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Heavy Rain, Snow In J&K From Oct 4-7: MeT



Observer News Service

Srinagar: A major weather system is set to impact Jammu and Kashmir later this week, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting widespread rain and snowfall due to an incoming Western Disturbance. The advisory, issued by the IMD's Srinagar office, covers the period from October 4 to 7, with the most intense weather expected from the night of October 5 through the morning of October 7.

According to the advisory sent to regional authorities, including the Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu, the system is expected to cause moderate to heavy rain in the plains and significant snowfall in the higher reaches of Kashmir.

Affected areas may include Anantnag-Pahalgam, Kulgam, Sinthan Pass, Shopian, Pir Ki Gali, Sonamarg-Zojila, Gulmarg, Bandipora-Razdan Pass, and Kupwara-Sadhna Pass. While higher altitudes may see heavy snow accumulation, moderate snowfall could occur in mid-level mountainous regions.

The plains, particularly in the Kashmir Valley, are likely to experience sustained moderate to heavy rainfall. In parts of the Jammu division, isolated locations could receive very heavy downpours, accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, hail, and strong winds ranging between 40-50 km/h, with gusts possibly touching 70 km/h.

Officials have expressed concern over potential disruptions in | [More on P6](#)

9 Dead In Muzaffarabad Protests As Pak Scrambles For Calm

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: At least nine people, including three police officers, have been killed in four days of violent protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, local officials confirmed on Thursday, as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sent a delegation to the region to negotiate with protest leaders.

The unrest erupted on Monday when thousands of demonstrators from nearby towns converged on Muzaffarabad, the regional capital, demanding subsidies



on food, electricity, and other public services. Video footage and local reports showed

violent clashes between protesters affiliated with the Awami Action Committee

Taliban Foreign Minister To Visit India

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: In a significant development foreign minister of Taliban led Afghanistan government Amir Khan Muttaqi is expected to visit India next week, in the first high-level trip from Kabul after conservative group captured power overthrowing the Ashraf Ghani government around four years ago.

The Afghan foreign minister is expected to visit India from October 10, PTI quoting people familiar with the matter reported on Thursday. However, there is no official word on the visit yet.

Muttaqi was listed by the UN Security Council on January 25, 2001, and | [More on P6](#)

Leh Violence: 26 Detainees Granted Bail Calls For Judicial Inquiry Grow Louder

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Calls for a judicial inquiry into the recent violence in Leh, which left four people dead and scores injured, grew stronger on Thursday, with two prominent Buddhist bodies and the Kargil Bar Association pressing for accountability.

Life in Leh, which was under curfew for a week, appeared to be returning to normal as authorities relaxed restrictions for the full day and a local court granted bail to 26 of those detained following | [More on P6](#)

Wangchuk's 'Admirer' Commits Suicide

KO Web Desk

A general council member of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), Stenzin Dorjay, was found dead by hanging at his residence in Skitmag village, around 100 km from Leh town, early Wednesday. LBA president Chering Dorjay Lakruk, who is also co-chairman of the Leh Apex Body, | [More on P6](#)

Inquiry To Conclude In 4 Weeks: Officials

Press Trust Of India

A magisterial inquiry ordered into the September 24 violence in Leh that left four people dead and scores injured would be completed within four weeks, officials said. The inquiry was ordered by the Leh deputy commissioner, who appointed Sub Divisional Magistrate | [More on P6](#)

India, China To Resume Air Services After 5 Yrs

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: After a gap of five years, India and China will resume direct flight services later this month as part of efforts to rebuild their ties that came under severe strain following a border standoff in eastern Ladakh.

The announcement by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came a month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) summit in China's

Tianjin city.

Indian carrier IndiGo and China Eastern will be the first two airlines to resume direct flights between the two countries, people familiar with the development said.

IndiGo said it plans to operate daily flights from Kolkata to Guangzhou from October 26.

The flight services between the two sides were suspended following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. They were not restored in view of the over-four-year border face-off in eastern Ladakh, which ended in October | [More on P6](#)

Congress Eyes RS Seat In J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: The Congress party is expected to stake its claim for one of the four Rajya Sabha seats scheduled for election on October 24, with senior leader Digvijaya Singh set to initiate discussions with alliance partner, National Conference (NC), over the matter.

Top Congress leaders from New Delhi said that Digvijaya Singh, former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, is likely to seek one seat for the party in the Rajya Sabha elections. "He will formally take up the matter with the National Conference," they said, adding that Singh is expected to speak with NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah or Chief Minister Omar Abdullah regarding the issue.

Singh was entrusted by the Congress high command in April this year to oversee the functioning and engage in discussions | [More on P6](#)

PM Modi Turning Mahatma's Dreams Into Reality: LG

'Gandhiji Wanted To See Peace & Prosperity In J&K

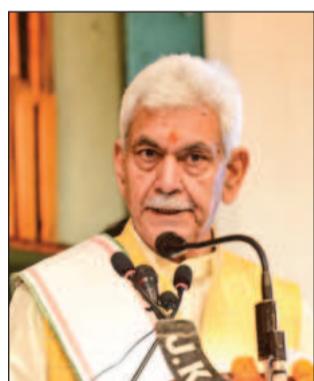
Urges Adoption of Swadeshi, Harmony In Economy

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is turning Mahatma Gandhi's dreams into reality, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Thursday while paying tributes to the Father of the Nation on his 156th birth anniversary in Srinagar.

Addressing the UT-level function, the Lieutenant Governor said Babu's ideals of non-violence, truth, tolerance and compassion remain a source of inspiration for humanity and it was the collective responsibility of society to instill these values in the younger generation.

"We live in a time when global challenges threaten to



undermine peace and stability. We must follow the ideals of Pujya Babu to address contemporary challenges," he said.

Lieutenant Governor said, "Gandhiji wanted to see peace and prosperity in J&K." "He (Gandhiji) had said that

he sees a ray of hope in this land. I pray that J&K emerges as a shining star to show the light to the entire country in these difficult times (1947 partition era).

He urged the youth of J&K to make Gandhian ideals the basis of their lives and contribute actively to the welfare of society. "Our young generation must realize that Babu's J&K is one of peace and prosperity, and they have a responsibility to shape it with their energy and dedication," he said.

Sinha added that the principles of selfless service (sewa) and duties (kartavya) to which Gandhiji was committed will guide the journey of building Viksit Bharat. "With economic prosperity, we are determined to build a | [More on P6](#)

Delhi Govt Abolishes Income Ceiling For KP Migrants

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: The Delhi government has abolished the income ceiling for Kashmiri migrant families, ensuring that all registered households are now eligible for the monthly relief allowance, regardless of their current income.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the move offers a "new ray of hope" for Kashmiri Hindu families who have been displaced for over three decades. She added that relief is not charity but a rightful entitlement arising from historical displacement, and must be granted on humanitarian grounds.

The Chief Minister, along

with Education Minister Ashish Sood, met representatives of the displaced community, heard their concerns, and directed the Revenue Department to implement the change immediately, PTI reported.

Earlier, only families earning below Rs 26,800 per month were eligible for the allowance. With the ceiling removed, all registered families can now access the benefit. Under the scheme, a maximum of four family members are entitled to Rs 3,250 per person per month, totaling Rs 13,000 per household.

A Special Opportunity Scheme has also been introduced, allowing | [More on P6](#)

Will Respond Aggressively To Any Pak Misadventure: DM

Says India Knows How To Defend Against Terror, Border Threats

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday warned Pakistan against any misadventure along the International Border or the Line of Control, saying India will respond decisively to protect its sovereignty.

Speaking during Shastra Puja celebrations at a military base in Bhuj, Gujarat, Singh cautioned that any aggression in the disputed Sir Creek region would be met with a response strong enough to "change both



history and geography." "Even after 78 years of independence, the Sir Creek issue remains unresolved. India has sought dialogue, but Pakistan's intentions are | [More on P6](#)

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Fuel Your Academic Future with CUHK Scholarships

KO Web Desk

Srinagar - Media OutReach Newswire - 2 October 2025 - For many prospective post-graduate students, financial constraints can pose significant challenges when pursuing advanced research and further studies. At The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), a variety of scholarship opportunities—including the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS)—enable scholars to focus on academic growth and thrive in a world-class academic environment.

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Fabricio Oliveira da Silva from Brazil and Yasmine Malki from Hong Kong thrive under the mentorship from world-leading professors in a highly interdisciplinary and collaborative research environment.

"Studying at CUHK was an incredible journey of intellectual growth and personal development. The academic environment, supportive faculty, and diverse student community fostered my passion for research. The opportunities for collaboration and access to state-of-the-art resources enriched my learning experience and prepared me for a successful future in my field. With the Fellowship, I presented papers at international conferences and expanded my academic network."

Dr. Fabricio Oliveira da Silva, PhD graduate in Applied English Linguistics from Brazil

"Pursuing my PhD at CUHK as an HKPFS awardee has been an invaluable experience. I had the opportunity to be mentored by world-leading professors and to work in a highly interdisciplinary and collaborative research environment."

Yasmine Malki, PhD student in Chemical Pathology from Hong Kong

Take the Transformative Step
 The CUHK Postgraduate Virtual Info Week 2025, scheduled from 20-31 October 2025, offers prospective students a chance to explore these opportunities in depth. The event will introduce CUHK's taught and research postgraduate programmes, scholarship information, and insights from professors and current students.

Public Notice

I Mohammad Abdullah Shah s/o Abdul Kareem Shah R/o Sheikh Mohalla Pandach Ganderbal hereby inform that my father Abdul Kareem Shah who is the Registered Consumer of PDD having Electric Connection bearing Consumer no.0205010001092 intend to transfer the electric connection in my name 'Mohammad Abdullah Shah. If any person or party has any objection in this transfer.They may file their objection in writing in the office of the Sub Division Ganderbal within 7 (seven) days from the Date of Publication.No objection shall be entertained after stipulated Time Period.

From
Mohamad Abdullah Shah
 W/o: Abdul Kareem Shah
 R/o Sheikh Mohalla Pandach
 For any Query: 9419454915 mdl

Public Notice

I Mohd Shafi Parry S/o Gh Mohammad Parry R/o sheikh Mohalla Pandach Ganderbal is hereby inform that my father Gh Mohammad Parry who was the Registered Consumer of PDD having Electric Connection bearing Consumer no.0205010006825 has passed away in 2017.I intend to transfer the connection to my name 'Mohammad Shafi Parry'. If any person or party has any objection in this transfer.They may file their objection in writing in the office of the Sub Division Ganderbal within 7 (seven) days from the Date of Publication. No objection shall be entertained after stipulated Time Period.

From
Mohd Shafi Parry
 S/o Gh Mohammad Parry
 R/o Sheikh Mohalla Awanta Bhawan
 For any Query: 9419454915 mdl

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE Adv M.A Sofi And Associates

IN THE CASE:
 Mujeeb Ahmad Trumboo
 S/o Zaffer Ahmad Trumboo
 R/o Shah Anwar Colony Near KC Chevrolet Hyderpora Srinagar. Caveators

Vs
 Public at lagre Non Caveators

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/advocate

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE M/S NASIR AHMAD ADVOCATE AT BUDGAM

IN THE CASE:
 1. Ashiq Hussain Dar S/O Gh Ahmad Dar
 2. Sarwar Hussain Khan S/O Gh Mohd Khan
 3. Manzoor Ahmad Khan S/O Gh Mustafa Khan
 4. Zahid Bashir Khan S/O Bashir Ahmad Khan
 5. Mujtaba Hussain Hajam S/O Asgar Ali Hajam
 6. Wajid Ali Mir S/O Nazir Ahmad Mir
 7. Gh Mohd Mir S/O Ali Mohd Mir
 All Residents of Hardapanzoo District Budgam

Vs
 Public at lagre

In the matter of:-
 Be it known to the public at lagre/interested persons that the caveators have reason (s) apprehensions (s) to believe that the Non-Caveators may file any suit/petition/ proceedings before the Honble court of jurisdiction against caveator on the grounds of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked up story and may succeed in obtaining some order xparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put to be an irreparable loss and inconvenience.

It is prayed before the Hon'ble court that in the event of any petition or other case being filed by any manner of public at large /interested person, no interim order or any protective order be passed without granting the caveators an opportunity of hearing.

M/S Nasir Ahmad
 Advocate at Budgam
 Dated 02-10-2025

mcb

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE Adv Muneer Ahmad Dar

IN THE CASE:
 1. Parvaiz Ahmad Rather
 2. Mehraj ud din Rather Sons of Late Mohd Ramzan Rather
 3. Parveena Begum
 4. Ruksana Begum
 5. Dilshada Ramzan
 6. Nighat Ramzan Daughters of Late Mohd Ramzan Rather
 5. Haleema Begum Widow of late Mohd Ramzan Rather
 All Residents of Mehmoopora Tehsil kulner

Versus
 Public At Large Non Caveators

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/advocate

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Passport bearing No. N2236049 while traveling from Habba Kadal to Kralkhud. I have now applied for a duplicate of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the Passport Office, Srinagar, within seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Mubashir Saleem
 R/o Barbarshah, Baghwanpora IKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my Driving Licence bearing DL No: JK0119850034104 as Ashak Hussain Khan S/o Habib Ullah Khan, while my correct name as per Aadhaar Card is Ashiq Hussain Khan S/o Habibullah Khan.

Now, I have applied for the correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file it in the concerned office within seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Ashiq Hussain Khan
 S/o Habibullah Khan iko_R
 R/o Bazar Batamaloo, Srinagar

Public Notice

The name of my son has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Anayat Ahmad Ahanger S/o Shahnawaz Ahmad Ahanger while his correct name is Inayat Shahnawaz 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 Adhaar Centre Jammu / Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nisar Ahmad Sheikh
 F/o Inayat Shahnawaz fko -R
 R/o Bomai

Public Notice

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer ID No: 0206030031811 from Gh Qadir Bhat To Nisar Ahmad Sheikh. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the PDD Sub Division Beerwah within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nisar Ahmad Sheikh
 S/o Mohd Akbar Sheikh bmg_r
 R/o Magam Budgam

اطلاع عام

بجلی نکلشن زیر انسٹیشن نمبر 7208 کنزیومر آئی ٹی نمبر 0204020007208 جو کہ نڈرا احمد ہنگر ولد مرحوم غلام احمد ہنگر ساکن نانید بونی رعناواری سری گمر کے نام پر درج ہے۔ اب اس نکلشن کو میں اپنے نام یعنی کنیز فاطمہ دختر حاجی محمد علی ساکن نانید بونی رعناواری درج کرنا چاہتی ہوں۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر اسٹنڈ آریجیکٹیو انجینئر، ایکٹرک سب ڈویژن رعناواری سری گمر کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کسی بھی فرد یا شخص کا کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

کنیز فاطمہ دختر حاجی محمد علی inf
 نانید بونی رعناواری سری گمر

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Jhelum River Front Hosts Grand Finale Of Sewa Parv 2025

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) concluded Sewa Parv 2025 with a vibrant closing ceremony at the scenic Jhelum River Front, Rajbagh, celebrating a fortnight of civic engagement and community participation.

The event saw enthusiastic involvement from citizens, officials, self-help groups, and local organizations who actively contributed to the campaign's initiatives. Over the past two weeks, SMC carried out diverse activities including plantation drives, large-scale sanitation and cleanliness campaigns, awareness programmes on waste segregation and solid waste management, street-light repair drives, and special sanitation operations across all Srinagar wards.

Highlighting the collective effort, Nuzhat Qureshi, Joint Commissioner (Administration), SMC, lauded the citizens for their participation, saying, "Sewa Parv has reinforced our belief that civic responsibility is a shared duty. Together, we have not

Sewa Parv has reinforced our belief that civic responsibility is a shared duty. Together, we have not only beautified the city but strengthened the sense of ownership among residents

only beautified the city but strengthened the sense of ownership among residents."

The culmination ceremony featured cultural performances, thematic exhibitions, and recognition of ward officers, sanitation staff, and community groups for their contributions. A special highlight was the Swachhata Pledge, taken collectively by officials and participants, reaffirming their commitment to cleanliness, sustainability, and civic participation.

The SMC reaffirmed its dedication to sustaining community-driven initiatives and expanding participatory efforts, emphasizing that collaborative action between citizens and administration is key to building a cleaner, greener, and progressive Srinagar.



Caption: Devotees participate in Durga Puja rally in Srinagar. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Rs 1.8 Lakh Fine Imposed On Meat Firm For Misbranded Chicken

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Court of the Adjudicating Officer, Srinagar, has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.8 lakh on M/S Arif Enterprises, a meat trading firm, for selling misbranded chicken products in violation of the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI), 2006.

The case arose after a surprise inspection by a Food Safety Officer on August 11, 2025, at the firm's Bulbul Bagh Bund premises near Tengpora Bridge. Inspectors found 42 packets of packaged chicken with labels missing key information, including the use-by date, type of chicken (frozen or chilled), date of packing, and supplier details.

The court ruled that this was a violation of Section 26(1)(2)(ii) of the FSSAI and the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020, which require all pre-packaged food to clearly state the product name, net quantity, manufacturer/importer details, and FSSAI licence number.

During proceedings, the de-

fence failed to provide documentary evidence or invoices to justify the source of the misbranded chicken, despite multiple opportunities granted by the court. The Department of Legal Metrology had already seized the consignment.

In its order, the Adjudicating Officer highlighted the threat to public health posed by selling mis-

the fine into the designated Jammu and Kashmir Bank account and will remain under close surveillance, with regular surprise inspections to ensure compliance.

Authorities emphasized that proper labelling and storage practices are crucial for consumer safety, especially in Kashmir, which has one of the highest per-

“Supplying rotten meat for human consumption is not only unethical but poses a grave threat to the health and lives of consumers. A stringent penalty is warranted to act as a deterrent.”

branded or rotten meat, stating, "Supplying rotten meat for human consumption is not only unethical but poses a grave threat to the health and lives of consumers. A stringent penalty is warranted to act as a deterrent."

While the maximum penalty under Section 52 is Rs 3 lakh, the court imposed Rs 1.8 lakh, citing the severity of the offence. The firm has been directed to deposit

capita meat consumption rates in India. They noted that non-compliance by traders in informal markets continues to pose regulatory challenges.

The court clarified that the accused has the right to appeal before the appellate tribunal if aggrieved. This ruling signals that violations of food safety standards will be met with strict action to safeguard public health.

Srinagar Artisan Struggles To Preserve Rare Wall-Carpet Craft

Agencies

Srinagar: In the narrow lanes of Amdakadal, Mohalla Gotpora, 50-year-old Shabir Ahmed Beigh has dedicated over four decades to preserving a rare form of Kashmiri craftsmanship — weaving hanging carpets featuring detailed portraits of personalities. Unlike traditional carpets meant for the floor, Beigh's creations are designed for walls, celebrated for their intricacy and artistry.

Beigh recalls how his fascination with the craft began in childhood. "I learned this art from a neighbour. It took me almost eight years to master it fully. In the early days, I earned as little as 50 paise a day," he said.

Over the years, his work has earned recognition both locally and inter-

nationally, with some pieces adorning homes abroad. "People admire them wherever they go. I treat this art as sacred and never allow anyone to interfere with my pieces," Beigh said.

However, the artisan laments the declining interest among the younger generation. "Hardly any youth are willing to learn this craft now. Even those who once showed interest have abandoned it midway," he said.

While the government has introduced initiatives to revive traditional Kashmiri handicrafts, Beigh believes more needs to be done to protect niche art forms like his. "The main reason behind the decline is the lack of sustainable income. Without financial support, proper promotion, and incentives, this art could vanish with my generation," he warned. (KNO)

DC Srinagar Joins CRPF Dussehra Celebrations

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Thursday participated in the Dussehra celebrations organized by 28th Battalion of CRPF held at premises of DC Office Complex.

On the occasion, the DC extended his warm greetings and best wishes to the

people and CRPF jawans of the 28th Battalion deployed at Amar Niwas Complex.

Highlighting the significance of Dussehra, he underscored the values of righteousness, victory of good over evil and respect for all. He further emphasized the importance of unity, communal harmony, and the adoption of ethical practices in both personal and public life.

KVIB Srinagar Celebrates Gandhi Jayanti

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), Srinagar, celebrated Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October 2025 at the District Office at Industrial Estate, Baghi Ali Mardan Khan Nowshera Srinagar.

District Officer, KVIB Srinagar, Tanveer Ahmad Wani, emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship as a cornerstone of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, aligning with Gandhi's philosophy of Swadeshi and grassroots economic development. "Self-reliance is the key to a prosperous India," the officer stated. "Through entrepreneurship, we empower individuals to create opportunities, drive economic

growth, and contribute to the nation's self-sufficiency. This is Gandhi's legacy in action."

He reiterated that Gandhi's ideals of self-reliance and rural empowerment are more relevant today than ever. "A self-reliant village ensures a self-reliant nation. Through entrepreneurship, we are building resilient communities, reducing unemployment, and fostering innovation," the officer said, urging local youth and artisans to take advantage of KVIB's initiatives.

During the event, the Wani handed over sponsorship letters to budding entrepreneurs from Rural Areas of Srinagar who had applied under J&K Rural Employment Generation Programme.

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

<p>HIJRI CALENDAR</p> <p>09 Rabi-ul-Sani 1447</p>	<p>PRAYERS</p> <p>FAJR 5: 06</p> <p>ZUHR 12: 21</p> <p>ASR 4: 34</p> <p>Magrib 6: 20</p> <p>ISHA 7: 40</p>
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This Day In History

- 52 BC - Vercingetorix, leader of the Gauls, surrenders to the Romans under Julius Caesar, ending the siege and battle of Alesia
- 42 BC - First Battle of Philippi: Triumvirs Mark Antony and Octavian fight an indecisive battle with Caesar's assassins Brutus and Cassius.
- 382 - Roman Emperor Theodosius makes a treaty with the Visigoths, granting them lands between the Lower Danube and the Balkans in return for military service
- 1143 - Cardinal Guido elected Pope Coelestinus II
- 1247 - William II of Holland elected Roman Catholic anti-king of Germany
- 1264 - Comet said to predict death of Pope Urban IV is last seen
- 1272 - Beauvais cathedral in France is completed (choir and transept), designed to be the largest French Gothic cathedral ever built
- 1283 - Dafydd ap Gruffydd, Prince of Gwynedd, Wales, becomes the first person executed by being hanged, drawn and quartered
- 1569 - Battle of Montcontour: Duke of Anjou beats Huguenots
- 1574 - The Siege of Leiden is lifted by the Watergeuzen and the forces of Admiral Boisot
- 1605 - Chinese uprising on Philippines, Tondo/ Quiapo massacre
- 1657 - French troops occupy Maryland
- 1683 - The Qing Dynasty naval commander Shi Lang reaches Taiwan (under the Kingdom of Tungning) to receive the formal surrender of Zheng Keshuang and Liu Guoxuan after the Battle of Penghu.
- 1691 - English & Dutch army occupies Limerick Ireland
- 1735 - France and Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI sign peace accord
- 1739 - The Treaty of Nissa is signed by the Ottoman Empire and Russia at the end of the Russian-Turkish War, 1736-1739.
- 1778 - Captain James Cook anchors at Alaska
- 1789 - Washington proclaims 1st national Thanksgiving Day on Nov 26
- 1793 - A warrant is issued for the arrest of French mathematician and philosopher Marquis de Condorcet forcing him into hiding
- 1835 - Battle of Gonzales fought between Texan settlers and Mexican forces. First engagement of the Texas revolution
- 1851 - The pasilanic-sympathetic compass (a contraption built to test the pseudo-scientific hypothesis that snails create a permanent telepathic link when they mate) is demonstrated but proves to be a fake.
- 1864 - Battle of Saltville, VA
- 1912 - Gopal Krishna Gokhale, at invitation of Gandhi, arrives in South Africa on a 26-day tour; he also visits Tolstoy Farm
- 1920 - The Chinese sign an agreement with the Russo-Asiatic Bank, largely French and Russian controlled, which will oversee the Chinese Eastern Railway, but give local supervision to China
- 1923 - British occupying army leaves Constantinople
- 1924 - League of Nations approves protocols of Geneva
- 1935 - Mussolini's Italian army attacks Abyssinia (Ethiopia)
- 1940 - 17 German aircraft shot down over England
- 1941 - Germans launch attack on Moscow
- 1944 - Nazis crush Warsaw Uprising killing 250,000 people
- 1944 - US B-17's drops pamphlets on Walcheren
- 1949 - USSR recognizes People's Republic of China
- 1956 - 1st atomic power clock exhibited-NYC
- 1958 - Guinea (French Guinea) gains independence from France (National Day).
- 1963 - West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer condemns western grain shipments to USSR
- 1968 - Mexico City police fire on protesting students, 300-500 killed
- 1968 - Republic Guinea forms (day of republic)
- 1972 - Aeroflot Il-18 crashes near Black Sea resort of Sochi, kills 105

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KO VIEW

Trump's Gaza Ultimatum

The much-publicised 20-point Gaza ceasefire plan unveiled by US President Donald Trump alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been hailed in some quarters as bold and comprehensive. On the surface, it promises what people on both sides of the war long for: an end to the violence. But scratch beneath the surface, and the flaws are hard to miss. The plan arrives at a moment of deep exhaustion. After nearly two years of relentless war, two-thirds of Israelis say they want the fighting to end. Palestinians, living amid the devastation of Gaza, yearn for nothing more than the halt of bombings that have killed more than 66,000 and wounded over 168,000 since October 2023. In that sense, even the prospect of quiet offers a glimmer of relief. But beyond the promise of silence, the plan offers Palestinians little else. As Palestinian lawyer Diana Buttu puts it, "Ending the genocide is tied to a very colonial approach in which Israel – the party that has carried out the genocide – and the US – who has funded it – are the ones who get to decide the future of the people against whom they're committing genocide." The plan, she points out, provides "not a single guarantee" to Palestinians. Every safeguard is extended to Israel.

The asymmetry is glaring. Hamas is asked to surrender every weapon, free all remaining hostages, and accept complete disarmament—essentially leaving itself defenceless. In return, it is offered little more than the promise of amnesty. Worse still, Hamas was not even invited to the table to negotiate its own future. Instead, it is presented with an ultimatum: accept or be destroyed. Given Netanyahu's history and the lack of trust between the sides, Hamas fears, not without reason, that disarmament could be exploited as an opportunity for further attacks.

Meanwhile, the plan seems designed to appease Israel's most hardline ministers, who have openly declared that nothing short of Hamas's total elimination is acceptable. That political reality makes any meaningful compromise elusive. And while Hamas as an organisation may weaken or collapse, its ideology will endure—ensuring the seeds of future conflict remain firmly in the ground.

The Trump plan is bold in presentation, but brittle in substance. It halts violence, yes, but it does not heal wounds. It offers Israelis guarantees while leaving Palestinians with uncertainty. And it does nothing to address the deeper injustices—the occupation, the blockade, the denial of dignity—that lie at the heart of this endless cycle of war.

History teaches us that ceasefires without justice are fragile. They may quiet the guns for a season, but they rarely sow the seeds of lasting peace. What Gaza needs is not simply an end to bombardment, but the restoration of hope—a just settlement that recognises Palestinian rights, dignity, and humanity. Without that, no peace plan, however bold, will endure.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Beyond Land and Gold

People of Kashmir value land and gold, but real security comes from mixing tradition with modern financial assets.

Irshad Mushtaq

Kashmiri families often measure wealth by the land they inherit, the houses they build, and the gold they keep for weddings.

These possessions carry pride and tradition. But when money is needed urgently for education, healthcare, or travel, these assets turn difficult to use. Selling a house or jewelry takes time, effort, and sometimes sacrifice.

Today, wealth has grown to mean more than physical objects. Financial and digital assets have become central because they offer liquidity, the ability to turn value into cash without delay. Liquidity matters as much as ownership in a place like Kashmir, where uncertainty is common.

Bank deposits, for example, let families earn interest while keeping their money accessible. Buying shares in a company gives a stake in its growth. Mutual funds spread risk by pooling investments across industries. Digital gold, often misunderstood, represents real gold stored safely in a vault, with ownership recorded online. It can be bought or sold instantly, protects against theft, and allows investment in small amounts.

Strong financial health depends on balance. Land and homes anchor families, while financial and digital assets provide mobility. A family that holds both can face emergencies without giving up its roots.

Kashmiris need to widen their view of wealth. Holding on to tradition while embracing modern financial tools will help families secure their future.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

The first time I saw the Centre for Career Planning and Counselling past Sir Syed Gate at Kashmir University, it looked official, and full of promise.

I imagined a lively space where students hustled between workshops, recruiters came and went, and everyone seemed to be one step closer to internships and jobs.

That was in 2019. Five years later, I know better.

For thousands of students, especially at the School of Law, the Career Centre's presence is felt only in name.

I spent half a decade here and never once saw it make a difference to my career prospects. The Centre's own website paints a very different picture: it claims to "empower youth by offering comprehensive career guidance, coaching for competitive examinations, skill development, and placement support."

On paper, it reads like a lifeline. On the ground, it's a ghost.

Between 2019 and 2025, the Centre claims to have facilitated placements for 317 students. Some offers were from companies like Asian Paints and Indigo Airlines, with salaries around 2 lakh a year, roughly 17-18,000 a month.

In a university of nearly 50,000 students, that is barely a drop in the ocean.

At the law school, one of the university's largest and most respected departments, not a single internship or job was arranged by the Centre during my time. My batch of 69 students didn't get placed through the university once.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in India, law schools actively connect students with top firms.

NALSAR Hyderabad sends graduates to Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, AZB & Partners, and Khaitan & Co with packages of 15-16 LPA.

NLU Delhi alumni land roles in global consultancies, multinational corporations, and chambers of se-



Careers Stuck at Campus

I joined the university expecting career support. The Centre exists, but its promises remain empty.

Ummar Jamal

nior Supreme Court advocates. Even private law schools secure hundreds of offers each year.

Kashmir University cannot match a fraction of that.

The problem is not limited to law. Students across management, commerce, social work, psychology, and education share the same frustration.

No structured effort links students with employers or internships.

Many don't even know where the Centre is or who runs it.

A December 2022 article in a prominent Srinagar daily by university professors celebrated 150 placements over two years. I read it twice, stunned.

In a university of tens of thousands, these numbers should come from a single department in one year. Presenting such modest achievements as milestones reflects a culture that glorifies mediocrity.

This matters deeply in Kashmir. Jobs are scarce here, public recruitment moves slowly, and unemployment among youth is high.

For students from rural or economically weaker backgrounds, an internship or modest job could be life-changing.

That change rarely comes, because the system meant to support them is inactive.

Some professors step in, trying to connect students with opportunities. Those efforts are commendable but isolated. They are acts of goodwill, not the work of a functioning career centre. The university as a whole has stepped back from preparing its students for life beyond campus.

Reviving the Centre needs trained staff who understand the modern job market, a structured relationship with departments, and lasting ties with recruiters.

It should organize job and internship fairs, create a strong alumni network, and run skill-building workshops.

Above all, it should engage with students directly, not hide behind web pages or inflated claims.

Walking past Sir Syed Gate, I still see that sign. It promises guidance, opportunity, and a future. For too long, the promise has remained just that.

Students at Kashmir University deserve a Centre that fulfills its name, helps us turn our education into careers, and gives us the tools to face the world beyond campus.

Until then, the signboard stands as a reminder of what could be, but isn't.

The author is a National President of the J&K Students Association.

He can be reached at ummarjama1968@gmail.com. Views expressed in this article are author's own and don't necessarily reflect KO's editorial policy.

Ode to a Dying Orchard

From the orchard to the market, a Kashmiri farmer's son describes how the valley's lucrative apple industry leaves growers exposed to crushing costs and declining returns.

Sameer Ahmad

The orchard is the first place I learned to measure time. The blossoms announced spring, the green fruit carried us through summer, and the harvest marked the arrival of autumn. Every season had its ritual.

I remember my father pressing the soil in his palm as if he could read the future in its dampness. The orchard was his prayer mat, classroom, and inheritance.

I walk through the same rows now, trees heavy with apples, branches bent low as if bowing under a weight they were never meant to carry alone. They are beautiful, almost defiantly so, but their abundance feels cruel. The more they give us, the less we seem to receive.

Kashmir's apple industry once stood as a pillar of our economy. It fed more than three million people, filled markets from Delhi to Dubai, and accounted for nearly eight percent of our region's GDP.

The orchards were our banks, schools, and insurance. A good harvest could build a house. A poor one still promised survival. Today, that security is gone.

A box of apples that sells for 300 costs more than that to produce. Transport to outside markets takes 120, packaging cartons 50, pesticides and fertilisers another 150, and wages for labourers add the final blow.

Each time a farmer lifts a crate onto a truck, he knows it carries a loss. And it is unbearable.

I've seen neighbours mortgage their land to cover last season's debts. I've heard conversations where suicide is considered as escape.

The despair sits in our courtyards, at our dinner tables, and in the air between us.

The Srinagar-Jammu highway, our only road to the rest of the country, has become a symbol of

“Each season, leaders arrive to make promises among our trees, and each season the promises vanish before the apples ripen. We are left to prune branches and spread fertiliser with the knowledge that the cycle we follow is leading nowhere.”

futility. Landslides, blockades, and endless construction delays eat into our earnings.

When trucks stand stranded for days, apples soften and begin to rot. I remember watching crates lined along the roadside like abandoned children. No one stopped to pick them up. By the time the trucks moved, the fruit had turned to waste.

The decaying smell of it stays in memory longer than I wish.

It is tempting to believe this is a natural cycle, that bad years will give way to good ones. But what we face is a collapse of structure.

Costs rise each season, markets fall. There is hardly any insurance safety net, reliable storage infrastructure, and modern cold-chain systems.

We still treat a multi-billion-rupee industry as if it were subsistence farming.

The weight of this neglect is felt most deeply in the human moments. I recall my father waiting in

the orchard after a fresh spray, looking up at the blossoms, murmuring verses under his breath. He believed in the orchard the way others believe in scripture. For him, apples were a covenant between man and land.

To watch him now, bent by the futility of his labour, is to witness a silent breaking.

What does it mean for a community when its defining work turns into waste?

The orchards shaped our calendars, festivals, and even language. Every Kashmiri child knows the feel of blossom petals between their fingers, the taste of a freshly picked apple, and the pulse of baskets being carried down narrow village paths.

When all this collapses, it is a culture we lose.

Our pleas have grown repetitive: subsidies, insurance, better roads, scientific training, and access to international markets.

Each season, leaders arrive to make promises among our trees, and each season the promises vanish before the apples ripen.

We are left to prune branches and spread fertiliser with the knowledge that the cycle we follow is leading nowhere.

Still, I wake early and walk the rows with my father. He cannot stop tending to his trees, and perhaps neither can I. Hope has thinned, but habit persists.

Some mornings, I allow myself to believe that something will change, that someone will hear the despair behind the statistics.

Other mornings, I admit to myself that we may be the last generation to live through this orchard ritual.

The author is a student and a son of a Kashmiri farmer. He can be reached at sameerlone055@gmail.com

Letter to Editor

Kashmir Is Forgetting Its Own Words

Language carries memory. It shapes identity and turns emotion into expression. For Kashmiris, that language is Koshur, spoken for centuries across the valley.

It is inheritance that lives in lullabies, folk tales, and the verses of saints. But every day, fewer Kashmiris pass it on.

The Census of 2011 counted nearly 6.8 million Kashmiri speakers. The Constitution includes it in the Eighth Schedule. Its script even appears on Indian currency notes. On paper, the language holds recognition. Inside Kashmiri homes, however, the story is starkly different. Urdu and English dominate.

A recent study found that only two out of ten children in private schools speak Kashmiri fluently with

their grandparents. In families that once prized the mother tongue, silence now fills the gap.

This erosion comes from our choices. Parents, convinced that Urdu or English signal upward mobility, abandon Kashmiri in their living rooms. Schools sideline it in classrooms. The result is stigma.

Speaking Kashmiri now carries the false label of being less educated or less refined. The very people who inherited this language now look away from it.

History tells us another path. In the 14th century, when Persian ruled as the court's language, Sheikh ul Alam, the valley's most revered Sufi saint, wrote and preached in Kashmiri. His shruks, brief couplets of wisdom, elevated Koshur to a language

of philosophy and faith. He made a deliberate choice: to speak to people in their mother tongue. His decision gave Kashmiri dignity and strength.

Today, the valley faces the opposite choice. If parents continue to prize English greetings over Kashmiri ones, and if schools treat Koshur as a token subject, the language will weaken into irrelevance. Once declared endangered, no official recognition can bring it back.

Preserving Kashmiri requires immediate action. Parents must speak it at home. Teachers must use it in classrooms. Private schools must stop treating it as an elective. Artists and writers must create in Kashmiri, bringing the language into films, podcasts, and digital platforms. Each effort matters, because every word spo-

ken keeps the language alive.

This is not about rejecting English or Urdu. Kashmir needs those languages to engage with the world. But no borrowed tongue can replace the intimacy of one's own.

Losing Kashmiri means losing the phrases that carried our ancestors' love, sorrow, humour, and wisdom. It means severing the soul's connection with its voice.

Sheikh ul Alam showed us that the mother tongue has the power to carry truth across centuries. The choice now rests with us.

If we speak Kashmiri, it survives. If we neglect it, we bury it.

Sincerely,

Basit Rasool Thokero
basitrasool765@gmail.com

Those Four Days When Gandhi Walked Through Kashmir

Gandhi Jayanti reminds us of a visit that shaped history, and the future of Kashmir.

Sabzar Bhat

The first week of August 1947 felt like South Asia was holding its breath. Borders were being redrawn. The British were leaving. India was emerging from centuries of colonial rule, and Pakistan was being born amid the upheaval of partition.

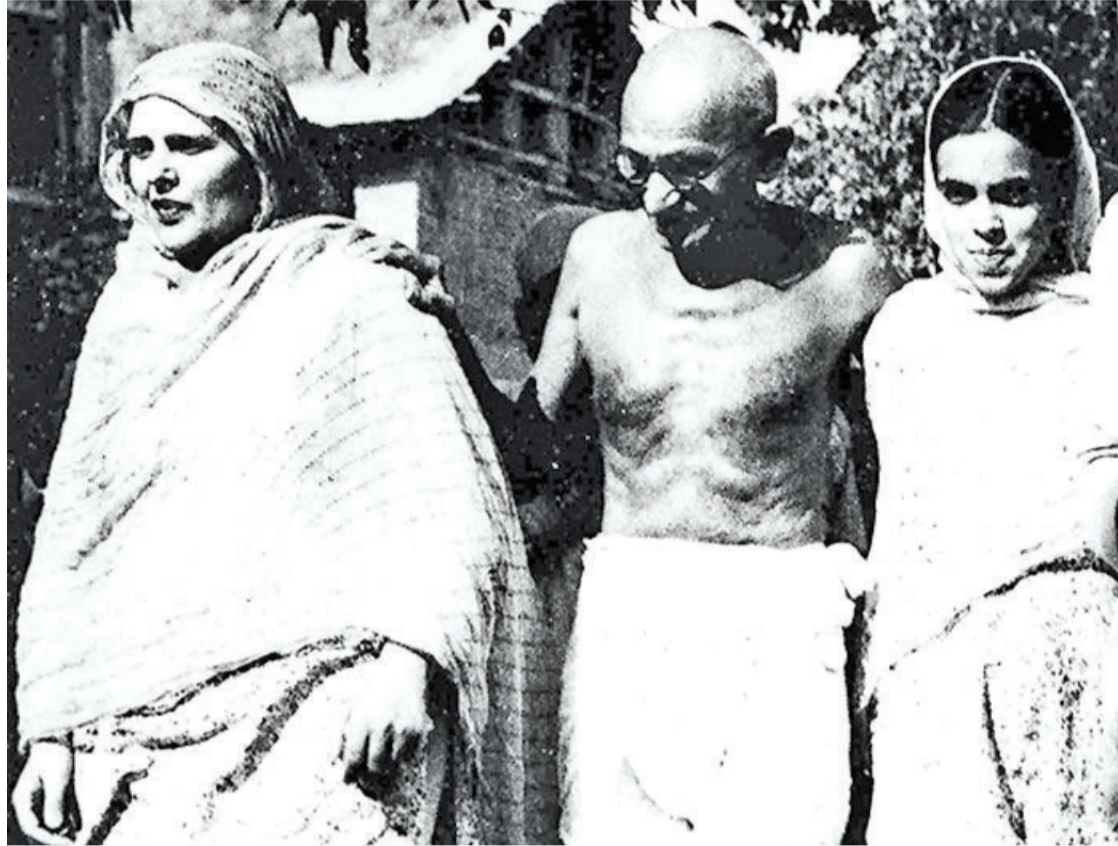
Amid this chaos, Jammu and Kashmir, perched at the northern edge of the subcontinent, hovered in uncertainty. Its fate hung in the balance, with anxious people and indecisive rulers.

Into this delicate moment stepped Mahatma Gandhi.

He arrived in Srinagar on August 1, 1947. Gandhi was a man whose presence carried the weight of a movement built on non-violence and moral courage.

His visit lasted only four days. It was the only time he would ever set foot in the valley, but those days became a political compass for the turbulent times ahead.

There was no grand fanfare to



eyes were wide with anticipation.

For Gandhi, the visit was the essence of leadership: presence over performance.

He preferred prayer meetings to speeches. He wanted to see the people, understand them, and let his counsel flow silently but firmly.

The state of affairs remained unstable during his Kashmir trip. Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, the leader most closely connected to Kashmiri aspirations, was imprisoned. Maharaja Hari Singh faced pressures from every side. The Muslim League, led by Mohammad Ali Jinnah, pushed for accession to Pakistan.

Kashmiris, however, sought self-determination and governance that reflected their own will.

The British had set an August 15 deadline. Every princely state had to decide whether to join India or Pakistan. Gandhi's role was delicate. He was a guide, a listener, and a subtle mediator in a situation filled with tension and trauma.

From the first moment, Gandhi observed closely. He praised the people of Kashmir for maintaining communal harmony while much of India was engulfed in violence. He saw unity where others saw division.

He studied the valley's history, noting the 1846 Treaty of Amritsar, under which Kashmir had been sold to Maharaja Gulab Singh. Gandhi treated history as a guiding light.

He believed that understanding the past was essential to shaping the present. His reflections also extended to Gilgit, which would soon slip from the Maharaja's control into Pakistan.

Gandhi's engagement was personal. He met the Maharaja and Maharani Tara Devi at the palace, received with traditional arti and tilak, and spoke with young Dr. Karan Singh, whose memoirs later recorded these meetings.

He met delegations from across the state, and emphasized that the

power of rulers came from the consent of the people.

"What will happen to Kashmir," he said, "will depend on you, the people of Kashmir."

For Gandhi, leadership was service, and authority belonged to those who lived under it.

The political currents around him were volatile. Ram Chand Kak, the Maharaja's prime minister, held significant influence and had played a role in Sheikh Abdullah's imprisonment. Gandhi's visit coincided with Kak's removal on August 10, and Abdullah's release followed on September 29.

Gandhi did not control these events, but his presence had a subtle effect, shifting the balance in the valley and strengthening the voice of its people.

Gandhi remained consistent in his principles. He refused to take sides when asked whether Kashmir should join India or Pakistan. He did not yield to political pressure.

When reports of tribal incursions

emerged in October that year, he acknowledged the seriousness of the situation but insisted that violence could not solve it.

Pakistan should not coerce Kashmir, and India should not respond with unchecked force. His warnings foreshadowed the conflicts that would follow.

For Gandhi, lasting solutions came from dialogue, understanding, and moral courage.

Throughout those four days, Gandhi embodied patience and humility. He walked the streets, spoke to citizens, met leaders, and attended prayers. He advised Nehru and Patel, urged reconciliation between communities, and reminded everyone that real authority belonged to the people.

He believed Kashmiris of all faiths could model communal harmony in a divided subcontinent. His focus was on the moral strength of society, the synergic spirit of its citizens, and the long-term consequences of decisions made in haste.

Gandhi's philosophy of conflict resolution differed from conventional politics. He argued that violence arose from flawed systems. Wars and force could never create lasting peace.

His experience in South Africa, Bihar, and Noakhali had shown that ethical persuasion, moral example, and patience could achieve results that armies could not.

He applied the same thinking in Kashmir, emphasizing unity, non-violence, and the importance of civic responsibility.

Even as military threats loomed, Gandhi maintained his focus on principle. He counseled that soldiers' sacrifices should serve justice and communal integrity rather than revenge. He urged people to repel invaders without hatred, to protect their homes and neighbours while holding on to moral high ground.

His presence reminded Kashmiris that courage meant acting rightly even in the face of fear.

The visit ended on August 4. Gandhi left Srinagar, but the political ripples extended far beyond those four days.

His counsel intersected with critical decisions: the removal of



Kashmir would soon face invasions, accession debates, and decades of political uncertainty. The tribal incursions of late October, the dispatch of Indian troops, and the eventual accession to India unfolded in the shadow of the guidance Gandhi had offered.

Ram Chand Kak, the eventual release of Sheikh Abdullah, and the strengthening of Jammu's links to Pathankot.

Most importantly, he reminded everyone that governance without respect for the people was meaningless. His visit offered a rare moral intervention in a time when power was often exercised without conscience.

Kashmir would soon face invasions, accession debates, and decades of political uncertainty. The tribal incursions of late October, the dispatch of Indian troops, and the eventual accession to India unfolded in the shadow of the guidance Gandhi had offered.

— The author is a history scholar and can be reached at sabzarbhatt87@gmail.com



His counsel intersected with critical decisions: the removal of Ram Chand Kak, the eventual release of Sheikh Abdullah, and the strengthening of Jammu's links to Pathankot.

mark his arrival. Instead, he was greeted in the gardens of Srinagar by Begum Akbar Jehan, wife of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, and five hundred women activists. Their

Kashmir's Battle With Self-Harm

Stories of pain in Kashmir are often reduced to labels. This is a survivor's account of survival, vulnerability, and speaking out.

Musaib Bilal

I tried to take my life at sixteen, and again at eighteen.

Both times I felt I had run out of room for pain, shame, and the weight of feeling unworthy.

I believed I was a waste, burden, and undeserving of space.

The first time, I was drowning in the chaos of adolescence. My grades were slipping, friendships were thin, and mask of perfection was cracking.

The second time, the ache was heavier, more suffocating. Years of unspoken grief had built a wall around me. I thought I was too far gone.

But here I am, writing this. That, in itself, is proof. Survival

and healing are possible. Life can be rebuilt.

People don't end their lives because they hate living. They do it because they want their pain to stop.

Suicide is rarely about a single event. It grows out of layers: mental illness, stress, shame, isolation, trauma, money worries, and heartbreak.

These forces converge until hope seems to vanish.

Behind every attempt there is a cry for help to end the misery. The way we speak about suicide adds another wound. The label "pagal" is thrown around with ease.

That one word erases the human story, the years of silent battles, and the weight of trauma.

It turns a life into a caricature and a family into a whisper. This stigma not only dishonours the dead but also silences the living. People who might reach out stay silent, afraid of ridicule, and being treated as broken.

Stigma also shapes the way support works. Those who open up are often dismissed with casual remarks or quickly labelled "depressed," as if naming it is enough. They are treated as outsiders instead of people in need of care.

Every struggling person requires understanding. They need a listener who will sit with their pain without judgment. Breaking stigma means building a culture where seeking help is seen as strength.

Kashmir's outer realities make inner battles even harder. Joblessness here is among the highest in the country, draining men of their sense of identity and dignity. Addiction to opioids and prescription drugs is



rising, trapping young people in cycles of dependency.

Decades of discord have left invisible scars on our psyches. Children grow up with uncertainty, families carry generational trauma, and many households lack the emotional scaffolding to support their young.

Add broken family structures, domestic violence and societal pressures, and despair begins to feel like a permanent atmosphere.

Mental-health services are thin, underfunded, and often out of reach. Together, these forces create a climate where suicide feels like an exit door.

Another hard truth: suicide here, as elsewhere, disproportionately claims men's lives.

Almost three out of four suicides in India are by men. It's not because men feel less pain

but because they are taught to hide it.

Boys grow up hearing they must be strong, that tears are shameful, and that vulnerability is weakness. Anger is allowed, grief is not.

This bottling up is lethal. Without ways to express emotion, many men carry their pain alone until it crushes them.

There's also what some call the "male loneliness epidemic."

Male friendships are often built around activities, jokes or political talk, not around sharing feelings. Without a space to confide in, men bear their troubles in silence.

When loneliness combines with unemployment, family pressure or addiction, hopelessness takes hold. Without emotional resilience or a support network, suicide starts to look like relief.



I look back at my sixteen- and eighteen-year-old selves and wish someone had said: You are not a waste. You are not a disgrace. You are human. You are worthy of life. If you are struggling today, hear this: you are not alone. There is help, hope, and future beyond the pain. Your story is not over.

Changing this culture begins with language. We must teach boys that crying is not weakness, asking for help is human, and strength is not measured in stoicism.

We must create spaces for deeper friendships and communities where men can lean on each other. Giving men the words to describe their feelings

will save lives. Real courage lies in letting the pain out.

The shame around male vulnerability runs deep in the valley. Homes shaped by conflict and economic strain reward toughness and ridicule softness. Tears are mocked, silence is praised.

Men inherit a version of mas-

culinity that offers no space for fear, grief or confusion. They are expected to provide without being taught how to process the burden. Friendships rarely move beyond the surface. Confessing depression invites dismissal.

This cocktail of cultural silence, lack of resources and rigid masculinity is costing lives.

Shifting it requires bravery from families, schools and communities. Families must let boys cry. Schools must allow conversations about feelings. Communities must swap judgment for empathy.

Kashmiri men deserve better than silence. They deserve friendships that hold their pain and a society that sees vulnerability as part of being human, not a humiliation.

The numbers are grim. Globally, suicide is among the top causes of death for young people. In India, two-thirds of suicides happen between the ages of 18 and 45. Jammu and Kashmir faces a sharp rise in attempts and fatalities, mostly among youth.

Behind each number is a story: a young man collapsing under despair, a young woman fading in isolation, and a family left searching for answers.

I look back at my sixteen- and eighteen-year-old selves and wish someone had said: You are human, and worthy of life.

If you are struggling today, hear this: you are not alone. There is help, hope, and future beyond the pain.

Your story is not over.

— The author is a mental-health advocate. He can be contacted at musaibilal.216061@gmail.com



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KVIC Organises SDTPs Across J&K On Gandhi Jayanti

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To mark the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, celebrated on 2nd October, multiple Skill Development Training Programmes (SDTPs) were held by KVIC across various districts of Jammu & Kashmir today.

The events were held in presence of Director, KVIC, J&K and Ladakh, Rajesh Kumar, and Principal, PMTC KVIC, Pampore, Anil Kumar Sharma.

The programme commenced with a floral grand-entrance ceremony to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, followed by the Khadi Pledge, taken as part of the ongoing Khadi Mahotsav being celebrated from September 17th to October 23rd, 2025.

Speaking on the occasion, Anil Kumar Sharma briefed

the attendees about the various skill development training programmes being conducted across different districts of J&K. He emphasized the importance of skill-building in empowering youth and promoting self-employment.

Addressing the gathering, Director, KVIC, Rajesh Kumar, expressed his deep gratitude towards Mahatma Gandhi for his enduring legacy. He encouraged all participants to stay motivated and continue learning new skills, which are crucial for personal growth and national development.

Several participants also shared their experiences, explaining how the training programmes have helped them acquire valuable skills and opened new avenues for livelihood and entrepreneurship.

Op Sindoor Symbol Of Victory Over Terror: Murmu

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Amid heavy rain, President Droupadi Murmu attended the Dussehra celebrations at the Red Fort on Thursday, drawing a symbolic bow to mark the "Ravana Dahan" and highlighting the victory of good over evil.

Addressing the gathering, she said the Indian armed forces' Operation Sindoor, launched against terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan on May 7, represents a decisive victory over the "Ravana of terrorism." The operation was a response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, J&K, in which 26 civilians, mostly tourists, were killed. "When terrorism strikes



humanity, it is necessary to counter it. Operation Sindoor is a mark of victory against the Ravana of terrorism, and we salute our soldiers for this," Murmu said.

Despite the downpour, a large number of people gathered at Madhavdas Park in the Red Fort to witness the burning of the Ravana effigy, organised by the Dharmic Ramlila

Committee. Murmu also reflected on the festival's deeper message, urging citizens to overcome the "Ravana within us" for a peaceful and harmonious society.

Union Minister Smriti Irani was among the dignitaries present, as attendees watched the proceedings under umbrellas due to heavy rain.

Kota: NEET Aspirant Dies In PG, Family Alleges Foul Play

Press Trust Of India

Kota: A 20-year-old NEET aspirant from Delhi was found hanging in his PG room here, police said on Thursday.

Lucky Choudhary, a native of Patna in Bihar, was found hanging on Wednesday from a ceiling fan in his PG located in Sector-2 under the Vigyan Nagar Police Station limits.

Police said he was preparing for NEET online and had been living in Kota for the past two years. Circle Inspector Mukesh Meena said the room was bolted from the inside at two places.

"We have found no sign of foul play at this stage," he said. Meanwhile, another student from Bihar, living in an adjoining room in the same PG, was reported to have gone missing.

Lucky's maternal uncle (Mama), Koshal Kumar Choudhary, said

Lucky was not the kind of person who would commit suicide.

Speaking to PTI outside the mortuary, he alleged foul play and suspected the involvement of a youth named Rahul, also hailing from Patna, who is now missing. No suicide note was recovered from the room, and his mobile phone and wallet were also missing, he said.

Lucky's father also expressed doubts over the nature of his son's death, alleging that Rahul was not a student and often visited his son's room with his girlfriend.

He said Lucky had told his sister that he had borrowed Rs 40,000 and was under pressure from the lender to repay it.

His father said he had paid his son Rs 10,000 online and was going to pay the rest ASI Lal Singh said the body was handed over to Lucky's family members on Thursday after the post-mortem.

Police Arrest 5 Drug Peddlers In Kashmir

Agencies

Srinagar: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, J&K police Thursday said to have arrested five drug peddlers in Baramulla & Budgam and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

"In Baramulla, acting on credible inputs, J&K Police laid naka checkpoints at Wussan and Chichlora crossings. During checking at Wussan, a vehicle (Wagon-R) bearing Reg. No. DL6CL-4065 was intercepted with 03 persons onboard," a police spokesman said in a statement.

During their personal search, police said that a heroin-like substance weighing 19 grams was recovered. They have been identified as Imtiyaz Ahmad Magray, son of Bashir Ahmad

Magray, Furkaan Ahmad Lone, son of Manzoor Ahmad Lone, Danish Ahmad Lone, son of Mohammad Shamim Lone all residents of Merchipora, Tangmarg. They have been arrested and the vehicle used in the commission of the crime was also seized.

Moreover, one suspicious individual, identified as Vinod Kumar son of Ram Lal resident of Rawsar, Rajasthan (presently residing at Qamarwari Barhana, Srinagar), was intercepted at Chichlora crossing. During the search, 46 grams of Charas-like substance was recovered from his possession and was subsequently arrested, police said.

In Budgam, a police party of Police Station Chadoora, at a checkpoint established at Durbugh Crossing intercepted a suspicious vehicle (Mahindra

Thar) bearing registration numbers DL4CNA7913 driven by Mohammad Ashraf Nath son of Mohammad Ismail Nath resident of Parnew, Wazir Bagh, Budgam.

During the search, contraband was recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and the vehicle used in the commission of the crime was also seized.

Accordingly, police said that cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation is going on.

Meanwhile, Police reiterated its firm zero-tolerance policy against drug trafficking and assures the public that strict action will be taken against all individuals involved in this menace which poses a grave threat to society. (KNO)

Seva Parv-2025: Swachhata Divas observed at CUKashmir

Observer News Service

Ganderbal, Oct 2: Under the nationwide observance of Seva Parv-2025, the Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) marked the culmination of the fortnight-long campaign "Swachhata Hi Seva 2025" with a programme "Swachhata Divas" at Tulmulla Campus here Thursday.

The event was jointly organised by the Directorate of Students Welfare (DSW) and the National Service Scheme (NSS), with participation from faculty members, scholars, and students across the university.

The programme was presided over by Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, and attended by Dean School of Legal Studies, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir, Dean School of Life Sciences, Prof.

Abid Hamid Dar, Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Irfan Aalam, HoD Physical Education, Dr. Kaukab Azeem, NSS Coordinator, Dr. Shabir Ahmad, Youth Welfare Officers, students and faculty.

Addressing the participants, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath lauded the dedication of the students who participated in the diverse activities organised during the Seva Parv-2025. He praised their intellectual reflections and creative contributions on a range of themes, noting that such engagements not only showcased their talent but also reflected their commitment to the nation's growth and development.

"The co-curricular and extra-curricular activities inculcate a spirit of camaraderie, discipline, and ethical values among students—qualities

essential for holistic development," Prof. A. Ravinder Nath remarked. He further described the outreach programmes and competitions held during the fortnight as student empowerment initiatives, enabling young minds to think critically, collaborate with synergy, and share innovative ideas for the nation's progress.

Highlighting the interlinkages between cleanliness and sustainability, the Vice-Chancellor spoke on the importance of aligning Swachhata campaigns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He asked the university administration to install waste-segregating dustbins across campuses and emphasised the controlled use of plastic to curb pollution. He felicitated the winners of various competitions held during

the campaign with certificates of appreciation, recognising their active role in making the campaign a success. Later, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath joined staff and students in a cleanliness drive within the campus.

Dean, School of Legal Studies, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir, in his address, invoked Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy, stressing that cleanliness transcends physical spaces—it encompasses cleanliness of thoughts, actions, governance, justice delivery, and social conduct. Quoting Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, he emphasised that a truly clean nation can only be achieved when parents, teachers, and students internalise cleanliness as a way of life. "Cleanliness is not merely the responsibility of sanitary workers; it is a collective responsibility of every citizen," Prof. Mir underscored.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Heavy Rain

surface transport, especially along key highways like Jammu-Srinagar and Srinagar-Leh, as well as in interior hilly regions. Risks include landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones, particularly in slope-prone areas.

Farmers across the Union Territory have been urged to suspend farming activities during this period to avoid damage to standing crops and ensure personal safety. Residents living near riverbanks and low-lying areas have been advised to stay alert, as rising water levels and temporary waterlogging are possible.

The advisory aims to raise public awareness and help authorities prepare necessary precautionary measures. People planning travel during these days are advised to check weather and traffic updates regularly and avoid venturing into vulnerable zones.

Authorities are monitoring the situation closely and may issue further updates as the weather system develops.

9 Dead In Muzaffarabad

clashes left eight dead, including five civilians, and multiple injuries, primarily among security personnel. The death toll rose to nine on Thursday, officials said, as more than 150 people, mostly police officers, sustained injuries. Critical cases were transferred to hospitals in Islamabad, where Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited on Thursday to meet wounded officers, praising their "courage and restraint" and directing doctors to provide the best care.

The protests were sparked by grievances over government perks and privileges enjoyed by politicians and bureaucrats, coupled with demands for cheaper wheat, reduced electricity tariffs, and local governance reforms. Civil rights leader Shaukat Nawaz Mir criticised the luxurious lifestyle of regional officials, contrasting it with the lack of funds for essential public services like medicines in hospitals. Another point of contention is the allocation of reserved seats in the local legislature to representatives from other parts of Pakistan, which activists claim undermines local governance.

In response, Sharif announced a committee of politicians to investigate the clashes and engage the protesters in dialogue. Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, a committee member, said, "We hope that we will resolve all these issues through negotiations." Meanwhile, Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, a cabinet minister, confirmed ongoing talks with the Awami Action Committee in Muzaffarabad, even as another convoy of buses and cars was reported moving toward the city for further demonstrations.

The provincial administration has already agreed to 36 of the alliance's 38 demands, including subsidies on flour and electricity and local governance reforms, but the protesters have refused to halt their agitation, continuing violent demonstrations despite the concessions.

This marks a severe escalation compared with last year, when similar clashes claimed four lives before Sharif approved a grant of 24 billion rupees (USD 86 million) to meet most demands. The prime minister appealed for calm, instructing police to exercise restraint while committing the government to addressing public grievances.

As Muzaffarabad remains tense, businesses and public services continue to be disrupted, and the situation underscores ongoing political and social fragility in the Pakistan-administered

region of Kashmir.

Taliban Foreign

was subject to a travel ban, assets freeze and arms embargo.

The Security Council Committee, established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011), on September 30, 2025, "approved an exemption to the travel ban for Amir Khan Muttaqi to visit New Delhi, India, from October 9 to 16, 2025," according to information on the Sanctions Committee's website.

It would be the first ministerial visit from Kabul to India after the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021.

Muttaqi, "considered to be a prominent member of the Taliban", had also served as a Taliban representative in United Nations-led talks during the Taliban regime, the UN said.

The Committee comprises all 15 members of the UN Security Council and makes its decision by consensus.

The 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee is currently chaired by Pakistan. The two Vice-Chairs for 2025 are Guyana and Russia.

In May this year, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had said he had a "good conversation" with Muttaqi and "deeply appreciated his condemnation of the Pahalgam terrorist attack."

Jaishankar had "welcomed his firm rejection of recent attempts to create distrust between India and Afghanistan through false and baseless reports. Underlined our traditional friendship with the Afghan people and continuing support for their development needs. Discussed ways and means of taking cooperation forward."

A planned visit to India by Muttaqi last month was called off after he could not get a waiver for the trip.

India has not yet recognised the Taliban set up and has been pitching for the formation of a truly inclusive government in Kabul.

New Delhi has also been insisting that Afghan soil must not be used for any terrorist activities against any country.

India, China

last year.

"Since earlier this year, as part of the government's approach towards gradual normalisation of relations between India and China, the civil aviation authorities of the two countries have been engaged in technical-level discussions on resuming direct air services between the two countries and on a revised air services agreement," the MEA said.

It has now been agreed that direct air services connecting designated points in India and China can resume by late October, in keeping with the winter-season schedule and subject to commercial decisions of the designated carriers from the two countries and the fulfilment of all operational criteria, it added.

"This agreement of the civil aviation authorities will further facilitate people-to-people contact between India and China, contributing towards the gradual normalisation of bilateral exchanges," the MEA said in a statement.

IndiGo said in a statement that it plans to operate daily flights from Kolkata to Guangzhou from October 26. "Subject to regulatory approvals, IndiGo will also introduce direct flights between Delhi and Guangzhou shortly," it said.

In a social media post, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said India and China will resume

direct air services by the end of October.

"This follows continuous technical-level engagement between civil aviation authorities as part of broader efforts to normalise bilateral ties," it said.

"The move will greatly enhance air connectivity, support people-to-people exchanges and contribute to the strengthening of economic collaboration between the two countries," it added.

In his remarks at the meeting with Xi on August 31, Modi had said that direct flights are being resumed between the two countries.

India-China relations plunged to their lowest point since the 1962 war following the Galwan valley clashes in June 2020.

After a series of diplomatic and military talks, the two sides withdrew their troops from several friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

In October last year, the two sides firmed up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points.

Days after the agreement was finalised, Modi and Xi held talks in Kazan and took a number of decisions to improve the ties.

In the last few months, the two sides have taken a series of measures to repair the ties, including the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

Leh Violence:

the unrest. Around 30 people, however, remain in custody.

The Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) and the All Ladakh Gonpa Association held a joint prayer meeting, paying tributes to both the victims of the September 24 police firing and Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary. Following the prayers, the groups passed a resolution demanding an impartial judicial inquiry, adequate compensation for the families of the killed and critically injured, and the immediate release of activist Sonam Wangchuk, who is lodged in a Rajasthan prison under the National Security Act.

LBA president Chering Dorjay said the body's legal advisor has been permitted to meet Wangchuk, with some of his family members also allowed to see him.

The Leh Apex Body, together with the Kargil Democratic Alliance, has long been advocating for demands including statehood for Ladakh and safeguards under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. Both bodies have decided to stay away from talks with the Centre scheduled for October 6 until a conducive atmosphere is created, including a judicial inquiry and the release of all detained persons.

In solidarity, the Kargil Bar Association is on a week-long strike, providing free legal assistance to victims and calling for a fair and impartial probe into the September 24 incident.

Officials said markets in Leh opened early Thursday, although mobile internet services remain suspended and prohibitory orders banning gatherings of five or more people are still in force across Ladakh.

Wangchuk's 'Admirer'

told reporters that Dorjay, survived by his wife and two children, had been deeply affected by the September 24 violence in Leh, which left four people dead and scores injured.

"He was a member of our general council and linked to our movement supporting statehood and safeguards under the Sixth Schedule

of the Constitution. He was a big admirer of activist Sonam Wangchuk," Lakruk said, noting that Dorjay had interacted with Wangchuk during the unrest.

According to his brothers, Dorjay had been struggling with depression following the violence. Lakruk added that he had attempted to dissuade Dorjay from leaving the hunger strike venue, but the youth remained deeply troubled by recent events.

A police official confirmed the death and said a preliminary investigation suggested that Dorjay had consumed a large amount of alcohol the previous night. The post-mortem was conducted on Wednesday, and the body was handed over to his family for last rites.

"No suicide note or other indications explaining his actions have been found," the official said, adding that inquest proceedings have been initiated to ascertain the exact cause of death.

Inquiry To Conclude

Nubra Mukul Beniwal as inquiry officer.

Last month, security forces opened fire in Leh town during a shutdown called by the Apex Body Leh to advance talks with the central government over its demand for statehood for Ladakh and safeguards under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Beniwal, in a public notice, said the inquiry committee is charged with ascertaining facts and circumstances that led to the serious law and order situation, police action, and death of four people.

Jigmet Dorjey of Kharnak, Rinchen Dadul of Hanu, Stanzin Namgail of Igoo, and Tsewang Tharchin of Skurbuchan died that day in the firing by security forces.

Beniwal also urged the members of the public to visit him if they possess any information that may help him unravel the sequence of events that led to the violence.

He said such people can visit him from October 4 to 18 during office hours at the conference hall of the deputy commissioner's office in Leh.

"All concerned are therefore requested to extend their cooperation to ensure a fair and transparent inquiry," the SDM said.

PM Modi Turning

society powered by moral force and based on equity and justice," he noted.

Calling for the adoption of Swadeshi, the LG urged people to buy products made by Self Help Groups (SHGs) and MSMEs. "Remember your roots and ageless spirit of India as you chart future course. Society and nature must exist in harmony. Focus on research and development. Agriculture, industry and service sectors must work together for a prosperous economy," he said.

"The J&K government has been promoting Babu's vision of swadeshi by setting up domestic industries. On this occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, I appeal to everyone—let us adopt swadeshi in our lives," the Lieutenant Governor added.

The Lieutenant Governor also extended greetings on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

The event, organised by the Department of School Education and Department of Culture, also marked the closing ceremony of Sewa Parv. Districts and schools were felicitated for their performance, along with members of

Gandhi Global Family, Sant Nirankari Mission and Har Ghar Tiranga campaign volunteers.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Padma Shri Dr SP Varma, Additional Chief Secretary Shantmanu, Principal Secretary Brij Mohan Sharma, Secretary School Education Ram Niwas Sharma, besides senior officials, educationists, teachers and students attended the function.

Congress Eyes

regarding the INC-NC coalition partnership in J&K.

He was also directed to coordinate closely with the Jammu & Kashmir in-charge and Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President Tariq Hamid Karra on these matters.

In the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls, the NC-Congress alliance is poised to comfortably secure three of the four seats, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is in a strong position to win the remaining seat.

In the current House composition, the ruling alliance holds 53 members, while the BJP has 28.

The non-BJP opposition bloc comprises seven legislators—three from PDP, one each from PC and AAP and two independents.

Will Respond Aggressively

unclear. Any misadventure now will be met with a strong response," Singh said, recalling India's military success in the 1965 war. "In 1965, our forces reached Lahore. In 2025, they must remember — one direct route to Karachi passes through Sir Creek."

Singh said the Indian Army and Border Security Force are fully alert and monitoring all border activities. "Our soldiers are guarding the borders with complete vigilance. If provoked, the response will not be restrained," he added.

The Defence Minister also spoke about Operation Sindoor, a four-day military action conducted from May 7-10, 2025, targeting terrorist camps in Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack. He emphasized that the operation was a measured response to terrorism, not an escalation into full-scale war. "Our forces exercised restraint but achieved every military objective. The fight against terrorism will continue," he said, praising the joint efforts of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Marking Dussehra, Singh performed the traditional worship of weapons, describing them not just as tools of war but as instruments of righteousness. "Weapons are not for show; they protect dharma," he said.

Delhi Govt Abolishes

families to update their records without penalties or recovery of past payments, ensuring transparency and fairness. The government further announced that all pending arrears up to September 2025 will be cleared promptly.

"Delhi has been a refuge for these families for over 30 years. Now it must also be their home with dignity and security," Gupta said. "These citizens lost their homes, land, and identity but never compromised their faith in the nation or their culture. It is our duty to provide them respect and protection."

Currently, around 1,800 Kashmiri migrant families reside in the capital. The new decision is expected to streamline relief distribution and align it with the provisions already in place in Jammu and Kashmir.

Valley Marks Dussehra With Joy, Unity & Cultural Fervour

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The festival of Dussehra, also known as Vijayadashami, was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervour across the Kashmir Valley on Thursday, symbolizing the timeless triumph of good over evil.

The main event took place at Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar, where a towering effigy of Ravana was set ablaze, drawing large crowds from across communities. The celebrations also included the burning of effigies of Meghnath and Kumbhakaran, reinforcing the festival's message of unity and moral victory.

Residents from all walks of life participated, including Kashmiri Pandits, who continue to uphold their cultural traditions despite being a minority in the region. Speaking to KNO, Rahul Matoo, a Kashmiri Pan-



dit, said, "Dussehra in Kashmir brings us together as a community and strengthens our bond with our heritage." Other locals highlighted the unifying spirit of the festival. A

resident from Kheer Bhawani remarked, "Celebrating Dussehra reminds us of our roots and shared traditions. It's a moment of hope and togetherness."

The celebrations concluded with a vibrant display of fireworks illuminating the Srinagar sky, adding to the festive cheer. The administration ensured robust security measures for a smooth and safe event.

The Lieutenant Governor's office extended greetings on social media, wishing citizens a joyous Vijayadashami. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also conveyed his wishes, stating, "Dussehra inspires us to uphold truth, righteousness, and justice. Its message of moral courage and harmony is more relevant today than ever."

The festival once again highlighted Kashmir's cultural richness and the spirit of unity among its people.

Hotels Lying Vacant, Arrivals At All-time Low

Tourism Revival Group Launched To Boost Kashmir Tourism

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's tourism industry is facing one of its toughest periods in recent years, with hotels lying vacant and tourist arrivals at an all-time low following the recent Pahalgam attack, said prominent hotelier Mushtaq Chaya.

Chaya said the attack has severely impacted the sector, which supports around 35 lakh people directly and indirectly. "Hotels are empty, tourist inflow is down, and this affects transporters, guides, artisans, and everyone linked to tourism," he noted.

To address the crisis, Chaya announced the formation of a Tourism Revival Group, bringing together major and minor associations connected to the industry. The group plans to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to press for measures to



restore tourist confidence.

Chaya emphasized that the industry does not seek financial handouts but aims for revival, investment, and increased visitor inflow. "Tourists must feel assured of their safety. Our infrastructure is ready, hotels are ready, and people are waiting to welcome guests," he said, appealing for a coordinated effort to safeguard livelihoods dependent on tourism.

The Revival Group will draft a memorandum highlighting challenges such as law and order

concerns, negative perceptions, and inadequate international promotion, seeking central intervention to ensure Kashmir remains a top travel destination.

With the winter season approaching, the sector warns that delayed confidence-building could result in lost business to other hill destinations in India. Chaya stressed that sustained investment and long-term planning, rather than short-term measures, are key to reviving the Valley's tourism. (KNT)

FIR Lodged Over Circulation Of Ladakh DGP's Deepfake Video

Press Trust Of India

LEH: Police on Thursday registered an FIR to identify and arrest those behind the circulation of a deepfake video attributing a false statement to Ladakh Director General of Police (DGP) S D Singh Jamwal.

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) has said the video, in which Jamwal is purportedly seen claiming that climate activist Sonam Wangchuk was arrested on the defence minister's directions, is deepfake.

The video has gone viral on social media platforms. "It has come to the notice of District Police Leh that a deepfake (digitally morphed) video is being circulated on social media platform X. In this video, false statements are attributed to the DGP, UT Ladakh.

"The video has been digitally manipulated using Deepfake AI with malicious intent and has the potential to disturb peace and harmony in the region. On this, FIR 148 at Police Station Leh under sections 353(2), 356 of the Bharatiya

Nyaya Sanhita, and 66C and 66D of the IT Act, 2000 has been registered," the Cyber unit of the Leh District Police said in a statement. It added that further investigation is underway.

"District Police Leh appeals to the public to always verify the content before sharing such videos. Such misinformation shall be strictly dealt with as per law," the statement said, adding, "If any individual comes across such misleading posts or videos, it is requested to immediately inform Cyber Cell Leh."

On September 30, the PIB's Fact Check unit said a digitally-altered video of the Ladakh DGP is doing the round of social media, in which he is shown making claims that Wangchuk was arrested on the defence minister's directions.

Police arrested Wangchuk on September 26, two days after protests demanding Ladakh's statehood and Sixth Schedule status left four people dead and 90 injured in the Union Territory.

Wangchuk was taken into custody by a police party led by Jamwal.

Schools Up To Class 8 To Reopen In Leh

KO Web Desk

LEH: With the situation limping back to normalcy after violent clashes on September 24 left four people dead in Leh, the authorities have ordered reopening of all schools up to Class 8 from Friday.

However, they called for strict adherence to the prohibitory orders that ban assembly of five or more persons, an official order said.

"It is hereby ordered that all shops and schools up to Class 8 within Leh district shall remain open, and small buses (public transport) shall be permitted to ply between 10 am and 6 pm on October 3, subject to strict adherence to the restrictions laid down under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita," it read.

The order was issued by Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) Shabbir Hussain on directions of the district magistrate.

The situation in the district began getting back on track when authorities relaxed the curfew for seven hours on September 30 and gradually increased the duration on Wednesday and Thursday.

J&K Bank Holds Corporate Customer Meet At Chandigarh

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of strengthening its connect with customers across the country, J&K Bank organized a Corporate Customer Meet yesterday at Chandigarh in its Mohali Cluster. The meeting witnessed enthusiastic participation from corporate clients, business houses, and other valued customers of the region.

The Bank's Chief General Manager (CGM) Sunit Kumar chaired the meeting in presence of Cluster Head (Mohali) Vishal Pandoh and other senior officials.

Held on the Bank's 88th Foundation Day, the event provided an opportunity for the Bank to both celebrate its rich legacy of 87 years and engage meaningfully with its corporate clientele.

Thanking the participants for their trust, goodwill and continued support, the CGM said, "Our customers are at the heart of everything we do. Their suggestions and concerns are vital for us not only in refin-



ing our products and services but also in charting the future direction of the Bank."

He further stated that the Bank is providing some of the most competitive interest rates on Home, Car and other loans, along with tailor-made deposit products catering to entrepreneurs as well as salaried individuals.

Referring to the Bank's ongoing digital transformation, the CGM remarked that technology integration has significantly reduced loan processing and sanction turnaround times, thereby making banking seamless and efficient. "The Bank is

continuously improving on its technology front to match the best in the industry," he added.

CGM also spoke about the marked improvement in the Bank's customer service and grievance redressal mechanism, which ensures resolution of complaints within stipulated timelines.

Customers present at the meeting welcomed the Bank's outreach program and expressed satisfaction with its services. They particularly said they have felt visible improvement in the Bank's Turnaround Time in loan processing and sanctioning. Terming the Bank's

lending products among the best in the market they also appreciated the recent reduction in the interest rates making it best in the segments. Some participants also requested for an increased number of touch-points in the region.

Responding to their feedback, CGM Sunit Kumar assured the gathering that the Bank would continue to expand its footprint in the region while further enhancing its digital delivery channels to improve customer convenience.

On the occasion, the Bank also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Vintage Green Housing, Mohali (Punjab) under an Arranged Financing Partnership (AFP) to provide sustainable housing finance solutions to prospective buyers.

The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks from Cluster Head (Mohali) Vishal Pandoh, who appreciated the active participation of customers and reaffirmed the Bank's resolve to strengthen its relationship with them.

Terrorist Handler's Property Attached In Kupwara

Land belonging to an alleged terrorist handler, based in Pakistan occupied Kashmir, was attached in Handwara area of Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara officials said here.

While investigating a case, Kralgund police was found that Nazir Ahmad Ganai, a resident of Palpora village, was operating from PoK and actively involved in guiding and handling terrorist activities in Handwara, a police spokesperson said.

As per the provision of law, proceedings to attach his property were initiated in the said case.

"After obtaining necessary legal sanctions from the competent authority, land belonging to Ganie in Palpora was attached in presence of police and revenue officials," the spokesperson said.

"Such measures aim to dismantle the support structures of terrorist outfits and deter others from unlawful activities besides strengthen the measures which promote peace and order in the district," he added. (PTI)

Police Crack Down on SIM Card Misuse in Anantnag

Jammu Kashmir Police conducted a district-wide inspection of SIM card vendors in Anantnag areas to check sim card misuse.

Surprise checks were carried out at multiple locations to ensure strict adherence to KYC norms, thorough verification of identity and address documents, and safeguards against unauthorised issuance of SIM cards that could otherwise be exploited for unlawful or anti-national activities.

JK Police officials engaged with vendors during the inspections and reiterated that secure and accountable communication networks are vital for the safety of the district. Vendors were categorically directed to follow all regulatory procedures, with a clear warning that any lapse or negligence would lead to strict legal action, including cancellation of licenses and criminal prosecution.

Police further appealed to the public to remain alert and report any irregularities or suspicious activities linked to SIM issuance.

Reiterating its zero-tolerance approach Police assured that such security-driven inspections will continue regularly to strengthen preventive measures and maintain peace and stability in the district. (Observer News Service)

Special Vaishno Devi Train Operation Extended To Oct 7

To meet the increasing passenger demand and ensure smooth travel, a special train under number 04688/04687 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Banihal - Katra was operated for 15 days from September 19, 2025, to October 3, 2025, in the Jammu Division of Northern Railway.

This proved to be a better option for passengers than road transport. For passenger convenience, the operation of Train No. 04688/04687 has been extended for four days from October 3 to October 7, reads a statement.

This decision was taken by Divisional Railway Manager Vivek Kumar, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal, and Senior Divisional Operations Manager Arish Bansal in view of the increase in passenger traffic, especially during the festive season. The timetable and station stoppages of Train No. 04688/04687 will remain unchanged, it reads, adding that no changes have been made.

"Passengers are requested to consult the Indian Railways website or the official passenger enquiry number 139 for travel-related information," the statement added. (Observer News Service)

Ito Distributes Relief Cheques To Fire-Affected Families

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito today visited Langkhull Nandimarg area of Kulgam district and distributed relief cheques among fire-affected families.

During the visit, the Minister interacted with the affected families, expressed her solidarity with them and assured them of every possible support from the Government. She personally distributed relief cheques among the victims as an immediate measure of assistance.

The Minister emphasized that the administration has been directed to ensure swift rehabilitation and timely relief measures so that the affected families are able to rebuild their lives at the earliest. She further stated that necessary steps will be taken to extend both short-term and long-term support, including assistance under various government schemes.

The Minister reiterated that the welfare of the people, especially those facing sudden calamities, remains a top priority of the Omar Abdullah led Government. She also directed the concerned officials to expedite the process of damage assessment and ensure that no affected household is left out of the relief ambit. (Observer News Service)

Plastic Use Banned In & Around Kokernag Botanical Garden

Authorities have imposed a complete ban on the entry, sale and storage of single-use plastic items within and around the premises of the Botanical Garden Kokernag.

According to an order issued by SDM Kokernag, the step was taken after repeated complaints of plastic pollution in the garden that not only threatened the environment but also contaminated the Kokernag spring, an important source of drinking water and supply to the Trout Fish Farm.

The order stated that despite regular cleanliness drives, plastic dumping continued to choke the water supply, posing a risk to aquatic life and public health.

Officials said that disposable plates, cups, glasses, spoons and other plastic items were found littered in the garden despite existing government restrictions. Citing provisions of the Plastic Waste Management Rules and J&K government orders banning non-biodegradable plastic items, the SDM said violation of this directive will invite strict action under law. (KNO)

Multi-Crore Job Scam

J&K Crime Branch Charges Woman, Two Aides

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police Crime Branch has filed a chargesheet against a woman and her two accomplices for their alleged involvement in a multi-crore job scam, in which they allegedly duped several people by promising government jobs in the Union Territory.

According to officials, the trio conspired to cheat unsuspecting youths by collecting large sums of money from 10 people and issuing fake appointment orders for government positions.

"As the offences were fully established during the investigation, the chargesheet has been filed before the Railway Magistrate court in Jammu," a Crime Branch officer said.

The case was first registered in 2024 against the woman from Ramgarh in Samba district and her two associates, Dalip Singh and Subhash Chander, following a complaint by Bupal Kumar from Kot Bhalwal. The complainant alleged that the accused defrauded him of Rs 50 lakh under the pretext of providing government jobs to his two unemployed sons and issued fake appointment letters.

End 'Criminalisation' Of J&K, Resolve Issues Through Dialogue: Mufti

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday criticised the Centre for treating the people of Jammu and Kashmir as criminals, urging authorities to resolve issues through dialogue.

Speaking to reporters in Anantnag, Mufti said, "People are being removed from service, labelled anti-national, and even their homes are branded as anti-national. These properties are then attached or destroyed."

She specifically referred to the attachment of the three-storey residence and office of the late

Syed Ali Shah Geelani, which also served as the headquarters of the banned Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Kashmir. "Geelani has passed away, but his 80-year-old widow lives there. There is something called humanity. You are attaching the house of a widow and mother," she said.

While acknowledging ideological differences with various political outfits, Mufti condemned what she called inhumane treatment of citizens. "Just like we don't align with RSS ideology, we may not agree with Geelani's ideology. But turning his house into a criminal property and attaching Jamaat-e-Islami schools and Falah-e-Aam trusts is excessive. What have you made Kashmir into?" she asked.

Jammu Shows Trend Of Spike In Dengue Cases

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Dengue cases have been rising the past fortnight, with Jammu recording the highest number of cases in the region, officials said.

So far this year, over 1,100 cases have been reported across the Jammu region, which is slightly lower than last year, they said.

Health officials pointed out that heavy rains and waterlogging have created conditions for mosquito breeding. "Water is stagnating in several places, which is leading to mosquito growth," they said.

"There has been an in-

creasing trend of dengue cases in Jammu region," health department officials said.

Jammu is undergoing intense citywide thermal fogging and spraying by the Jammu Municipal Corporation to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases such as dengue, malaria and chikungunya.

"Safeguarding the health and well-being of citizens is the foremost priority of the Jammu Municipal Corporation." Commissioner JMC Devansh Yadav said, emphasising the need for sustained and coordinated efforts at all levels.

Siraj-Bumrah Show, Rahul's Class Make It India's Day Against West Indies

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah combined to decimate West Indies for a paltry 162 before the in-form KL Rahul struck a measured half century as India expectedly dominated the opening day of the first Test here on Thursday.

At stumps, the hosts reached 121/2 with another 41 runs in arrears. Siraj (4/40) and Bumrah (3/32) were the architects of India's dominating show on a day when rain caused a brief disruption to the proceedings.

Rahul, who struck the first fifty of the series, was batting on 53 off 114 balls with six fours accompanied by India captain Shubman Gill on 18 (42 balls, 1x4s).

India lost Yashasvi Jaiswal (36) after his 68-run opening stand with Rahul and B Sai Sudharsan



(7) fell soon after, but the hosts largely remained unchallenged on the opening day of this two-Test affair.

For someone who has almost every shot in his arsenal, Jaiswal took a patient approach to the innings hitting his first boundary after facing 37 deliveries. But he turned on the heat smacking six more over the next 16 balls

before he fell.

Once he broke free, Jaiswal dealt only in boundaries on both sides of the wicket and from a sedate start of 4 off 36 balls, he raced to 36 off 54 balls hitting seven fours overall.

But paying the price of playing one shot too many, Jaiswal cut one close to his body which resulted in an outside edge going

to Shai Hope behind the wickets off Jayden Seales.

If Jaiswal failed to convert his start, No.3 Sudharsan (7) could not even spend enough time to give himself a chance.

Unscathed from a mix-up between the wickets with Rahul after he failed to respond to a second run while being inattentive to his partner in the 24th over,

Sudharsan fell to West Indies skipper Roston Chase in the next. Sudharsan went for a pull shot against the off-spinner while misjudging the length of the ball, which pitched in line of the stumps and hit him on the back leg.

Sudharsan was bent awkwardly playing the shot when he missed the connection completely, and walked off without contemplating a review.

Rahul, on the other hand, came out on top after some initial struggles with the new ball.

Earlier, Siraj took three wickets upfront in a lethal seven-over spell in the first session and added one more post lunch, but came close twice to complete his fiver which was not meant to be.

Pace spearhead Bumrah also found his rhythm with the red ball, nailing a couple of yorkers to return 14-3-42-3.

India A Passionate Football Nation, Honour To Return: Lionel Messi

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Lionel Messi on Thursday confirmed his participation in the much-anticipated GOAT Tour of India 2025, calling it an "honour" to revisit the "passionate football nation" where he last played 14 years ago.

"It is such an honour for me to make this trip. India is a very special country, and I have good memories from my time there 14 years ago -- the fans were fantastic.

"India is a passionate football nation, and I look forward to meeting a new generation of fans while sharing the love I have for this beautiful game," Messi said in an official statement.

The organisers had already unveiled the itinerary on August 15, and Messi's statement on Thursday marked the first time the football icon himself confirmed the visit.

Messi will begin his whirlwind four-city tour in Kolkata on December 13 before travelling to Ahmedabad, Mumbai and New Delhi. The trip will end with a meeting with Prime Minister Na-



rendra Modi on December 15.

During the tour, the Argentine superstar will headline concerts, meet-and-greet sessions, food festivals, football masterclasses, and even a padel exhibition at Mumbai's Brabourne Stadium.

In Kolkata, Messi's event will be held at Salt Lake Stadium which was also confirmed on Thursday.

The stadium will host the leg-end for the second time this time in the "GOAT Concert" and "GOAT

Cup" on December 13, where Messi is expected to share the field with Indian icons Sourav Ganguly, Bhaichung Bhutia and Leander Paes.

Organisers are also planning a 25-foot-high mural to be unveiled during Durga Puja festivities, along with the inauguration of Messi's biggest-ever statue. Tickets for the events are expected to start from Rs 3,500.

This will be Messi's first visit to India since 2011, when he captained Argentina in a FIFA friendly against Venezuela at the Salt Lake Stadium.

Promoter Satadru Dutta, who secured the authorisation earlier this year after meetings with Messi and his father, has promised a spectacle blending Indian and Argentine culture.

A food and tea festival in Kolkata will highlight Messi's fondness for Argentine made tea, with a special Assam fusion.

In Mumbai, Messi will also attend the "Padel GOAT Cup" and participate in a celebrity line-up that could include Shah Rukh Khan, Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni, and Bollywood stars.

Seva Parv Culminates with Inclusive Sports Activities Across Budgam



Dabirah Hassan

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Budgam concluded its Seva Parv Activity Calendar on Thursday, bringing the fortnight-long celebrations to a close. The calendar, held from September 17 to October 2, witnessed active involvement from students, youth and communities across all zones of the district.

On the concluding day, special focus was given to sports for children from special schools, along with a series of friendly matches organized in these institutions. The initiative highlighted the de-

partment's commitment to inclusivity and equal opportunities for differently-abled children in the field of sports.

The programs were carried out under the supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Budgam, Ghulam Hassan Lone, who remarked that the success of Seva Parv lies not only in the competitions conducted but also in the values of unity, inclusiveness, and social responsibility it has promoted throughout the district.

With Thursday's events, the Seva Parv Calendar 2025 in Budgam concluded on a high note, leaving behind a legacy of fitness, participation, and community spirit.

Ramban Wins Divisional Level Under-17 Kabaddi Boys Tournament

The Department of Youth Services and Sports' Inter-District Divisional Level Kabaddi Under-17 Boys Tournament concluded at Indoor Sports Stadium Doda on Thursday.

The grand finale featured an intense and thrilling contest in which District Ramban emerged victorious, defeating District Doda by just two points. The narrow margin made the match highly engaging and kept the audience on the edge of their seats.

During the prize distribution ceremony, District Youth Services and Sports Officer Jaffer Haider Sheikh praised the athletes, coaches and officials for their dedication.

The concluding ceremony was attended by dignitaries including ZPEO Drabshalla, Subash Chander, Activity In-charge Javed Iqbal Sheikh and Games Fund In-charge Shahnawaz Ahmad Qazi. (Observer News Service)

Bangladesh Beat Pakistan By 7 Wkts In Women's World Cup

Bangladesh beat Pakistan by seven wickets in their ICC Women's World Cup opening match here on Thursday.

Bangladesh chased down the target of 130 with 113 balls to spare with opener Rubya Haider top-scoring with an unbeaten 54 off 77 balls while Sobhana Mostary remained not out on 24.

Bangladesh reached 131 for 3 in 31.1 overs.

Earlier, Pakistan were all out for 129 in 38.3 overs after opting to bat first.

Pakistan suffered a batting collapse with Rameen Shamim top-scoring with 23 off 39 balls while Fatima Sana contributed 22 off 33 balls.

For Bangladesh, Shorna Akter took three wickets while Marufa Akter and Nahida Akter got two apiece.

Brief Scores:

Pakistan: 129 all out in 38.3 overs (Rameen Shamim 23; Shorna Akter 3/5).

Bangladesh: 131 for 3 in 31.1 overs (Rubya Haider 54 not out, Diana Baig 1/14). (PTI)

FIFA's President Urges Peace, Takes No Action Against Israel

Facing growing global calls to suspend Israeli teams from soccer, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said on Thursday the governing body must promote peace and unity and could not solve political issues.

The strongest push against Israeli teams by European soccer leaders during the two-year conflict in Gaza was paused after a peace proposal on Monday in the White House by U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Infantino stressed to his 37-member council "the importance of promoting peace and unity, particularly in the context of the ongoing situation in Gaza," FIFA said in a news release that did not refer directly to Israel.

"FIFA cannot solve geopolitical problems," Infantino said in the statement, "but it can and must promote football around the world by harnessing its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values." (AP)

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