become a daily nightmare. At Shalteng, trucks

and cars appear suddenly from the wrong side, sometimes at high speed,” said Ghulam Nabi Dar, a shopkeeper.

Commuters at Fruit Mandi also face daily risks. “When traffic police are absent, wrong-side movement worsens,” said Shahid Hussain, a regular commuter.

The Bemina flyover stretch is similarly perilous. Wrong-side driving combined with over-speeding endangers school children and office-goers. “Crossing the bypass has become an ordeal. My son was almost hit by a two-wheeler near Bemina Fruit Mandi,” said Rukhsana Begum, a mother of two.

Residents say weak enforcement has rendered road infrastructure ineffective. “Rules are good only on paper if not enforced. Wrong-side driving endangers in-

nocent people,” said transporter Manzoor Ahmad.

A senior traffic official admitted the problem, citing limited manpower. “We conduct checks and issue challans, but with thousands of vehicles daily, we cannot monitor everywhere,” he said.

Over-speeding compounds the danger. “Last week, two cars raced on the bypass; one took the wrong side near Shalteng and narrowly missed a truck. A major accident is inevitable if this continues,” said cab driver Abdul Majid.

Public frustration is growing, with calls for strict action. “Authorities must install cameras, increase penalties, and monitor the stretch round-the-clock,” said youth activist Sajjad Ahmad. (inputs from KINS)

BIS & FCS&CA Kashmir Organise Stakeholders’ Conclave 2025

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Jammu and Kashmir Branch Office (JKBO), in collaboration with the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Kashmir, organized the Stakeholders’ Conclave 2025 as part of the upcoming celebrations of World Standards Day (WSD) 2025. More than 300 participants enthusiastically took part in the conclave.

Dr. Owais Ahmad (IAS), Direc-

tor, FCS&CA Kashmir, graced the event as the Chief Guest. In his address, he emphasized the importance of standards in daily life, stating that “standards are the backbone of quality, safety, and reliability, and their adoption is crucial for the welfare of consumers.”

The conclave witnessed participation from senior officials of the Directorate of FCS&CA including Saheen Khan, Joint Director; Mohd Rafeek, Deputy Director (Administration); and Arjumand Yaqub, Deputy Direc-

tor (Supplies).

Speaking on the occasion, Pan- kaj Atri, Joint Director, BIS-JKBO, underlined the role of BIS in creating a culture of standardization. He said, “BIS is committed to ensuring that consumers get quality products and services, and such initiatives help in building trust between industry and consumers.” He also urged participants to download and demonstrate the BIS Care App, which allows consumers to verify ISI-marked products and hallmarked jewellery with ease.

Public Notice

The name of my son has been wrongly written as Inayat Shahnawaz S/o Shahnawaz Ahamd Ahangar while his correct name is Anayat Ahmad Ahanger S/o Shahnawaz Ahmad Ahanger . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shahnawaz Ahmad Ahanger
F/o Anayat Ahmad Ahanger
R/o Bomai fko

اڙ نيابت يوتي

عنوان:- درخواست محتاجب غلام حسن بٹ ساکنہ واڈورہ بمراوا جرائی EWS سرٹیفکیٹ بحق دفتر سادی سکندر

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض EWS سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں چواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن دھ بڑا میں رہائش پذیر ہے ساکن کا کنبرہ 3 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور کنبرہ کی مہوار آمدنی زرعی وغیرہ زرعی سے سنہ 5000 روپیہ تک ہے ساکن کے پاس 5 ایکڑ سے کم رقبہ ہے ساکن کا مکان رہائشی 200 SQ Ground سے کم ہے، رقبہ میں تعمیر شدہ موجود ہے ساکن کا رہائشی قلیت 1000 sq فٹ سے کم ہے ساکن کا مکان رہائشی زون میں واقع ہے، مینوئل حدود میں واقع قلعہیں ساکن کے کہہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 8 لاکھ سے کم ہے ساکن، RBA OBC، ST، زرے میں نہیں آتا ہے۔

سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کوئی کسی شخص کو کوئی عزیار عارض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتہر اخبار سات دان کے اندر اندر آجپے مندر یا اعتراض وادلت حد اکوفتر ای اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے بعد کو کوئی مندر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

FKO

تایم تصیلدار

PUBLIC NOTICE

In my Aadhaar card bearing No 8437 42542676 my date of birth has been wrongly mentioned as 11.08.2003 while as my correct and actual date of birth is 15.06.2008 . Now the necessary correction is to be made . In this regard if any body is having any objection may convey to concerned authority within a period of seven days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Mansoor Ali Bhat
S/o: Mohammad Qazim Bhat
R/o: Kripalpura Bala ab

Public Notice

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing Consumer ID: 0204020002358, Installation No.: 75170 R-1 from Name: Gh. Hussain Bhat S/O: Gh. Hussain Bhat R/O: Bhat Mohalla Kath Mohalla Sgr to Manzoor Hussain Bhat S/O: Gh. Hussain Bhat Ph. No. : 9797872276. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Sub Division: Rainawari within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Manzoor Hussain Bhat
S/O : Gh. Hussain Bhat
Ph. No. : 9797872276 inf

Public Notice

I have changed my name from (old name) NAZIR AHMED to (New name) SHEIKH NAZIR AHMED. In future, I will be known as New name SHEIKH NAZIR AHMED. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

SS

- 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

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 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 07 Rabi-ul-Sani 1447	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5: 03
	ZUHR	12:22
	ASR	4: 37
	Magrib	6:23
	ISHA	7: 43

This Day In History

- 331 BC - Alexander the Great defeats Darius III of Persia in the Battle of Gaugamela
- 911 - During a siege in Constantinople, the Theotokos (Mary, the mother of Jesus) appeared at the church in Blachernae holding her veil over the praying faithful, among them St. Andrew of Constantinople.
- 965 - John XIII Crescentii elected to succeed Pope Leo VIII
- 1606 - Spanish troops under Spinola occupies fort Rhine birch
- 1632 - Battle at Castelnaudary: Duke Henri de Montmorency's rebel army loses
- 1653 - Russian parliament accepts annexation of Ukraine
- 1768 - British troops under General Thomas Gage land in Boston
- 1787 - Russians under Suvorov defeat the Turks at Kinburn.
- 1795 - France annexes Southern Netherlands
- 1795 - Belgium is conquered by France.
- 1800 - Spain cedes Louisiana to France in a secret treaty
- 1801 - Britain & France sign Preliminary of London
- 1864 - Cyclone strikes Calcutta: 70,000 killed
- 1867 - Karl Marx' "Das Kapital" published
- 1887 Balochistan conquered by the British Empire.
- 1904 - Netherlands and Portugal lay down boundaries splitting the island of Timor in two
- 1918 - World War I: Arab forces under T. E. Lawrence ("Lawrence of Arabia") capture Damascus
- 1928 - USSR launches its first 5-year plan
- 1934 - Adolf Hitler expands German army and navy, violating Treaty of Versailles
- 1936 - Generalissimo Francisco Franco establishes state of Spain
- 1943 - Allied forces captured Naples during WW II
- 1943 - Germans attack Jews in Denmark
- 1947 - The F-86 Sabre flies for the first time.
- 1949 - People's Republic of China proclaimed by Mao Zedong (National Day)
- 1949 - Republic of China (Taiwan) forms on island of Formosa
- 952 - Monte Bello-Island (Great Britain 1st atom bomb explosion)
- 1953 - Indian state of Andhra Pradesh partitioned from Madras
- 1958 - Britain transfers Christmas Island (south of Java) to Australia
- 1958 - US space agency NASA begins operations incorporating earlier National Advisory Council on Aeronautics and other bodies
- 1961 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1965 - Failed coup under Lt col Untung in Indonesia
- 1969- USSR performs a nuclear test at the Semipalatinsk Test Site in northeastern Kazakhstan
- 1971- Joseph Luns becomes Secretary-General of NATO
- 1973- USSR-West Germany gas pipeline opens
- 1974- Watergate cover-up trial opens in Washington, D.C.
- 1975- Britain grants internal self-government to the Seychelles
- 1977- Brazilian soccer great Pelé plays his final game for the New York Cosmos in an exhibition against Santos in front of 75,000 at Giants Stadium; 1,281 goals in 1,363 games
- 1979- Nigeria adopts a constitution, and Alhaji Shagari becomes president
- 1979- Shehu Shagari becomes the first and only President of Nigeria's Second Republic
- 1980- Cosmonauts Ryumin and Popov break the space endurance record of 176 days
- 1981 J. Chodorov and N. Panama's "A Talent for Murder" premieres in London
- 1981- US's largest private investment bank, Salomon Brothers, is sold to commodities trader Phibro Corporation for \$483 million
- 1982- The Sony CDP-101, the world's first commercially released Compact Disc player, is released in Japan for 168,000 yen (\$730)
- 1988- Mikhail Gorbachev becomes Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, effectively head of state of the Soviet Union

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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

Heart Health Crisis

The image of doctors, nurses, and students rowing across Dal Lake on World Heart Day was striking. In their white coats, holding fluttering banners, they cut a picture of both hope and warning. The rally, organised by the Department of Cardiology at SKIMS, was a reminder that heart health is no longer a private matter inside hospitals, it is a public issue that touches every household in the valley.

That reminder is urgently needed. Heart disease has emerged as one of Kashmir's gravest health concerns, and it is no longer confined to the elderly. Increasingly, cardiologists are treating patients in their thirties and forties with blocked arteries once seen only in those decades older. Doctors at SKIMS warn that this shift represents not just individual tragedies but a looming epidemic.

The reasons are many, and they are familiar. Unhealthy diets, sedentary routines, smoking, and mounting stress have combined to push the population towards risk. The harsh winter months worsen the situation: people remain indoors, gain weight, and see their blood pressure and cholesterol rise. Senior cardiologists estimate a 20 to 40 percent spike in heart attacks during the cold season.

But lifestyle alone does not explain the surge. Substance abuse, particularly heroin and opioids, has become a serious driver of cardiovascular emergencies. At the same time, diabetes and hypertension are on the rise, with surveys showing nearly 9 percent of the region's population living with diabetes. Add to this the heavy burden of mental health problems, estimated in a 2016 Doctors Without Borders report to affect 1.8 million people in J&K, and the scale of the challenge becomes clear. Stress and depression, left untreated, feed directly into the crisis of the heart.

Much of this is preventable though. That is, if people go for regular checkups, healthier diets, and exercise. Similarly, awareness about smoking and substance abuse can drastically reduce risk. But as things stand, this is not how it is: patients arrive at hospitals late, when precious minutes have already been lost. At the same time, there is lack of swift emergency response, which often turns treatable cases into fatal ones.

The Dal Lake rally showed how powerful a symbol awareness can be. But symbolism must be followed by sustained action. The government must strengthen emergency cardiac care, invest in mental health, and run sustained public health campaigns that reach people where it matters most, in homes, schools, and neighbourhoods. Communities, too, must embrace lifestyle changes and break the silence around stress and addiction. It goes without saying that Kashmir's future depends on it. A strong heart, as the rally declared, builds a strong future. The valley cannot afford to ignore that call any longer.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

The 350-Hour Man

A Delhi Uber driver's grueling routine offers a sharp lesson for a region where easy hours and long breaks still shape the idea of work.

Irshad Mushtaq

The ride began like any other: a clean black car, a smooth road, and a polite driver. By the end, it felt like a masterclass in the economy of effort.

The man behind the wheel, a professional over 40, described a life built on one number: 350. That is the minimum hours he must log each month to keep his contract. Twelve hours a day, every day. No fixed Sundays. No excuses.

His income depends on precision and stamina. A driver must complete at least 150 rides a month to avoid a 4,000 deduction. Each trip beyond that earns a 150 bonus. At 350 rides, the math reaches 45,000 to 50,000. The money sounds decent until you picture the grind: ten rides a day, hundreds of faces, endless traffic, and the patience to stay pleasant through it all.

For Kashmir, where a 200-hour month still feels heavy and government jobs remain the ultimate prize, his story lands like a challenge. Markets reward value, and value often comes from sheer hours of disciplined work.

The Delhi driver accepts the strain because he knows the world will not slow for comfort.

The lesson travels beyond his car. A generation raised on the hope of easy schedules will face a global economy that measures success in sweat and skill. Hard work is the price of survival.

The 350-hour man proves it with every trip, turning a routine ride into a warning for a valley that cannot afford to stay idle.

— The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.



Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Peerzada Rayees has spent years tending to his trout farm in Beerwah, relying entirely on the waters of the Sukhnag River.

On the night of May 23-24, 2024, his farm suffered a devastating blow. Illegal mining operations diverted the river, killing 2,000 trout weighing between 250 and 350 grams each.

The loss of nearly 600 kilograms of fish amounted to roughly three lakh rupees.

It was the loss of a life's work, the betrayal of a river the man depended on, and the stark reality of unchecked exploitation.

Rayees's story is a window into the broader destruction along Sukhnag.

Over the past three to four years, illegal mining has stripped the riverbed of boulders, diverted water, and damaged ecosystems. Crops suffered, fisheries collapsed, and communities across Sail, Qumiroo, Kangripora, Kunigund, and nearby areas faced economic and environmental insecurity.

Between 2022 and 2024, 163 short-term permits for boulder extraction were issued, often serving as cover for large-scale plundering. Compensation meant to repair the damage rarely reached the government treasury, leaving villagers to shoulder the consequences.

The case returned to the National Green Tribunal on September 24, 2025. Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member Dr. A. Senthil Vel approved a Joint Committee to supervise a five-member local team already assessing the river's damage. The local committee, led by the Sub Divisional Magistrate of Beerwah, includes officials from the Flood Spill Channel Division, Divisional Forest Office, Block Development Office, District Mineral Office, and Fisheries Department. Their task is to evaluate the impact of illegal mining, short-term permits, and other unauthorized activities on the river over the last few years.

Environmental lawyer Saurabh Sharma, who has represented the case for more than a year, highlighted evidence showing that even district officials facilitated some of the mining. Minutes from the District Level Single Window Committee reveal that the Deputy Commissioner of Budgam had at times directed clearance for boulder extraction.

The NGT recognized the need for impartial oversight. The Joint Committee, including representatives from the J&K Pollution Control Committee, the Ministry of Environment's Chandigarh office, and the GB Pant Institute, is empowered to supervise, verify, and ensure accountability without favouritism. The tribunal expects a report within ten weeks.

The government has acted in recent months. Since January 2024, authorities have seized 215 vehicles, lodged 26 FIRs, and collected nearly 30 lakh rupees in penalties. Mining under short-term permits has officially stopped. But these measures cannot erase years of damage or the losses suffered by fish farmers like Rayees.

For many villagers, the tribunal's intervention is the first real hope for justice and environmental restoration.

Sukhnag's plight illustrates a larger truth about Kashmir. Rivers sustain life, and when

The Battle to Save Sukhnag

One farmer's loss from illegal mining has become a battle for justice, as Kashmiri villagers look to the National Green Tribunal to restore their river and livelihoods.



The fight for this water body is a lesson for the entire region. Rivers are lifelines that demand vigilance. Communities cannot prosper when corruption thrives unchecked, and environmental destruction cannot be allowed to continue under bureaucratic cover.

Peerzada Rayees may have begun as a single victim of the river's plunder, but his struggle now carries the weight of an entire valley. Sukhnag's recovery would restore livelihoods, ecosystems, and trust in the rule of law.

corruption intersects with natural resources, communities bear the consequences.

Human costs are immediate: lost income, disrupted livelihoods, and failed crops. Environmental costs are enduring: altered riverbeds, declining aquatic life, and destabilized ecosystems. Economic and ecological losses amplify each other, leaving villages trapped in cycles of destruction.

The NGT's oversight marks a critical turning point. By pairing a local committee with independent supervision, the tribunal ensures transparency, rigour, and impartiality in assessing damage and assigning responsibility.

Villagers no longer have to rely solely on local officials, some of whom were complicit in past exploitation. The outcome of this process could restore faith in governance, law, and environmental justice.

For Peerzada Rayees and his neighbours, the river represents hope. Compensation for lost fish, accountability for illegal mining, and environmental restoration could revive both livelihoods and the ecosystem. Sukhnag's flow could once again sustain fisheries and fields while proving that laws can protect communities, even in remote corners of Kashmir.

The fight for this water body is a lesson for the entire region. Rivers are lifelines that demand vigilance. Communities cannot prosper when corruption thrives unchecked, and environmental destruction cannot be allowed to continue under bureaucratic cover.

The tribunal's intervention shows that accountability is possible, that justice can reach even those in remote areas, and that communities like Beerwah can reclaim what was stolen from them.

Peerzada Rayees may have begun as a single victim of the river's plunder, but his struggle now carries the weight of an entire valley.

Sukhnag's recovery would restore livelihoods, ecosystems, and trust in the rule of law.

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

Letter to Editor

The Hidden Cost of Interrupted Learning in Kashmir

Classrooms open with promise in Kashmir but struggle to hold momentum. Timetables shift, lessons are delayed, and academic calendars stretch far beyond their limits.

Each missed hour of teaching may seem small, but together they add up to a silent crisis, one that shapes the future of every child in the valley.

Education has long been Kashmir's strongest hope for progress. From modest village schools to expanding universities, learning has lifted families and widened horizons. But this hard-won ascent is slowed by gaps that remain stubborn and deep.

Teachers often work without ad-

vanced training. Laboratories and libraries need upgrades. Career counseling is rare, leaving many students unsure of what comes after school. Too many graduates emerge with degrees that do not match the demands of a fast-changing job market.

Despite these hurdles, Kashmiri youth continue to excel. They win national scholarships, enter top universities, and build careers in science, arts, and technology. Their success is a tribute to determination and family support. Parents create study spaces at home, communities rally to keep schools supplied, and digital tools carry lessons to far-off villages.

These efforts keep the flame of learning alive, even when the path ahead is uncertain.

But resilience alone cannot close the gap. Education needs consistent investment in teachers, infrastructure, and skills that match a changing world.

Vocational training, critical thinking, and technology must move from policy papers to daily practice. Schools must prepare students for both higher studies and real-world careers, offering guidance that links classroom learning to future work.

The stakes could not be higher. Education is the foundation of economic strength and social peace. Every day saved for learning is a day earned for the valley's future.

Every teacher trained, library stocked, and lesson delivered on time is a step toward stability and opportunity.

Kashmiri children are ready to shape a different tomorrow. They need a system that treats their time and talent as precious. The choice is ours: to let another generation wait for the promise of education, or to act now and give them the steady classrooms they deserve.

The future of the valley lies in the simple certainty of a lesson taught and a mind allowed to grow.

Sincerely,

Sheikh Imad
sh864794@gmail.com

Srinagar in Stories and Shadows

In “Yaadgah,” editor Arshi Javaid gathers stories that breathe life into Srinagar’s old city, carrying readers through lanes where memories linger like incense and change knocks on every creaking door.

Aamir Jamal

The book begins in a house that feels as alive as the woman who inhabits it. Moghel Daed, an aging mother searching for her disappeared son, moves through rooms where dusted bulbs sag under cobwebs and iron bars carry the weight of years. Her house is a witness, a body holding onto grief long after words have failed.

As you read, the air thickens with the smell of damp walls and rust. You can almost hear the slow sigh of wood as it remembers footsteps long gone.



The voices within its pages speak of pain and persistence, decay and renewal. They lead you through winding lanes where a neighbour might still call out a greeting, where the aroma of noon chai mixes with the clang of construction, and where the past is never fully past.

This is how Yaadgah: Memories of Srinagar opens its door, by inviting you to step into a space where architecture itself mourns and re-

members.

Edited by Kashmiri scholar Arshi Javaid, the anthology is a living map of Srinagar’s old city, a place where memory hides in every crack of a wooden beam and every turn of a narrow lane.

The title Yaadgah, meaning both a memorial and a keepsake, perfectly captures this dual purpose.

The book itself becomes a memorial to a city still breathing through the rhythms of those who stayed, those who left, and those who continue to watch its slow transformation.

The early chapters focus on families who chose to remain in the valley after the violence of 1989, when thousands of Kashmiri Pandits fled their homes.

Phemba and Ragini, two women who stayed, speak with a careful mix of fear and defiance. Their decision was a daily wager between the safety of the familiar and the uncertainty of migration.

As they weigh risks, you feel the pull of their alleys, the smell of their kitchens, and the comfort of a neighbour’s knock.

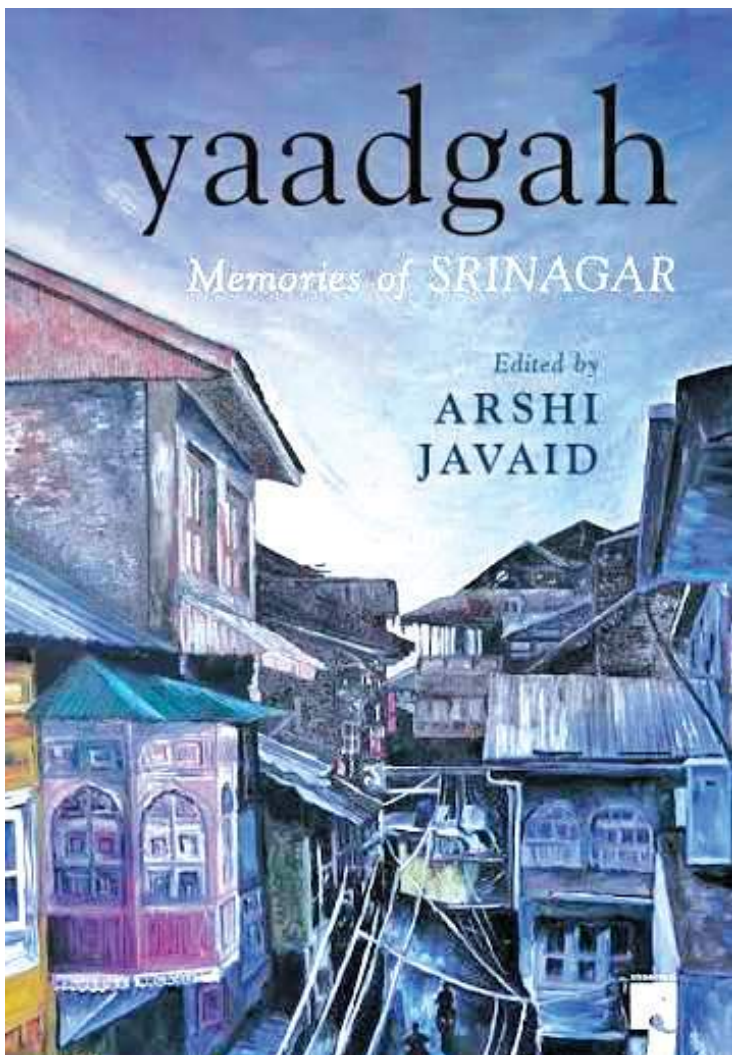
Their staying is less about politics and more about the stubborn love of one’s own doorstep.

From there the book winds through stories of friendships that defied the hardening boundaries of religion.

Ayush and Rosheeba meet across lines that others insist must stay uncrossed. Their affection feels both daring and inevitable, like a river slipping past a man-made dam.

Their tale carries a hint of mischief, a reminder of how everyday encounters can resist the weight of history. But it also reflects the tension of a city where even the smallest gestures are shadowed by the possibility of misunderstanding.

Every page carries the pulse of Srinagar’s old quarters, like Rainawari, Habba Kadal, Fateh Kadal, where carved wooden windows



lean over streets humming with merchants, prayers and children’s laughter. The writers treat these neighbourhoods as characters in their own right.

Houses decay, markets swell, shrines glow at dusk. Meher’s description of Moghel Daed’s crumbling home mirrors the way memories themselves crumble when left unspoken. The walls remember

even when people forget.

Ayushi Koul follows stories as they pass from grandmother to grandchild, showing how nostalgia moves through blood, shaping identity in ways neither generation fully controls. Her chapters touch on the new anxieties born after the 2019 political changes in Kashmir, when both Pandits and Muslims sensed a shared vulnerability.

These moments remind us that memory bends to the present, carrying old warmth and fresh unease.

Women walk through this book with a special kind of spirit. Kha-teeba Syed captures the fading riverfront gatherings around Yaarbāl, where women once traded gossip and laughter.

As the city’s makeover wipes out these old meeting spots, women find new corners of freedom in the courtyards of Hazratbal shrine, where a simple visit turns into an act of reclaiming their place and voice.

Nairu Naqsh writes of a working-class woman whose endless labour feeds her family while leaving her little time to dream. Her life is a silent ledger of sacrifice that keeps the city’s wheels turning.

Arshi Javaid does not let readers forget the forces reshaping Srinagar. Real estate speculation, capital-driven development and the relentless logic of profit eat into the city’s old heart.

Streets that once echoed with shared festivals and late-night tea now carry the dust of construction sites. The erosion of memory is measured in property deals and rising walls that cut neighbours off from one another.

But Yaadgah resists becoming a simple elegy.

The editor and her writers treat nostalgia with caution. Memories, they remind us, are shaped by present fears and desires, coloured by the storyteller’s mood and the listener’s longing.

The old Srinagar of elders’ tales, full of harmony and open courtyards, was also a place of hierarchy and struggles. The new city, for all its concrete and chaos, holds new opportunities for connection, especially for women claiming public space.

This balance between mourning and possibility gives Yaadgah its



The old Srinagar of elders’ tales, full of harmony and open courtyards, was also a place of hierarchy and struggles. The new city, for all its concrete and chaos, holds new opportunities for connection, especially for women claiming public space.

power. It neither romanticizes nor condemns. Instead, it listens.

The voices within its pages speak of pain and persistence, decay and renewal. They lead you through winding lanes where a neighbour might still call out a greeting, where the aroma of noon chai mixes with the clang of construction, and where the past is never fully past.

By the final page, you feel as if you have walked beside the storytellers, pausing at every shrine and weathered doorway.

You hear the creak of an old wooden bridge, the distant call of a muezzin, the low murmur of a grandmother passing down a tale.

Srinagar lives in these details, and through Yaadgah, it reaches across time to whisper: remember, because forgetting is another kind of loss.

— The author is currently enrolled as a Ph.D. candidate in the Centre for Political Studies, JNU.

Invisible Yet Indispensable

Respect for women in Kashmir remains conditional, yet their courage and endurance are reshaping society every day.

Humaira Jan

Since childhood, I noticed how uneven the world felt. A man can sit among women and feel at ease. But a girl, even a young teenager, feels exposed, measured, and judged.

Society whispers that she must be cautious, modest, and restrained. It’s easy to call this natural, but it is shaped by behaviour. Men around us often display aggression and dominance, and women learn early to shrink, and anticipate disapproval. Respect mostly becomes a privilege.

I have seen friends criticised for the simplest things: combed hair, clean clothes, and a scarf neatly arranged.

A polite word is read as flirtation, an exasperated one as seduction. Girls who wear jeans or modern clothing are judged harshly, even when their dress is modest. Girls in abayas are praised to secure social standing.

We know how society watches us. We know that every step outside the home carries unspoken rules.

Men often consider women inferior, failing to see what we manage every day. Running a household, managing finances, raising children, pursuing education, bypassing bazars, and



Real equality in Kashmir will arrive only when society stops measuring women by obedience or conformity and begins recognising the strength that has always been there, often unseen.

maintaining dignity under scrutiny are skills that demand patience, intelligence, and courage.

Women study, compete in exams, run businesses, lead families, and even governments. The size of our brains has never limited what we can do. Science now confirms what was understood long ago: our intellect manifests differently, not less.

Religion and law speak of equality, but society interprets it in narrow, restrictive ways.

Women must seek permission, men rarely face the same limits. Independence is treated as transgression.

When a woman steps outside traditional bounds, some men feel threatened.

The problem is ego, pride, and insecurity. Men who call women fools are blinded by their own arrogance. Women manage multiple responsibilities, often simultaneously, without recognition.

If women were foolish, they could not sustain a home, a career,

and a life with such precision.

The world balances itself after centuries of concealment and suppression. Women once hidden for protection are now emerging, asserting intellect, independence, and influence.

Men, by contrast, are increasingly shielded from responsibility. Respecting women is about acknowledging their endurance, intelligence, and patience.

Real equality in Kashmir will arrive only when society stops measuring women by obedience or conformity and begins recognising the strength that has always been there, often unseen.

Every woman I know teaches this lesson daily. Her life is a testament to resilience, multitasking, and courage.

She survives, thrives, and transforms. And yet, the world is still learning how to see her.

— The author can be reached at sadiyahumaira686@gmail.com



Catching Them Young

A government school in Kashmir demonstrates how emotional care, moral guidance, and active teaching can steer adolescents toward safe paths.

Muntashir Kifayat Hussain

When I drove to Batapora in Magam for an academic monitoring visit, I expected registers and routine checks. Instead, I found a government high school working as a lifeline for teenagers.

The school sits in the middle of the village, modest but alive with purpose. Morning assembly set the tone: rows of students in bright orange uniforms stood in careful lines, voices rising together in prayer. Their neatness showed a culture of care built into every part of the day.

Soon after, the assembly broke into smaller circles. In one corner, a female teacher spoke with a group of girls aged fourteen to sixteen. The topic was adolescence: mood swings, anxiety, depression, fatigue, and the confusion of sudden change. She explained how to manage emotions, find support and keep balance.

Twenty minutes of each school day are reserved for these conversations. In most Kashmiri schools, such talks are rare. Here they are routine.

In the lawn, a male teacher addressed a cluster of boys about drug addiction, the value of women in society, and respect for elders.

Budgam, like many districts, struggles with rising drug use. Surveys by the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences in Srinagar estimate nearly 70,000 young people in the valley are addicted to substances.

This school counters the threat with direct conversation and steady guidance rather than silence.

Classrooms carried the same mission statement and spirit. In the chemistry lab, students in white aprons watched their teacher con-



The school offers a model of prevention. It channels energy into science experiments, open dialogue and organised play. It gives teachers the role of mentor and counsellor. It frames education as protection as much as instruction.

nect formulas to real reactions. The lesson encouraged questions and observation.

Nearby, a physics teacher used balloons to demonstrate Newton’s third law, turning a

law of motion into a simple experiment.

These sessions follow India’s National Education Policy 2020, which calls for hands-on learning and critical thinking instead of rote memorisation.

During lunch, teachers checked that every child ate. Two students who had come without food shared with staff. After the meal, the playground turned into a field of cricket and football. Teachers played alongside students, joining the laughter without losing authority.

The staff also spent free periods observing one another’s classes. They traded ideas, sharpened methods and treated teaching as a craft to be learned together.

The school felt less like a controlled campus and more like a collaborative workshop.

Adolescence is a narrow bridge between dependence and independence. Hormones shift, identities form, and choices carry lasting weight.

A careless or harsh teacher

can trigger anger, withdrawal or worse. Exposure to discipline or neglect during these years is a genuine risk factor for mental distress and substance abuse.

This school offers a model of prevention. It channels energy into science experiments, open dialogue and organised play. It gives teachers the role of mentor and counsellor. It frames education as protection as much as instruction.

These daily practices guard students before trouble reaches them in a region where unemployment and drug use haunt families.

I left Batapora with a clear lesson. A strong high school is measured by how it shapes character, steadies emotions and teaches young people to face a complicated world.

— The author is an educator at Boys High School, Narabal, Budgam. He writes on education, adolescent development, and school reform in Kashmir.

Gold Soars To Lifetime High Of Rs 1.2 Lakh Per 10g In Delhi Amid Festive Demand



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Gold prices on Tuesday climbed Rs 500 to touch a lifetime high of Rs 1.20 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital due to a weak dollar and expectations of further rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal had rallied Rs 1,500 to close at Rs 1,19,500 per 10 grams in the previous session on festive demand.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity extended the gains for the fourth straight session by rising Rs 500 to hit a record high of Rs 1,19,400 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) in the local bullion market. The precious metal had settled at Rs 1,18,900 per 10 grams in the previous session.

"Gold prices surged as investors turned jittery amid looming prospects of a US government shutdown after talks between Trump and congressional leaders ended without agreement on short-term funding.

"This unsettled investors as it could delay the release of the official jobs report and complicate the Federal Reserve's policy trajectory," said Kaynat Chainwala, AVP Commodity

Research, Kotak Securities. The yellow metal prices have risen by Rs 41,050 or 52 per cent in the current calendar year, surging from Rs 78,950 per 10 grams on December 31, 2024.

In addition, silver prices increased by Rs 500 to hit a new peak of Rs 1,50,500 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Tuesday. It had surged Rs 7,000 to hit a fresh peak of Rs 1,50,000 per kg on Monday.

So far in this year, silver prices have zoomed by Rs 60,800 or 67.78 per cent, rallying from Rs 89,700 per kg on December 31, 2024.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 97.80, lower by 0.10 per cent, further lending support to the bullion prices.

Globally, bullion prices retreated from record highs to trade lower as investors booked profits on elevated levels.

Spot gold fell 0.55 per cent to USD 3,813.14 per ounce. It hit a record high of USD 3,871.72 per ounce in the intraday session.

Spot silver dipped 1.51 per cent to trade at USD 46.22 per ounce in the overseas markets.

"The yellow metal hit a fresh record high of USD 3,871 per ounce and is currently trading with a loss at USD 3,818 per ounce as traders booked profits on elevated levels," said Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities and Currencies at Mirae Asset ShareKhan.

Meanwhile, in futures trade, gold and silver prices retreated from the record high as investors booked profits at elevated levels.

Govt Keeps Interest Rates On Small Savings Schemes Unchanged



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The government on Tuesday left interest rates unchanged for various small savings schemes, including PPF and NSC, for the seventh straight quarter beginning October 1, 2025.

"The rates of interest on various Small Savings Schemes for the third quarter of FY 2025-26, starting from 1st October, 2025 and ending on 31st December, 2025 shall remain unchanged from those notified for the second quarter (1st July, 2025 to 30th September, 2025) of FY 2025-26," the finance ministry said in a notification.

As per the notification, deposits under the Sukanya Samridhi Scheme will attract an interest rate of 8.2 per cent, while the rate on a three-year term deposit remains at 7.1 per cent prevailing in the current quarter.

The interest rates for popular Public Provident Fund (PPF) and post office savings deposit schemes, too, have been retained at 7.1 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively.

The interest rate on the Kisan Vikas Patra will be 7.5 per cent, and the investments will mature in 115 months.

The interest rate on the National Savings Certificate

(NSC) will remain at 7.7 per cent for the October-December 2025 period.

Like the current quarter, the monthly income scheme will earn 7.4 per cent for investors during the third quarter of the current fiscal.

With this, the interest rates on small savings schemes, mainly operated by post offices and banks, have been left unchanged for the sixth consecutive quarter.

The government had last made changes in some schemes for the fourth quarter of 2023-24.

The government notifies interest rates on small savings schemes every quarter.



WITH THIS, THE INTEREST RATES ON SMALL SAVINGS SCHEMES, mainly operated by post offices and banks, have been left unchanged for the sixth consecutive quarter. The government had last made changes in some schemes for the fourth quarter of 2023-24.

Centre's Fiscal Deficit 38% Of Full-Year Target At Aug-End: CGA Data

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Centre's fiscal deficit stood at 38.1 per cent of the full-year target at the end of August, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Tuesday.

The fiscal deficit was 27 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) of 2024-25 in the first five months of the previous financial year.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit, or gap between the government's expenditure and revenue, was Rs 5,98,153 crore in the April-August period of 2025-26.

The Centre estimates the fiscal deficit during 2025-26 at 4.4 per cent of the GDP, or Rs 15.69 lakh crore.

The CGA data showed that the government received Rs 12.82 lakh crore (36.7 per cent of the corresponding BE 2025-26 of total receipts) up to August 2025.

This comprised Rs 8.1 lakh crore tax revenue (net to Centre), Rs 4.4 lakh crore of non-tax revenue and Rs



31,970 crore of non-debt capital receipts.

CGA said Rs 5.3 lakh crore has been transferred to state governments as devolution of share of taxes by the central government till August, which is Rs 74,431 crore higher than the previous year.

The Centre's total expenditure was Rs 18.8 lakh crore (37.1 per cent of the corresponding BE 2025-26). Of this, Rs 14.49 lakh crore was on the revenue account and Rs 4.31 lakh crore on the cap-

ital account.

Out of the total revenue expenditure, Rs 5,28,668 crore was on account of interest payments and Rs 1,50,377 crore on account of major subsidies.

CGA said the fiscal deficit figure shown in monthly accounts during a financial year is not necessarily an indicator of fiscal deficit for the year, as it gets impacted by a temporal mismatch between the flow of non-debt receipts and expenditure up to that month.



JKBFSL Holds 17th Annual General Meeting Of Shareholders

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- JKB Financial Services Limited (JKBFSL) – a wholly owned subsidiary of J&K Bank – Tuesday conducted its 17th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of shareholders at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters.

The meeting was chaired by the Bank's Executive Director (ED) Sudhir Gupta in the presence of the Bank's General Manager & Director on JKB FSL Board Syed Rais Maqbool, Managing Director (JKBFSL) Syed Aadil Bashir Andrabi, Bank's Deputy General Manager (Subsidiary Management) Manju Gupta, Chief Financial Officer (JKBFSL) Aashiq Hussain Sheikh, and Company Secretary Mudasir Ahmad Pader, besides a good number of shareholders.

Welcoming the participants, MD Syed Aadil Bashir Andrabi thanked the shareholders for their continued trust in the company and reaffirmed the management's commitment to strengthening JKBFSL's role as a key player in providing financial services.

During the proceedings, shareholders adopted the audited financial statements for FY 2024-25, along with the Auditor's Report and the comments of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG). The members also approved the re-appointment of Bank's General Manager Mohammad Muzaffar Wani as Director on the Board of JKBFSL.

Speaking on the occasion, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta said, "JKBFSL continues to play an important role in complementing the Bank's efforts to provide diversified financial services to its customers. With a focus on innovation and customer-centricity, the company is poised to contribute further towards the Bank's larger vision of sustainable growth."

On the occasion, the management and shareholders extended a warm farewell to DGM Manju Gupta on the eve of her superannuation, appreciating her dedicated service and valuable contributions to the company's growth and progress.

The AGM concluded with a formal vote of thanks.

Javid Dar Chairs Consultative Meeting With Fruit Mandi Associations



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative & Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, Tuesday chaired a consultative meeting with Presidents and office bearers of Fruit & Vegetable Market Associations of Kashmir Division at the Directorate of Horticulture Planning and Marketing, J&K, to review and address key issues pertaining to the horticulture sector.

Director, Horticulture Planning & Marketing, Gh. Jeelani Zargar, along with senior officers of the department, presented an overview of the ongoing activities and initiatives aimed at strengthening post-harvest management, improving market linkages, and enhancing efficiency in the marketing of horticultural produce.

During the interaction, stakeholders raised issues including the need for additional Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage facilities, availability and standardization of packaging material, smoother transport along the National Highway and Mughal Road, establishment of processing units, crop insurance coverage, strengthening of the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), promotion of e-NAM trading, and improved functioning of mandis.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the concerns and assured that necessary steps would be taken for their resolution. He emphasized the adoption of modern and high-tech practices in horticulture to boost the economy of J&K.

Javid Dar reiterated the Government's commitment to collaborative efforts to optimize the potential of the horticulture sector.

JKEDI Organises Startup Idea Challenge Boot Camp

Observer News Service

DODA- The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), District Centre Doda, organized a Startup Idea Challenge Bootcamp at Govt. Degree College (GDC) Doda, inspiring young minds to explore innovation and entrepreneurship.

The event was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, who encouraged the participants to take full advantage of such government initiatives. He also interacted with participants at the idea presentations and emphasized the pivotal role of startups in driving regional and national economic development.

The bootcamp witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 100 students, with 13 aspiring innovators/teams presenting their business ideas.

Earlier, the program began with a welcome address by Sr. Associate Faculty/Range Officer (DKR), JKEDI Dr. Majid Manzoor Khan, who highlighted JKEDI's role in building an entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Assistant Professor Tanveer Ahmed also addressed the gathering, stressing the importance of empowering youth as job creators. Entrepreneur Azhar, CEO of Yazu Digital motivated participants by sharing his personal startup journey.

A comprehensive session on the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 was delivered by District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Shabir Majeed. He elaborated on various incentives, benefits and support available for budding entrepreneurs. The highlight of the event was the Idea Pitching Session, where 13 participants presented their concepts before a distinguished jury comprising Dr. Majid Manzoor (JKEDI), Shabir Majeed (JKEDI), Tanveer Ahmed (GDC Doda), representatives from DECC, Govt. Polytechnic, ITI, JK Bank Doda and Azhar (Yazu Digital).

Following rigorous evaluation, promising participants/teams were shortlisted for the next round. Certificates of participation were awarded to all idea pitchers by Dr. Majid Manzoor Khan.

RBI Constitutes 6-Member Payments Regulatory Board

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- The Reserve Bank on Tuesday constituted the six-member Payments Regulatory Board, which includes three central government nominees, to supervise the functioning of payment systems in the country.

The panel is headed by the Governor. The Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) replaces the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement System (BPSS), a committee of the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India.

The five-member BPSS was also headed by the RBI Governor, but does not include any government nominee.

The other two RBI members on the PRB are Deputy Governor and Executive Director in-charge of the Payment and Settlement Systems.

Government nominees on the board are Secretary, Department of Financial Services; Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology; and Aruna Sundarajan, former telecom secretary.

The Principal Legal Adviser of RBI is a permanent invitee to the meetings of the board.

Stock Markets Go South For 8th Session On Relentless Foreign Fund Outflows

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower on Tuesday after a volatile session, marking the eighth consecutive session of southward movement due to relentless foreign fund outflows and caution ahead of the RBI's interest rate decision.

Giving up early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 97.32 points or 0.12 per cent to settle at 80,267.62. During the day, it hit a high of 80,677.82 and a low of 80,201.15. In eight trading days, the Sensex has tanked 2,746.34 points or 3.30 per cent.

The 50-share NSE Nifty fell by 23.80 points or 0.10 per cent to 24,611.10.

Trading remained subdued on the monthly expiry day and markets moved in a narrow range. Metal, auto and banking stocks, particularly PSU banks, advanced while realty and consumer durables shares faced selling pressure.

Caution prevailed in the market

ahead of the RBI's interest rate decision on Wednesday, analysts said.

"The domestic market traded within a narrow range on the monthly expiry day, as investors exercised caution ahead of the RBI's policy. The market made an attempt to stabilize after last week's sustained decline," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments, said.

Market participants are keenly awaiting the RBI's commentary for insights into future interest rate trajectories, although a status quo on rates is widely expected, Nair added.

Among Sensex firms, ITC, Bharti Airtel, Trent, Bajaj Finserv, Titan and Reliance Industries were the major laggards.

However, UltraTech Cement, Adani Ports, Tata Motors, Bharat Electronics, Bajaj Finance and Hindustan Unilever were among the major gainers. In Asian markets, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled in positive territory, while South Korea's Kospi and Japan's Nikkei 225 index ended lower.

In the broader market, shares of

Man Industries (India) Ltd tanked 10.6 per cent after Sebi barred the company and its three senior executives from accessing the securities markets.

The BSE midcap gauge ended marginally higher by 0.04 per cent, while smallcap index ended flat, almost unchanged.

Among sectoral indices, telecommunication tanked 0.93 per cent, realty by 0.79 per cent, consumer durables by 0.78 per cent, tech by 0.50 per cent, FMCG by 0.39 per cent and utilities by 0.35 per cent.

Metal jumped 1.11 per cent and commodities climbed 0.65 per cent, while financial services (0.27 per cent), auto (0.30 per cent), and bankex (0.22 per cent) also advanced.

"Indian equities ended the session on a flat note as investors remained cautious, with many choosing to stay on the sidelines, awaiting fresh catalysts to push benchmark indices beyond near-term resistance levels. In the absence of new triggers, market momentum remained subdued.

HC To Form Special Bench To Hear Plea Against Ban On 25 Books

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Tuesday (September 30, 2025) agreed to consider setting up a three-judge Bench as per law to hear a petition challenging the "sweeping and unreasoned forfeiture" of 25 books for "propagating false narrative and secessionism" in Jammu and Kashmir. The petition was filed by former Air Vice Marshal Kapil Kak; Dr. Sumantra Bose, whose two books have been forfeited; author Dr. Radha Kumar; and former Chief Information Commissioner Wajahat Habibullah. They were represented by advocates Vrinda Grover, Adil Pandit, Soutik Banerjee and Devika Tulsiani. M Grover mentioned the plea for early hearing.5.

The petitioners have also prayed for the return of all confiscated copies of the books.

In their petition, the authors and public figures contend that the impugned order is arbitrary, sweeping, and unreasoned, failing to meet the legal requirements under Section 98 BNSS.

They argue that the notification does not identify any specific portions of the books to demonstrate how they allegedly propagate secessionist narratives, nor does it provide a reasoned basis for forfeiture.

"The conspectus of the 25 books pertains largely to the socio-political life of Kashmir and the myriad political struggles interwoven into the cultural history of the valley. These books, most of which are works of academia, serve as records in



the discipline of history," the petition said.

"It is settled law that an administrative or quasi-judicial order having civil consequences must disclose reasons which must form part of the order it-

self, reasons cannot be Supplied at a later stage," the petition submitted.

The impugned notification states that "systematic dissemination of false narratives and secessionist literature" has con-

tributed to youth radicalisation in J&K by glorifying terrorism, vilifying security forces, distorting historical facts, and promoting alienation.

It declares the listed books as "forfeited" under Section 98 BNSS, alleging that they "excite secessionism and endanger the sovereignty and integrity of India", thereby attracting provisions of Sections 152, 196, and 197 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS).

The list of 25 books includes works by scholars and writers such as Sumantra Bose, A.G. Noorani, Arundhati Roy, Seema Kazi, Hafsa Kanjwal, and Victoria Schofield, many of which are published by leading academic presses like Oxford University Press, Stanford University Press, and Routledge.

43 Days On, Shopian Woman's Family Awaits Post-Mortem Report

Kin Say She Had Warned Police Before Death, Seek Fair Probe

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: More than six weeks after the death of a 35-year-old woman at her in-laws' home in Takibal Reban, Zainapora, Shopian, the family alleges that the investigation has made little headway and the post-mortem report is yet to be received.

The deceased, identified as Urfi Jan, wife of Showkat Ahmad Lone, was reportedly brought dead to Sub-District Hospital Yaripora on the night of the incident in mid-August. While her in-laws informed the family that she had suffered a heart attack, her relatives have alleged foul play, pointing to a history of domestic violence.

Soon after, her body was shifted to District Hospital Shopian for medico-legal formalities. Authorities, including the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Zainapora, confirmed that an inquiry had been initiated, and officials collected evidence at the spot. The case sparked protests in her native Harnag, Anantnag, where relatives and locals blocked the Anantnag-Qazigund highway, demanding justice.

Adding to the family's suspicions, they said that just days before her death, Urfi had sub-



The accused are behind the bars. Once the post-mortem report ascertains the cause of death, further legal proceedings will follow,"

mitted a written application at a local police station stating that her in-laws should be held responsible if anything untoward happened to her.

Forty-three days later, the family claims they have not

been contacted for evidence. "The police haven't even asked us for details or statements we have. How can an investigation move forward like this?" her sister Insha told Kashmir Observer.

Her brother, Gowher Ahmad alleged that the CCTV footage from SDH Yaripora, where Urfi was taken, was never provided. "We were told there was a technical error and that only the footage from that night is missing. How is that possible?" he asked.

The family further said that Urfi's husband had been married twice before. She left behind a three-year-old daughter who is unwell, they added.

When contacted, DSP Zainapora Waseem Ahmad said the investigation is still underway and the reports have been sent to the concerned authorities. "The accused are behind the bars. Once the post-mortem report ascertains the cause of death, further legal proceedings will follow," he said.

The family, however, expressed frustration at the delay, demanding that the probe be expedited. "We only want a fair investigation and justice for our daughter," her brother, Gowher Ahmad said.

CM Inaugurates 15 Water Supply Schemes In Anantnag

Says Pending Payments Have Burdened Contractors, Service Providers



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Anantnag: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday inaugurated and dedicated fifteen water supply schemes across Anantnag district, constructed at a cost of ₹63.97 crore.

The schemes, including Hardu Shichan, Dawoodpora Tilwanipora Kamad, Achabal Town, Andoo Pushroo, Deethu Khul, Shergund Aho Paisan, Ranipora Chohar, Gadval, Kasana Mohalla, Narsangri Kachwan, Laigripora, Sangam Sethar, Pushkreeri, Bakervial Basti Chek I, and Shalgan GB, will provide safe and filtered drinking water to 24 villages and one town.

Addressing a gathering at Achabal, the Chief Minister emphasized his government's commitment to fulfilling citizens' expectations. "Today, we have handed over 15 water supply schemes to the people. And clean drinking water, filtered water would

be delivered to your homes. The schemes that are left, we will complete those schemes as well," he said.

Omar Abdullah also highlighted the challenges his administration inherited, including thousands of crores of pending payments that had burdened contractors and service providers. "This is not my fault or Mr. Rana's fault. We got this situation in inheritance. But we never made an excuse for this... We will present ourselves to you only after we do our work. This is my promise to you," he declared.

The Chief Minister reiterated that development would not be limited to water supply alone and assured citizens that other sectors such as education, health, roads, industry, tourism, and social welfare would also see progress. He further touched upon political aspirations, stating that the restoration of statehood will be pursued through democratic and peaceful means.

After LAB, KDA Suspends Talks With Centre

Demand Release Of Wangchuk, Judicial Probe Into Leh Firing

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) on Tuesday said it will not participate in talks with the Centre till climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and others arrested in Leh are released and a judicial probe into the firing is ordered.

Addressing a press conference here, KDA co-chairman Asgar Ali Karbalai also demanded a judicial inquiry into the firing by the security forces during a shut-

down in Leh on September 24.

KDA is a body of leaders from Kargil – one of the two districts in Ladakh – which, along with Apex Body Leh, is in negotiations with the Centre for statehood for the Union Territory

"We are constantly in touch with Apex Body Leh ... We will not participate in the talks with the Centre till Sonam Wangchuk is released, arrests are stopped, those arrested are released, and a judicial probe is ordered," Karbalai said.

"KDA dismisses all allegations of the UT administration and MHA, and we want to tell them that Sonam Wangchuk, who is a hero of the country, should be immediately released," Karbalai said.

The leader also condemned Ladakhis being called "anti-nationals" by certain people.

"We want to tell the government of India we don't need a certificate from anyone. We have sacrificed our lives for the country. Stop portraying Ladakhis as

anti-national," he said.

Ladakh MP Mohamad Haneefa also said the locals were upset with the denunciatory term being used for them.

On Monday, Apex Body Leh announced suspension of talks with the Centre until a judicial inquiry into the police firing is constituted and all activists, including Wangchuk, are released unconditionally.

Its chairman, Thupstan Chhewang, and co-chairman, Chering Dorjay, said the restoration of a

"conductive atmosphere" in Ladakh was necessary before resuming dialogue.

Four people were killed and scores of others were injured in clashes between protesters and security personnel, while over 50 people were taken into custody for their alleged involvement in rioting on September 24.

Activist Sonam Wangchuk, the main face of the agitation, was also detained under the stringent NSA and lodged in a jail in Rajasthan's Jodhpur.

J&K Bank Bids Farewell To Two Senior DGMs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank Tuesday bid a warm farewell to two of its senior officers – Manju Gupta and Satish Kumar – who superannuated from the services of the Bank as Deputy General Managers (DGMs) after serving the Bank for 36 years. Manju Gupta was last posted as DGM (Government Business) at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters, and Satish Kumar retired as DGM at Zonal Office Jammu.

MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee chaired the farewell function organised at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General Managers, Deputy General Managers, and other senior officers of the Bank.

While acknowledging their contributions to the Bank's growth, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee laud-



ed the commitment and professionalism of both officers. He said, "The professional integrity, commitment and gentle approach of both these officers has left a strong impression on their colleagues, which is worth emulating for our future leaders."

While wishing both officers a fulfilling post-retirement life, the MD & CEO emphasized the importance of Bank's leadership-band in shaping the institution's future. He further said, "On behalf of the J&K Bank family, I thank you wholeheartedly for your dedicated service and wish you and your families good health and happiness in the years ahead."

Teacher Suspended In Rajouri Over Alleged Misconduct With Female Student

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: A government school teacher in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir has been suspended following allegations of misconduct with a female student, officials said on Tuesday.

The incident sparked protests from students at the Government Higher Secondary School in Kakora, prompting senior officials to rush to the school. Tehsildar Manjakote, Jazia Qazmi, said, "I came here after hearing about the incident involving allegations of misconduct by a teacher, which triggered protests from students."

The teacher, identified as Ajaz Ahmed, has been suspended by an order issued by the Chief Education Officer (CEO), Rajouri,

under the Jammu and Kashmir Government Employees (Conduct) Rules. During the suspension period, he will be attached to the office of the Zonal Education Officer, Khwas, and will receive subsistence allowance as per rules.

The CEO stated that the allegations were of a "grave nature, directly affecting the conduct, integrity, and reputation of a government servant," and that immediate administrative action was necessary to ensure a free and fair inquiry while safeguarding the interests of the institution and the student community.

An inquiry into the matter has been ordered, with the suspension aimed at preventing the teacher from influencing the investigation or tampering with witnesses.

Embezzlement In Cow-shelter Ex-Jammu Mayor Among 10 Booked

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A senior BJP leader and former mayor of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Chander Mohan Gupta along with nine others were booked in a case related to alleged embezzlement in a private cow-shelter here, a senior lawyer said on Tuesday.

The 10 persons are facing charges of theft of 13 cows and 24 calves besides misappropriation of Rs 97 lakhs of 'Hare Krishna Gaushtala' located at Top Sher Khania in Jammu, the lawyer said.

He said the information about registration of the case under various sections of BNS against the accused was intimated by Bakshi Nagar SHO to the court of Judicial Magistrate First Class (Munsiff), Jammu Rekha Sharma.

The SHO, who was fac-

ing contempt of court action, for not registering the case on the directions of the court earlier, said the investigation of the instant case is being conducted by ASI Ashok Kumar.

The case owes its origin to a complaint lodged by Rohit Bali, General Secretary of Hare Krishna Gaushtala Charitable Trust, alleging theft of 37 bovine animals and misappropriation of huge amounts of money, the lawyer said.

He moved to the court after all his attempts to register a case against the accused failed last year.

The court of JMFC (Munsiff), in an order in February this year directed for investigation of the case but the police did not register an FIR and accordingly Bali filed a contempt petition against the Station house officer on June 6.

Ladakh DGP's Video Digitally Altered: PIB

A viral video, in which Ladakh Director General of Police S D Singh is seen claiming that activist Sonam Wangchuk was arrested on directions of the defence minister, is deepfake, the Press Information Bureau said on Tuesday.

It said the DGP has made no such statement.

"A digitally altered video of Ladakh DGP Dr S D Singh is circulating on social media, in which he is shown making claims that Sonam Wangchuk was arrested on directions of the defence minister, without any evidence," the PIB's Fact Check unit said.

"Beware of such AI-generated videos shared with the intent to mislead public and cause confusion and panic," it said.

The PIB Fact Check unit further advised people to stay vigilant, always verify content before sharing, and help curb the spread of misinformation. (PTI)

CS Directs JKSSB To Fill 1,500 MTS Posts

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Tuesday reviewed the overall functioning of the General Administration Department (GAD) at the Civil Secretariat, emphasizing time-bound reforms, transparency, and efficiency across government departments.

During the meeting, which included administrative secretaries of all departments, Dulloo directed the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) to fill 1,500 Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) vacancies within fixed timelines. He stressed that timely recruitment is critical for improving efficiency at the grassroots level and urged both the JKSSB and the Public Service Commission to expedite recruitment processes at all stages.

The Chief Secretary underscored the importance of a mission-oriented approach, asking officials to work with innovation, efficiency, and public trust. He highlighted the need to leverage technology by making the framing and amendment of recruitment rules fully online to ensure transparency and eliminate delays.

Recognizing the importance of continuous skill development, Dulloo instructed the creation of a dedicated Capacity Building Unit (CBU) under Mission Karmayogi, aimed at training and upskilling employees to foster a culture of accountability and efficiency.

He also stressed proactive disclosure of information under the RTI norms, timely disposal of pending RTI cases, and streamlining Departmental Promotions and Service matters, including Regular Departmental Action (RDA) cases.

On citizen-centric governance, the Chief Secretary directed the development of the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) portal within a week to act as a single-window platform for monitoring the delivery of public services, reducing delays, and ensuring accountability.

Dulloo further called for accelerating compassionate appointments for the kin of deceased employees under SRO-43 and the newly christened Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS), directing concerned authorities to present cases before designated committees for timely clearance. Observer News Service

Hope Trump's Plan Leads To Freedom For Palestinians: Mirwaiz

Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Tuesday welcomed US President Donald Trump's 20-point plan for ending the conflict in Palestine but called for a fair resolution that will end the decades of occupation.

He expressed hope that the plan would lead to justice and freedom for Palestinians.

"While the initiative of President Trump's 20-point plan is welcome, as it looks to end the war and genocide of Palestinians, people of Palestine need a fair that ends occupation and decades of suffering," the Mirwaiz said in a post on X.

"Let us hope it leads to justice, dignity, and freedom of the Palestinian people," he added. (KO Web Desk)

J&K Seeks New Commissioner For Persons With Disabilities

In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir government has initiated the process for appointing a Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

The Department of Social Welfare has begun the process by inviting applications from eligible candidates for the post.

This development comes after the term of the previous Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities ended this month. (Observer News Service)

4 Booked Under PIT NDPS Act In Baramulla

Four habitual drug offenders were booked under the stringent PIT NDPS Act in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, police said on Tuesday.

After preparing detailed dossiers and getting necessary approvals, detention orders were issued and the four men were sent to District Jail, Poonch and Central Jail, Kot-Balwal.

Police in Sopore have booked four habitual and notorious narcotics offenders under the stringent Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (PIT NDPS), a police spokesperson said.

The offenders have a proven history of repeated involvement in drug trafficking cases, he said.

He identified the offenders as Owais Bashir Shikari, resident of Sher Colony Sopore, Saraju-Din Parray, resident of Parraypora Hadipora, Waseem Ahmad Mir, resident of Aadipora Sopore, and Imtiyaz Ahmad Dhoobi, resident of Dangiwa Rabiabad. (Observer News Service)

Nobel Laureates Inspire Graduates at KIIT Convocation

Partha Chatterjee

Kolkatta: The 21st Annual Convocation of KIIT DU concluded on Sunday, with the conferment of degrees to as many as 9,464 students, including 7,235 Bachelor's, 2,034 Master's, and 195 Ph.D. degrees. The event was held over three days for the first time in the University's history to accommodate the large number of graduating students and their families.

The convocation was graced by distinguished personalities, including Prof. Mohan Munasinghe, Nobel Laureate from Sri Lanka; H.E. Ouided Bouchamaoui, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate from Tunisia and Dr. Justice Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, Judge & Former President of the International Court of Justice.

Honorary Doctorate Degrees (Honoris Causa) were conferred upon Dr. Fidel Reyes Lee, Rector and Member of Congress, Republic of Guatemala; Dr. Huzaifa Khorakiwala, Executive Director of Wockhardt Ltd. and Global Humanitarian Advocate; Mr. Norbert Sauer, Chairman of the Archaeological Park, Germany; Mr. Sunjoy Hans, Founder Chairman of the Lalchnd Group; S. K. Sachdeva, Chairman & Editor of Competition Success Review, besides Ouided Bouchamaoui.

Addressing the students Prof Munasinghe spoke on the urgent challenges of sustainability and peace in a changing world during his convocation. Highlighting the "nexus of poverty, inequity, and resource shortage,"

Justice Yusuf urged young



graduates to embrace their role as global peace-builders and voices of justice. He called upon the KIIT graduates to "build bridges and structures of trust" across gender, caste, region, and religion, to stand up when "injustice whispers in darkness," and to carry compassion for the suffering and unheard," he said.

In her speech, HE Bouchamaoui expressed her gratitude for the honorary doctorate conferred on her, saying he felt privileged to join the ranks of 23 other Nobel laureates who have visited KIIT.

Several speakers hailed the

vision of Dr Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS in developing both the institutes into world class campuses. Dr. Khorakiwala said KIIT and KISS stand as towers of excellence in education and social service.

Prof Samanta, is a visionary leader and humanitarian whose life exemplifies service, resilience, and compassion," stated Mr. Sachdeva. Dr. Lee remarked that the honour symbolizes the bond between India and Guatemala in education, peace, and justice.

"The graduating class of

2025 represents not only academic excellence, but also the courage and resolve to be torchbearers of change," said Ashok Kumar Parija, Chancellor, KIIT-DU. Prof. (Dr.) S. K. Acharya, Pro-Chancellor, also addressed the students, advising them to inculcate the value of constant learning as education does not come to an end with the award of degrees. KIIT Vice Chancellor Prof Saranjit Singh, Registrar, Prof J R Mohanty, department and school heads along with thousands of staff and students attended the three-day event.

Marriage To Minor No Shield From Rape Charges: HC

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai-The Bombay High Court has refused to quash a rape case against a 29-year-old man, noting that he cannot be absolved of charges under the POCSO Act merely because he married the minor girl and now they have a child together.

Justices Urmila Joshi Phalke and Nandesh Deshpande of the HC's Nagpur bench, in the order passed on September 26, refused to accept the man's contention that he was in a consensual relationship with the 17-year-old girl and had registered the marriage only when she turned 18.

The court said factual consent in a relationship between or with minors is immaterial under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The court rejected the application filed by the man and his family members seeking that the FIR lodged against them in July this year by the Akola police be quashed.

They were booked under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, POCSO Act and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

As per the prosecution, the victim was 17 years old when she got married and gave birth to a child in May this year.

The victim was married off to the accused after her family learnt that she had been sexually assaulted by him.

The accused claimed he was in a consensual relationship with the girl and that their marriage was legally



registered after she turned 18.

He further claimed that if he is prosecuted and punished, then the victim and their child would suffer, and they wouldn't be accepted in society.

The girl also appeared before the court and said she has no objection to the FIR being quashed.

The bench in its order said the primary objective of the POCSO Act provisions is to protect all children below the age of 18 from sexual assault, harassment and child pornography and to provide a supportive environment for such victims.

"The POCSOA was introduced to protect children," HC said, adding that the question of what should be the age group for adolescent love is pending before the Supreme Court.

In the present case, though the accused and the victim girl say the marriage was performed as per Muslim rites

and religion, but the fact remains that she was below 18 years of age at the time, the HC said.

The victim was not 18 years old even at the time when she delivered her baby, it noted.

The accused was 27 years old when he got married and he ought to have understood that he should wait till the girl attains 18 years of age, the court said.

Merely because the girl has now given birth to a child, "we are of the opinion that the illegal acts of the accused persons cannot be brushed aside," the bench said.

"The POCSOA is gender neutral and criminalises sexual activity by those below the age of 18. Under the said Act, factual consent in a relationship between minors is immaterial," the HC said.

It refused to quash the FIR against the man and his family members, noting that it was not a fit case to do so.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Crime Cases

the period, SLL cases registered an upward trend. From 4,228 cases in 2021, SLL cases rose to 4,282 in 2022 and further to 4,468 in 2023, with a charge-sheeting rate of 90.7 percent. The report also recorded that cognizable crimes stood at 184.3 per lakh in 2023, with an overall charge-sheeting rate of 79.1 percent.

In 2023, Jammu and Kashmir registered 84 murder cases involving 101 victims, reflecting a crime rate of 0.6 per lakh. The UT also reported 1,004 cases of kidnapping involving 1,010 persons, 231 cases of rape, 1,352 cases of assault against women, and 70 cases of sexual harassment.

The NCRB report underlined that no sedition cases were filed in J&K during 2023. However, 425 cases of rioting involving 655 persons were recorded, though there were no incidents classified as communal, religious, or sectarian violence.

Road accidents continued to claim lives, with 639 out of 673 negligence-related cases linked to such incidents, including hit-and-run. The UT also saw nine dowry cases, 44 cases of abetment to suicide, 438 attempts to murder, and 434 cases of attempted suicide in the year.

The figures, officials said, reflect both the downward trend in conventional IPC crimes and the simultaneous rise in SLL-related violations, suggesting a shift in the crime profile of the Union Territory.

J&K Tops UTs In

recorded the highest number of cyber crimes against women among all Union Territories, with 43 cases reported. These included 39 incidents of transmitting sexually explicit content and 4 cases of blackmailing or morphing images of victims, surpassing Delhi, which recorded 36 cyber crime cases.

Kidnapping remained the most common crime against women, with 895 cases in 2023. Domestic violence (cruelty by husband) followed with 524 cases, while rape cases dropped from 315 in 2021 to 231 in 2023, including one minor victim. Attempted rape cases fell dramatically, from 1,400 in 2021 to just 2 cases in 2023.

The NCRB report revealed that 427 women were abducted to force them into marriage, including 10 minors. There were 7 cases of human trafficking involving 31 victims, and only one case of rape and murder was registered in 2023. Notably, there were no dowry deaths or acid attacks reported during the year.

Assault with intent to outrage modesty was reported in 1,542 cases, and 31 cases of abetment to suicide involving 39 women victims were recorded.

In terms of domestic violence rates, Jammu and Kashmir stood fourth among Union Territories, with 8.1 cases per lakh population. Delhi topped the list at 42.1 cases per lakh, followed by Chandigarh (13.4) and Lakshadweep (9.1).

While the drop in overall crimes against women shows progress, the rise in cyber crimes highlights growing online vulnerabilities, making digital safety a critical concern for authorities and the public alike.

Those Who Disrespect

among young people.

During the ceremony, Sinha interacted with the players and handed over trophies and cash prizes to the winning and top-performing teams. In the finals, J&K Bank defeated the Kashmir Avengers Football Club to emerge as champions of the tournament.

The closing event was attended by DGP Nalin Prabhat; S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; ADGP Armed Anand Jain; senior police and civil administration officials; members of the Football Association and clubs; prominent sports personalities; and a large number of youth from across the region.

Through the event, the Lieutenant Governor underscored the importance of remembering the sacrifices of the martyrs, promoting unity, and ensuring that the spirit of service and patriotism continues to inspire both the forces and the public.

Youth Must Unite

leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government is committed to harnessing the potential of youth and providing them the resources to achieve their full potential.

"Sewa Parv is preparing the young demography to face future challenges with a positive mindset. The creative and constructive spirit will make them future leaders, inventors, and builders, and they will shape India's growth trajectory," he said, urging students to take leadership roles and set clear goals for nation-building.

He further emphasized the need for unity and vigilance, calling upon the young generation and all sections of society to remain alert against divisive forces that threaten national harmony.

During the event, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated students who excelled in the art programme and called for making the initiative a regular feature to nurture creativity and civic responsibility among the youth.

The valedictory function was attended by Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Shruti Awasthi, Regional Director, IGNCIA; along with senior officials, heads of educational institutions, and a large number of students.

New Timings For

be implemented with effect from October 3," the order reads.

Tri-Services Synergy

as an indication that the government was determined to implement the much talked about theatreisation plan.

The defence minister's remarks came over a month after Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh suggested that the armed forces must not come under any pressure to roll out theater commands, and proposed the setting up of a joint planning and coordination centre in Delhi comprising top military brass to ensure tri-services synergy.

The defence minister argued that "compartmentalisation" must give way to open sharing and collective learning in today's security climate.

"Our government's objective is to further promote jointness and integration among the tri-services. This is not only a matter of policy but a matter of survival in the fast-changing security environment," he underlined.

Singh highlighted how the Indian Air Force's Integrated Air Command and Control System worked in unison with the Army's Akashteer air defence system and the Indian Navy's Trigun, making it a joint operational backbone during the May 7 to 10 conflict between India and Pakistan.

Underlining the importance of synergy among the three services, the defence minister said the path to jointness lies in dialogue, understanding and respect for traditions, adding the services must honour each other's challenges while building new systems together.

"During Operation Sindoor, the tri-services synergy produced a unified, real-time operational picture. It empowered commanders to take timely decisions, enhanced situational awareness, and reduced the risk of fratricide," he said.

"This is the living example of jointness delivering decisive results and this success must become the benchmark for all future operation," he said.

Singh was speaking at a seminar organised by the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The defence minister said that the evolving character of warfare, combined with the complex interplay of traditional and non-traditional threats, makes jointness a core operational necessity rather than a matter of choice. "Jointness has become a fundamental requirement for our national security and operational effectiveness today." "While each of our services possesses the capacity to respond independently, the interconnected nature of land, sea, air, space and cyberspace makes collaborative strength the true guarantor of victory," he added.

Singh recalled the recent Combined Commanders' Conference held in Kolkatta where Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself had underlined the importance of jointness and integration.

The defence minister explained that over decades, each service had developed operational practices, inspection frameworks and audit systems based on their distinct experiences across geographies.

He paid tributes to the Armed Forces' resilience in operating in diverse conditions from snow-clad peaks to deserts, dense forests, deep seas, and open skies while pointing out that such hard-won knowledge often remained confined within a single service.

"If the Army developed something, it remained with the Army. If the Navy or Air Force developed something, it remained within their own walls. This compartmentalisation has limited the cross-sharing of valuable lessons," he observed.

The defence minister urged that in today's security climate, such compartmentalisation must give way to open sharing and collective learning.

"The world is changing rapidly. Threats have become far more complex and we must acknowledge that no single service can operate in isolation. Interoperability and jointness are now essential for success in any conflict," he said.

After sharp differences on the theatreisation plan was on full display at a military conclave in Mhow last month, especially after the Air Chief Marshal's remarks, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan said the "dissonance" in the military on the proposed tri-services commands will be addressed considering the "best national interest".

The government had announced the theatreisation plan in 2019 to ensure greater synergy among the three services. However, no visible forward movement has been made to implement it.

ECI To Conduct

last date for withdrawal of candidatures is October 16.

Voting will be held on October 24 between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, the notification states. Counting of votes will take place on the same day at 5:00 PM.

The four Rajya Sabha seats were previously held by Mir Muhammad Fayaz, Shamsheer Singh, Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Nazir Ahmed Laway.(KNO)

Leh Sees Relief

relaxed from 10 AM to 2 PM and subsequently extended till 5 PM. With the situation remaining largely peaceful, no restrictions were imposed after 5 PM, although shopkeepers voluntarily closed their establishments at the end of the relaxation period. While markets were busy and vehicles moved freely, educational institutions remained closed.

Additional District Magistrate Ghulam Mohammed had ordered the opening of grocery stores, essential services, hardware, and vegetable shops during the relaxation period.

Police officials said forces remain deployed in sensitive areas to maintain law and order. Mobile internet services continue to be suspended in Leh town, and prohibitory orders banning assembly of five or more persons remain in force in other parts of the Union Territory, including Kargil.

Meanwhile, the Army's Northern Commander reviewed operational preparedness of troops in the Union Territory, underscoring the tense situation in the region.

Internet Suspended Until Oct 3

Internet services, including mobile data and broadband, continued to be suspended. The Ministry of Home Affairs has ordered a suspension of mobile internet and public Wi-Fi in Leh district from 6 pm on September 29 to October 3 under the Telecommunication Act, 2023, citing public safety concerns. Police, CRPF and ITBP personnel maintained a heavy presence to ensure order.

LG Appeals for Calm

Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta, who has been chairing daily high-level security review meetings, appealed to residents to maintain peace, calling it "the cornerstone of development." He urged citizens to resist divisive influences and praised the people of Leh for their restraint.

He praised residents for showing restraint and pledged to address grievances through dialogue. The LG also instructed officials to step up intelligence gathering, community engagement, and quick resolution of public concerns to build trust between people and the administration.

Detentions and Political Reactions

The curfew was imposed on September 24 after violent protests during a shutdown called by a constituent of the Leh Apex Body (LAB), seeking talks with the Centre on demands for statehood and extension of the Sixth Schedule to Ladakh.

More than 60 people, including two councilors and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk—detained under the National Security Act and lodged at Jodhpur jail—were taken into custody following the incident.

Meanwhile, the Ladakh BJP called for a thorough investigation into the clashes to ensure accountability and justice, while urging the release of those charged with minor offences. The party appealed to citizens to uphold peace, unity, and harmony, and to avoid falling prey to misinformation.

Army Commander's Visit

Amid the unrest, Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of

the Northern Command, visited forward areas in Ladakh to review operational preparedness.

During his tour of the Siachen Brigade, Eastern Ladakh units, and the Karakoram Pass, Lt Gen Sharma praised the morale and commitment of troops. At Siachen Base Camp, he also interacted with winners of the National Flag Quiz and flagged off a mountaineering expedition to a peak over 7,000 meters, commending the team's spirit.

On September 27, Sharma met with LG Gupta to discuss the volatile situation in Leh, with both stressing the importance of close coordination between the civil administration and armed forces to maintain stability.

As Leh cautiously returns to routine under curfew relaxation, tensions remain high with internet restrictions, detentions, and the presence of security forces. Authorities are balancing between restoring normalcy and ensuring law and order, while political voices and military readiness highlight the broader challenges confronting Ladakh.

Will Resign Than

demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule status. Those who once welcomed the move now say it was wrong," he said.

Omar concluded by stressing that the fight for statehood will continue, but strictly within the framework of the Constitution and law. "How much blood of youth do you want to see being spilled? We will fight, but democratically and peacefully. I am not ready to bring destruction to the homes of the people here," he said.

JKP Fight Terror,

have sacrificed their lives in service. "Four personnel were killed this year in an operation in Kathua district. The families of the martyrs have received financial assistance, including ex-gratia and relief through state and central schemes, banks, and police welfare funds," he said.

Each martyr's family receives Rs 1 lakh in direct support, along with additional assistance for daughters' marriages and children's education, including private schooling up to Class 12. Martyrs' children also have access to free education in police public schools and scholarships for higher studies, including postgraduate, medical, and doctoral courses. In 2025, five family members of martyrs were appointed to government service.

Highlighting youth initiatives, the DGP said the police regularly organise sporting events, including upcoming cricket tournaments in Kathua and Kishtwar, along with past events like Jashn-e-Dal, Pedal for Peace, Marathon Run for Peace, and the "Run for Fun" in Jammu. The force has also hosted national-level football, hockey, and water sports championships.

On the rehabilitation front, the police run 10 drug de-addiction centres across the Union Territory, treating over 200 inpatients this year. Legal action continues against drug traffickers, but rehabilitation efforts remain a priority.

DGP Prabhat said 981 students were sent on educational and cultural tours across the country this year, up from 781 last year, to expose youth to national progress and diversity. He also acknowledged police athletes who have won medals at national and international levels.

He thanked officers for organising the tournament and appreciated the support of the Lieutenant Governor. "J&K Police is committed to its responsibilities. We will continue our work," he added.

BCCI Raises Strong Objection Over Asia Cup Trophy Fiasco; Naqvi Defiant

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: The BCCI on Tuesday raised "strong objection" in the Asian Cricket Council's AGM over India not being presented the winner's trophy of the Asia Cup but the body's chairman Mohsin Naqvi remained defiant by "still not agreeing" to it.

India were not awarded the trophy on Sunday after their refusal to take the silverware from Naqvi, who is also a minister in the Pakistan government and chairman of the country's cricket board. He also has a pronounced anti-India political position.

BCCI vice President Rajeev Shukla and former treasurer Ashish Shelar were the Board representatives in the AGM here.

The Asia Cup trophy remains in the ACC office and it is still not clear when it will duly reach the members of the winning team.

"India raised strong objection in the ACC meeting today on not handing over of the trophy and the drama by ACC chairman



(Naqvi) during the post-match award event," an ACC source told PTI.

However, the source said Naqvi "still hasn't agreed to give the trophy".

"Shukla and Shelar categorically said that the trophy should be handed over to the winning team. It is an ACC trophy and doesn't belong to an individual. Naqvi did not say no to it, he was

passing the buck," the source added.

"Naqvi insisted that the matter should not be discussed in the AGM and brought up separately at some other time. The single point agenda of the meeting was to elect a vice chairman but even that was deferred."

Naqvi, it is learnt, did not congratulate the BCCI members for India winning the Asia Cup but

was forced by Shelar to formally praise the Suryakumar Yadav-led side's unbeaten performance.

"When the meeting started, chairperson (Naqvi), in his brief opening remark, congratulated Nepal for winning against the West Indies and Mongolia for becoming an ACC member and concluded.

"That was when Shelar raised the point that 'why are you not

congratulating India for the Asia Cup title?' He forced Naqvi to congratulate and the PCB chief agreed and duly congratulated," the source went on.

The BCCI will take the matter to the ICC which will have its meeting in November.

"Shukla and Shelar argued that the ACC should keep trophy in the office and BCCI would get it collected. They said 'we want the trophy as legitimate winners'. Naqvi was passing the buck not saying no at the same time.

"It was made clear that the BCCI will complain to ICC and Shelar briefly left the meeting," said the source who quoted Naqvi as saying that the latter felt "like a cartoon" and was embarrassed while waiting for the victorious Indian team at the dais.

The two teams played each other thrice in the tournament with India winning each time, including the final. India maintained a 'no handshake policy' with Pakistan players during the event, infuriating the PCB.

J&K Bank Wins 20th J&K Police Martyr's Memorial Football Tournament



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank FC defeated Kashmir Avengers FC 2-0 to clinch the 20th J&K Police Martyr's Memorial Football Tournament title on Tuesday at TRC Ground here.

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also addressed the closing ceremony of the tourney. The LG hailed the service and sacrifice of J&K Police and their crucial role in security, stability and safe environment for progress and prosperity of J&K.

The J&K Football Association congratulated J&K Bank, calling the club "the torchbearers of J&K football."

J&K Bank stars who lit up the championship included Aakib Reshi, who won the Highest Goalscorer Of The Tournament award. Adnan, Farhan and Shabir also earned accolades for their brilliant

performance.

Meanwhile, earlier in the day, J&K Police XI scripted a sensational victory over Downtown Heroes FC at TRC Ground to secure 3rd Place in this prestigious tournament.

Despite trailing 3-0 at half-time, the spirited J&K Police side staged a remarkable comeback in the second half, scoring three brilliant goals to level the contest 3-3 at full time. The electrifying clash was finally decided in a tense penalty shoot-out, where J&K Police held their nerves to seal a memorable win.

Muzamil Farooq, the outstanding goalkeeper of J&K Police, was awarded Man of the Match for his brilliant saves and composure under pressure.

In a statement, the JKFA hailed the efforts of all ranks of J&K Police for organising the tournament.

3rd Junior Asian Pencak Silat C'ship Concludes In Srinagar; Vietnam Overall Champions

Adil Khan

SRINAGAR: The curtains came down on the 3rd Junior Asian Pencak Silat Championship 2025 with a spectacular closing ceremony at the Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex, Srinagar, celebrating six days of intense competition, cultural exchange and sporting excellence.

The championship, held from September 25 to 30, witnessed the participation of over 300 athletes from 11 Asian nations—India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Kazakhstan.

The closing ceremony dazzled the audience with vibrant cultural performances, reflecting the region's rich heritage. Adding a local touch, the winners' medals were presented in exquisitely crafted Kashmiri papier-mâché boxes, while papier-mâché mementos were gifted to the heads of foreign delegations.

Officials from PERSILAT (International Pencak Silat Federation) lauded the flawless organisation by the Indian Pencak Silat Federation and

MEDAL TALLY

- VIETNAM: 8 GOLD, 3 SILVER, 6 BRONZE (OVERALL CHAMPION TROPHY)
- PHILIPPINES: 8 GOLD, 1 SILVER, 6 BRONZE
- INDONESIA: 8 GOLD, 1 SILVER, 3 BRONZE
- INDIA: 7 GOLD, 18 SILVER, 26 BRONZE
- KAZAKHSTAN: 4 GOLD, 5 SILVER, 12 BRONZE
- UZBEKISTAN: 1 GOLD, 4 SILVER, 4 BRONZE
- THAILAND: 4 SILVER, 2 BRONZE
- NEPAL: 5 BRONZE

praised Srinagar's emergence as a new hub for international martial arts.

Special awards were presented for fair play, best performance, and most promising athletes, further enriching the spirit of the championship.

The medals and trophies were distributed by the Chief Guest, Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to CM in presence of Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul; Chief Sports Officer, Anissa Nabi; and DSO Javid ur Rehman and Chief Coach Irfan Aziz.



Seva Parv Day Showcases Sports & Career Guidance Programs In Budgam

Dabirah Hassan

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam carried forward the Seva Parv Activity Calendar with another active day of programs across the district on Tuesday. The fortnight-long initiative, being observed from September 17 to October 2, continues to receive overwhelming participation and encouragement from students and the community.

Tuesday's highlights included competitions in volleyball, kabaddi, cricket and traditional games, held across all zones of Budgam. Students participated with zeal and discipline, displaying teamwork and sporting spirit while reviving indigenous sports.

In addition, Zones Magam and Budgam

organised special sessions on career pathways in sports, fitness and management, giving students valuable guidance about opportunities in these growing fields. This initiative was well-received as it combined competition with learning for the future.

All activities are being conducted under the supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Budgam, Ghulam Hassan Lone, who remarked that Seva Parv is not only about showcasing sporting skills but also about nurturing aspirations, promoting fitness, and building community bonds.

The Seva Parv Calendar will continue with more initiatives in the coming days and will culminate on October 2, Gandhi Jayanti, with a district-level grand closing.



Selection Trials For Asian Youth Games Bahrain 2025 Held At SKISC



Adil Khan

SRINAGAR: The Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex (SKISC) on Tuesday witnessed the selection trials for the upcoming 3rd Asian Youth Games Bahrain 2025, with athletes from across India participating in the prestigious event.

The Selection Committee, comprising eminent officials—Mohammad Iqbal (Chairman, selection committee), Vinod Kumar (Haryana), Abhay Shrivastava (Madhya Pradesh), Prem Singh Thapa (Odisha), and Aqsa

Gulzar (J&K)—supervised the trials. The selections were carried out on the basis of:

- Previous performances at major international competitions (Asian & World level)
- Achievements at the Junior National Pencak Silat Championship
- Performance during the National Pencak Silat Coaching Camps
- Performance during the final selection trials for the multi-sporting event

Adding further credibility to the process, Sonu Kumar, Ob-

server from the Sports Authority of India (SAI), was present to oversee the proceedings.

The trials were also graced by Irfan Aziz, Chief Coach of India, who encouraged the young athletes and motivated them to excel at the continental level.

Following the selection process, the chosen athletes will undergo an intensive 15-day coaching camp under the guidance of renowned Indonesian foreign coach, Suhud Indranto, aimed at sharpening their skills and preparing them for the international challenge.

J&K Gears Up to Host 69th National School Games, Over 4000 Young Athletes Expected

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: THE Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, is hosting the 69th National School Games, a prestigious national sporting event expected to see participation from over 4000 young athletes from every state and union territory of India. The events will be held across venues in Srinagar and

Jammu commencing in October.

The National School Games, conducted under the aegis of the School Games Federation of India and supported by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, is India's largest school-level multi-sport event. It serves as a fundamental feeder system for national and international sporting competitions, with many of the country's most celebrated athletes having begun their journeys on this

very platform.

The upcoming games will feature competitions in four disciplines: Football, Wushu, Taekwondo, and Table Tennis. Athletes will compete across the Under-14, Under-17, and Under-19 age categories. The event is also expected to be graced by the presence of various dignitaries, policymakers, and iconic figures from the world of Indian sports.

To finalize the arrangements for this major sporting extravaganza, Anuradha Gupta, Director General of the Department of Youth Services and Sports, chaired a detailed meeting with all the convenors of the organizing committee in Srinagar on Tuesday. Elaborating on the preparations, Gupta confirmed the comprehensive schedule for the competitions.

The Football event for Under-19 Boys

will be held from the 6th to the 10th of October at multiple venues including Polo Ground, TRC Srinagar, S.P. College, University of Kashmir, GCOPE Ganderbal, and Green Valley in Srinagar. This will be followed by the Wushu championship for Under-17 Boys and Girls from October 28 to November 1 at the Indoor Sports Complex and Indoor Complex Polo Ground in Srinagar.

District Pulwama Cycle Polo C'ship 2025-26 Concludes

The District Pulwama Cycle Polo Championship 2025-26 concluded at Sports Field Chewikhurd, Pulwama, on Tuesday, witnessing participation of over 120 male and female athletes. The two-day championship was held from September 29 to 30.

The event was inaugurated by Ayoub Sultan Mir, HM UPS Monghama, while Bashir Ahmad, Manager Sports Stadium Pulwama (J&K Sports Council) graced the concluding ceremony as the guest. On the occasion, the chief guest distributed medals and certificates among the winners and participants, accompanied by Mohammad Shafi, Secretary District Pulwama Cycle Polo Association, and Mudasir, Organising Secretary.

The championship was organised by the District Pulwama Cycle Polo Association, under the aegis of the J&K Cycle Polo Association, in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council. (Observer News Service)

YSS Anantnag Organises Street Runs Across Zones Under Seva Parv

The Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag on Tuesday organised a series of Anti-Drug Rallies and Street Runs across all its zones under the banner of Seva Parv. The district-wide campaign aimed to spread awareness among youth about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to encourage them to adopt sports and physical fitness as a healthy way of life.

In every zone, students carried placards and raised powerful slogans such as "Say Yes to Life, No to Drugs", pledging their commitment to building a drug-free society. The rallies and runs were marked by enthusiastic participation, spirited discipline, and strong community involvement.

In Zone Anantnag, a rally from Lal Chowk to Janglat-mandi was held with participation from GHSS Rani-bagh, SRJ Khanabal and MS Mehman Mohalla. In Zone Bijbehara, an Anti-Drug Street Run featured active participation from GHSS Bijbehara and other schools.

Zone Qazigund witnessed a Rally from Eidgah to Upper Bazar with GHSS, BHS, and GMS Qazigund students. Zone Shangus, Street Run at Zonal Headquarters Shangus with energetic student participation.

Similar events were held in Zone Aishmuqam, Zone Bidder, Zone Mattan and Zone Verinag. (Observer News Service)

Sanctorum Sopore Clinches U-17 Girls Premier League Title

Sanctorum School emerged champions of the Under-17 Girls Premier League cricket tournament after edging out Government Boys High School Chankhan by a narrow margin of just two runs in a nail-biting finale played here on Monday.

The inter-school tournament was organised by Terrific Trio Trust and began on September 22, featuring eight school teams competing on a knockout basis.

The week-long event showcased budding female cricket talent from the region, drawing enthusiastic participation and local support.

The final clash kept spectators on edge till the very last ball as Sanctorum held their nerve to secure the coveted trophy. Speaking on the occasion, Terrific Trio Trust Manager Imbisat Abdullah said the tournament was aimed at promoting gender equality in sports and motivating young girls to pursue their passion for cricket.

The winners and runners-up were felicitated with trophies and medals amid loud cheers from students, sports enthusiasts and dignitaries including Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore S.A. Raina, SDPO Sopore Sarfaraz Bashir, former president of Municipal Council Sopore Musarat Kar and others. (KNO)

Kuldeep Kumar Gupta Invited As TCM For Pro Kabaddi League

The General Secretary of J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association and Technical Director of the Asian Kabaddi Federation, Dr. Kuldeep Kumar Gupta, has been invited as a Technical Committee Member for the Pro Kabaddi League Season 12, scheduled to take place in Chennai from September 28 to October 12.

Dr. Gupta, a distinguished personality in the kabaddi fraternity, has previously officiated in Pro Kabaddi League matches at Visakhapatnam and Jaipur, where his technical expertise and contribution were highly appreciated. His consistent involvement in the league underlines his stature as one of the most respected administrators and technical experts in the sport.

Adding further to his long list of achievements, Dr. Gupta has been appointed as a Technical Delegate for the upcoming 3rd Asian Youth Games, to be held in Bahrain in October 2025. His illustrious journey includes officiating as Technical Delegate at the 19th Asian Games (Hangzhou, 2023), 16th Asian Games (Guangzhou, 2010), and 14th Asian Games (Busan, 2002), apart from serving as Technical Official and Jury Member at several National Games. (Observer News Service)

India Score 269/8 v Sri Lanka In Women's World Cup Opener

Half-tons from Amanjot Kaur and Deepti Sharma and their century partnership helped India to a competitive 269/8 in 47 overs, in a rain-truncated ICC Women's World Cup opener against Sri Lanka here on Tuesday.

Amanjot struck 57 off 56 balls while Deepti made run a ball 53 as the two batters weathered the Sri Lankan bowlers, especially spinner Inoka Ranaweera (4/46), to bail India out from a difficult situation at 124/6 in a match reduced to 47 overs per side. The pair also shared a 103-run partnership for the seventh wicket. Opener Pratika Rawal (37) and Harleen Deol (48) were the other key contributors for India. India lost Harleen, Jemimah Rodrigues (0) and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (21) in the 26th over bowled by Ranaweera as she reduced India from 120/2 to 121/5. (PTI)



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