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J&K High Court Draws Line Between Rape & Marriage Rights

A woman convicted her partner for rape on the promise of marriage, but she cannot claim financial support under current law

Ansar Hussain

Srinagar: She spent a decade building a life with him. They shared a home, raised a child, and lived like husband and wife.

But when he refused to marry her, she turned to the courts, accusing him of raping her on the pretext of marriage.



The trial court convicted him under Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code.

After the conviction, she sought maintenance for herself and the child. A trial court granted 2,000 for her and 1,000 for the child. The man appealed.

Now, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh

upheld a sessions court decision overturning the order for her, while allowing support for the child to continue.

Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul wrote that a man convicted of rape on the promise of marriage could not simultaneously be forced to maintain the woman who secured his conviction.

"The fact that the respondent had been prosecuted and ultimately convicted makes it difficult to hold that he would be liable to maintain and pay expenses for her maintenance," he said.

The woman had alleged that the man presented himself as unmarried, persuaded her into a relationship, and promised

marriage.

In 2016, she gave birth to their child. When he refused to formalize their union or accept the child as legitimate, she filed a complaint.

Her lawyers argued she was entitled to maintenance under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal | More on P10

ROTTEN MEAT SCARE

J&K Bans Sale Of Unsafe Frozen, Chilled Meat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has imposed a blanket ban on the manufacture, storage, distribution, transportation, and sale of frozen and chilled meat products that fail to meet food safety standards.

An official order cited inspections conducted by the Food Safety Wing of the Drug and Food Control Organization, which uncovered large quantities of rotten, decomposed, and unlabelled meat across multiple locations in the Union Territory. The unsafe stocks were seized and destroyed.

The seized products were found to violate key provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Many items lacked mandatory labeling, including batch numbers, expiry dates, manufacturer details, FSSAI license numbers, and proper storage instructions.

The Commissioner said

Meat Safety Guidelines

- Frozen meat: Stored & transported at -18°C
- Chilled meat: Maintained at 0-4°C
- Show 'Date of Freezing'; max 12 months sale.
- E-commerce: min 30% shelf life or 45 days.
- Storage & transport must have calibrated monitors.
- Labels must indicate animal type

frozen meat must be stored and transported at minus 18 degrees Celsius or below, while chilled meat must be kept at 0-4 degrees Celsius. Frozen products must display the date | More on P10



THE BAN WILL REMAIN IN FORCE until further notice or until authorities confirm that the products pose no health risk.

Forging NHM Selection List

Crime Branch Books 5 NGO Members

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch, Kashmir, has registered a case against five individuals for allegedly circulating a forged selection list under the National Health Mission (NHM), officials said on Saturday.

According to a spokesperson of the Crime Branch, the case was

initiated following a complaint from the state nodal officer of NHM, who reported that a fake order, purportedly issued by the mission director of NHM Jammu and Kashmir, was being circulated on social media. The order, titled "Provisional Selection List of Candidates for Different Posts (Kashmir Division) against Notification No. SHS/NHM/J&K/HR/10259 dated | More on P10

Annual 10th,12th Exams

JKBOSE Grants 15% Syllabus Relaxation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) on Saturday announced a 15% relaxation in syllabus for students of Classes 10, 11, and 12 appearing in the Annual Regular 2025 (October-November session) examinations.

According to a notification, the relaxation has

been granted in view of the delayed start of the academic session this year and disruptions caused by prolonged heat waves, torrential rains, and floods across several regions.

"It is hereby notified that students appearing in Class 10, 11, and 12 examinations in the Kashmir Division, winter zone areas of the Jammu Division, | More on P10

Farooq Abdullah Hospitalised



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar ~ National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah was hospitalised on Saturday as he was not keeping well for the past few days, party leaders said. Eight seven year former chief minister developed infection in the abdomen earlier this week and was taken to a private hospital for treatment, the leaders said. | More on P10

Custodial Torture Case: Court Rejects Bail To DySP, 7 Other Cops

M Ahmad



Srinagar: A Court here on Saturday rejected three bail pleas filed by eight Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel including a DySP arrested by Central Bureau of Investigation for inflicting "brutal and inhuman custodial torture" on a fellow police constable two years ago.

The Court is of the considered opinion that none of the three applications disclose any exceptional circumstance warranting departure from the settled principle that bail is not to be granted in serious

Khoja, Shahnawaz Ahmad Deedad and Jehangir Ahmad Beigh.

The police personnel had sought the bail in FIR pertaining to allegations of custodial torture and grievous bodily injuries inflicted upon Constable Khursheed Ahmed Chowhan, during his "illegal confinement" at the Joint Interrogation Centre (JIC), Kupwara, in 20-26 February 2023.

The Supreme Court had ordered the CBI probe into the alleged custodial torture, and directed compensation of Rs 50 lakh.

While the | More on P10

PM Welcomes Trump's Gaza Peace Plan



Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has warmly welcomed US President Donald Trump's Gaza peace initiative, describing it as a significant step toward restoring stability in the region. Modi's endorsement comes amid indications that Hamas may release Israeli hostages, marking progress in the nearly two-year conflict.

On his X account, Modi said, "India will continue to strongly support all efforts towards a durable and just peace."

In an unusual move, the Prime Minister posted messages in seven languages — English, Arabic, Hebrew, Spanish, French, Mandarin, and Russian — highlighting India's support and urging all parties to back Trump's 20-point roadmap.

Trump has | More on P10

J&K Braces For Inclement Weather, Authorities On Alert

Safety Guidelines Issued, Emergency Helplines Activated

Observer News Service



Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has gone into high alert following a severe weather advisory predicting widespread rain and snowfall across the Union Territory from October 5 to 7, 2025.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), an active Western Disturbance is expected to affect both divisions of J&K, bringing moderate to heavy

snowfall over higher reaches and heavy to very heavy rainfall in parts of the Jammu division. The system is likely to be most intense from the evening of October 5 until the afternoon of October 7.

In the Kashmir region, areas expected to witness heavy snowfall include Anantnag, Pahalgam, Kulgam, Sinthan Pass, Shopian, Pir Ki Gali, Sonamarg-Zojila, Bandipora-Razdan Pass, Gulmarg, and Kupwara-Sadna Pass. Mid-altitude | More on P10

BJP To Contest All 4 RS Seats In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced its decision to field candidates for all four upcoming Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu and Kashmir, signaling its intent to strengthen its political presence in the Union Territory.

Speaking to reporters, BJP spokesperson Sunil Sethi said, "We have decided to contest all seats. We are fielding three candidates," Sethi told reporters.

While the BJP will field one candidate each for the first two seats, it will field only one candidate for the remaining two seats, for which only one election will be held.

The BJP is expected to field the first two candidates for a 'symbolic' fight against the ruling NC-led alliance, which

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ASF ENTERPRISES

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Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... Application of Ghulam Hassan Wani s/o Ghulam Qadir
Wani R/o Hanjwira for issuance of legal heir certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT is inform to general public that applicants daughter's
legal heir certificate is under process in this matter report
Was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants
daughter namely Ruqya Bano Died on 28/02/2000
and left fallowing legal hairs.

Name	Age	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
Ghulam Hassan Wani	55	Father	MARRIED
Sarwa Begum	50	Mother	MARRIED
Waseem Hassan	31	Brother	UNMARRIED
Wani			
Ulfat Hassan	29	Sister	MARRIED
Danish Hassan	20	Brother	UNMARRIED
Yaqoob Hassan	20	Brother	UNMARRIED

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

SD
fko
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar
Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this
notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s is
issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 261486
Class 10th
Year & Session Nov Dec 1997
Registration: 24166-SHPX-92
Name : Murtaza Jaffar Bhat
Father's Name: Mohd Jaffar Bhat
Mother's Name : Khatoon
Date of Birth: 03-03-1978
Residenc: Goom Ahmad Pora Pattan Baramulla
According the candidate concerned has approach to this office
for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so
before the same is processed and provided to the candidate,
under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall
bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well
as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period
of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of
this notice.
(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s"
bearing No: be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/
Dated
bmg
Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this
notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s is
issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 201277

Class 12th

Year & Session Nov Dec 1997

Registration: 24166-SHPX-92

Name : Murtaza Jaffar Bhat

Father's Name: Mohd Jaffar Bhat

Mother's Name : Khatoon

Date of Birth: 03-03-1978

Residenc: Goom Ahmad Pora Pattan Baramulla

According the candidate concerned has approach to this office
for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so
before the same is processed and provided to the candidate,
under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall
bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well
as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period
of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of
this notice.

(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s"
bearing No: be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/

Dated

bmg



Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in Name in data to the
Registration No.KO4H1221 issued in favour of MUZAFFAR
ASHRAF Parentage MOHD ASHRAF DAR

Whereas an application has been received by one MUZAFFAR
ASHRAF Parentage MOHD ASHRAF DAR wherein he claimed
that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of
Registration Certificate as MUZAFFAR AHMAD DAR Parentage
MOHAMMAD ASHRAF DAR Which needs to be changed as
MUZAFFAR ASHRAF Parentage MOHD ASHRAF DAR

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

Assistant Regional Transport Officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

FAROOQ AHMAD GANIE
F/o MOHSIN AHMAD GANIE
R/o AKERWAIL HADWAIL
BUDGAM
CELL: 919408362

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Nazir Ahmad Tantray s/o Abdul Aziz Tantray R/o Mir Mohalla Pandach
Ganderbal hereby inform that my father Abdul Aziz Tantray who is the
Registered Consumer of PDD having Electric Connection bearing Consumer
no.020501000834 intend to transfer the electric connection in my name "Nazir
Ahmad Tantray". 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: Nazir Ahmad Tantray

S/o: Abdul Aziz Tantray

R/o Mir Mohalla Pandach

Mob: 9419454915

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER SRINAGAR Old secretariat Block-"A, 2nd. Floor

Subject:-Final Seniority List of Class Ivtth Matriculate Employees of District Cadre
Srinagar.

NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that this office had
previously issued three consecutive tentative seniority lists of Matriculate Class-IV
Employees of District Cadre Srinagar vide:

- No. Est/VI/Sr.List/5963-70 dated 30.09.2024
- No. Est/VI/Sr.List/6367-74 dated 21.10.2024
- No. Est/VI/Sr.List/6790-99 dated 12.11.2024

The aforementioned lists were duly circulated among the concerned offices and also
given wide publicity through print media for information and for inviting objections, if
any.

Subsequently, after examination of the objections received and in light of the
instructions conveyed by the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir vide letter No.
DHSK/Est-I/NG/7721220/5799 dated 09.07.2025, the Final Seniority List of Matriculate
Class-IV Employees (District Cadre Srinagar) has been prepared, circulated, and
disseminated among all concerned for information. The said list has been finalized
strictly in terms of Rule 24 of the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal)
Rules, 1956.

This notification is accordingly issued for wide dissemination. All concerned are
advised to take note and ensure further necessary action wherever required.

No: EST/CMO/SGR/NG/3927-32
DIPK-6826/25 DATED: 04-10-2025

Chief Medical Officer
Srinagar

I Shameema w/o Late Ab Gani Matto R/o Shah Mohalla Awanta Bhawan Soura
Srinagar hereby inform that my husband Ab Gani Matto who was the Registered
Consumer of PDD having Electric Connection bearing Consumer no.020404007811
has passed away in 2019. I intend to transfer the connection to my name "Shameema".
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 Hawal within 7 (seven) days from the Date of
Publication. No objection shall be entertained after stipulated Time Period.

Shameema W/o: Ab Gani Matto

R/o Shah Mohalla Awanta Bhawan

MOB: 9419454915

NOTICE

I, Mukhtar Ahmad Ahanger, S/o Abdul Majeed Ahanger, have lost
my Driving Licence bearing licence no. JK0120120041517, issued
by the Licensing Authority, RTO Kashmir, Srinagar, on
20/01/2012. I am now applying for a duplicate driving licence with
the concerned authority. If anybody has any objection, they may
file the same with the RTO Office, Srinagar, within 07 days of
publication of this notice. After that, no objection will be
entertained.

Media line advt

KASHMIR OBSERVER®
Srinagar | Sunday | 05-10-2025 | 2

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of NAYEEMA BEGUM W/O ABDUL HAMID WANI R/O HAIL for the issuance of Dependent certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that ABDUL HAMID WANI S/O GH NABI WANI R/O HAIL has passed away on 09/02/1996. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below
1... HANEERA BEGUM 47 years wife house wife
2...ADIL HAMID 31 Years Son private teacher
The applicant has applied for issuance of Dependent certificate in favour of Self if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI KREERI

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE .

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh E-NIT No. 91 / RNB/ Division / Sopore of 2025-26, Dat 04.10.2025

(3rd call)

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

, e-tenders are invited by Executive Engineer R&B Div. Sopore on (Aggregate Percentage Basis) from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt, PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. for the following work:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. cost	Cost of Tend. Documents In Rupees	E/ Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H. of Account	Position of AAA	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	Renovation of canning Hall (in the office of Manager cum chemist Sopore)	7.32	300/-	14640/-	60 days	11.10.2025	DEE/ CEE	Distr. capex Budget 2025-26	316/plan of 2025 dated: 30.7.2025	83/TS of 01.9.2025

Project Authority: Director Horticulture/ Chief Conservator Kashmir

Position of Funds: Available

Special conditions:-

- The intending tenderers must have sufficient skilled /unskilled labour force.
- All intending Bidders have to upload Scanned copy of Earnest money @ 2% as per the circular issued by Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kashmir, vide No. CE/RBK/HD/32857-92, Dated: 01-01-2022.
- Intending bidders shall upload scanned copies of documents of valid Registration card PAN / GST registration with clearance of Pervious month or previous quarter/ Month, Treasury Receipt (Dated between the bid start date and the bid submission end date) deposited in MH 0059 and CDR or FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Div Sopore. However successful bidder shall produce the original copies of same within 3 days after opening of tenders.
- The successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of allotted cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 07 days after opening of tenders and 2% CDR shall be released after expiry of Defect Liability period (DLP)
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof

- The typographical error in the BOQ like unit of item, quantity of item, rate of item etc. If any found during e-NIT or after end date of NIT, shall be rectified as per the estimate in the allotment/Agreement of work.

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

1. Date of issue of Tender Notice	04.10.2025
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	04.10.2025
3. Bid submission Start Date	04.10.2025
4. Bid Submission End Date	10/10/2025 4.00 P

Property Worth Rs 2 Cr Attached Under UAPA

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Police on Saturday attached a three-storey residential house in the HMT area of Srinagar linked to designated militant Sajad Ahmad Sheikh, also known as Sajad Gul.

The property, built over 15 marlas of land under Survey No. 43 min, Estate Khushipora, at Rose Avenue, has been valued



at around Rs 2 crore. Revenue records and verification from the office of Tehsildar Central, Shalteng, confirm that the house is registered in the name of Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh, father of Sajad Gul.

The attachment was executed under Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in connection with FIR No. 235/2022 registered at Police Station Parimpura under sections 13, 38, and 20 of the UAPA and sections 2/3 of the EMCO Act. The operation was carried out in the presence of the concerned Executive Magistrate, as mandated by law.

Police investigations revealed that although the property is mostly tourists, dead. He was allegedly involved in targeted killings between 2020 and 2024 in Central and South Kashmir, grenade attacks in Central Kashmir in 2023, the ambush of J&K police personnel in Bijbehara in Anantnag, Gagangir and the Z-Morh Tunnel attack in Ganderbal.

He was also allegedly involved in the killing of senior journalist Shujaat Bukhari in the Press Enclave here in June 2018.

Srinagar Police said the attachment is part of an ongoing strategy to disrupt the financial, logistical, and operational networks of militancy, including cross-border sponsors and sympathizers.

Srinagar To Host Kashmir Literature Festival 2025 On Oct 11-12

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The city is set to celebrate words, culture, and heritage as it hosts the two-day Kashmir Literature Festival (KLF) 2025 on October 11-12, organisers announced on Saturday.

The festival, a flagship initiative of the Srikula Foundation, will take place at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre and bring together noted authors, poets, journalists, thinkers, and artists. KLF-2025 aims to provide a vibrant platform for dialogue, creativity, and literary exchange.

Organisers said the festival will feature thought-provoking sessions, panel discussions, book launches, poetry readings, and cultural performances. Over 50 speakers from diverse fields will participate, discussing contemporary literature, history, me-

dia, art, technology, and cultural heritage. Special focus will be given to young voices, women writers, and Kashmiri literature.

A book fair, art exhibition, and events showcasing Kashmir's rich traditions will also be highlights of the festival, organisers added.

Naira Manzoor of the Srikula Foundation said KLF-2025 aims to preserve and promote Kashmir's literary heritage while providing writers, poets, and storytellers a wider audience. "Through this festival, we hope to ensure that the Valley's unique voices, traditions, and narratives continue to inspire generations," she said.

Jehanzeb Allaqaiband, a member of the organising team, described the festival as more than just a gathering of writers and thinkers. "It is a vibrant platform where stories come alive, voices are heard, and dialogues bridge communities," he said.

Budgam Man Found Dead On Srinagar Roadside

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The body of a man from Budgam district was discovered in the Parimpura area of Srinagar on Friday, prompting a police investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death.

The deceased has been identified as Firdous Ahmad Hajam, a resident of Budgam. Locals spotted the body near the roadside and immediately informed the police.

A team from Parimpura Police Station reached the site, secured the area, and collected forensic samples as part of the preliminary investigation. The body was shifted to a nearby hospital for medico-legal formalities, including a post-mortem, to determine the exact cause of death.

"Initial proceedings have been taken up, and the cause of death will be confirmed only after the autopsy report is received," a police officer said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Dy. CEE/GSU/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date 27.10.2025 at 15.00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

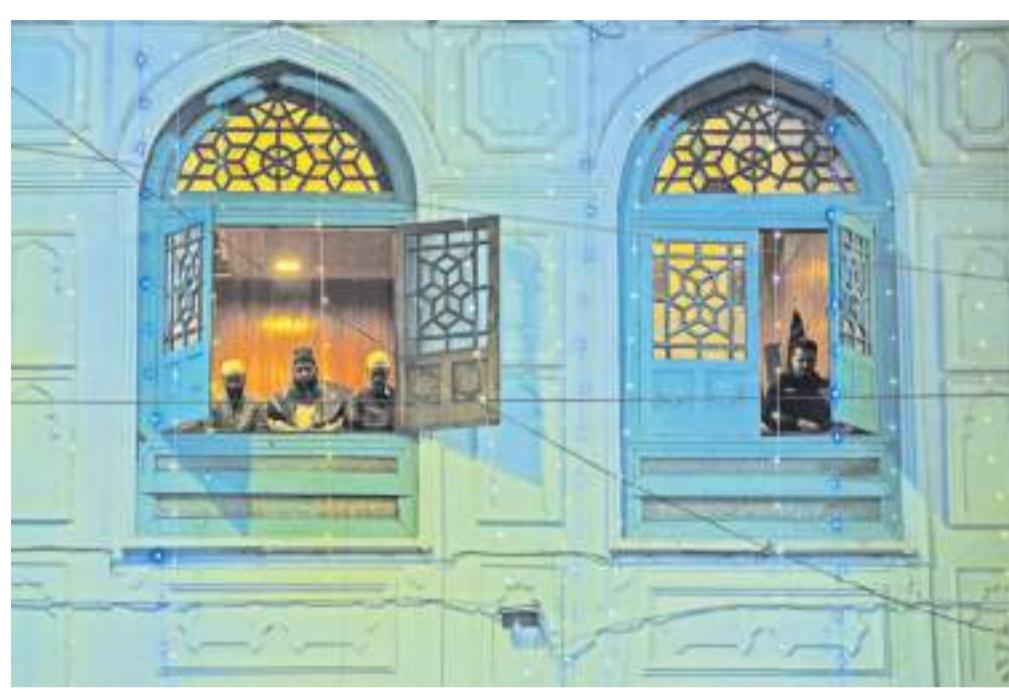
Tender No.	27-TRD-GSU-T-109-2025-26
Name of work	TRD work in c/w Provision of 12 mtr FOBS under Amrit Bharat Scheme at FZR, PTK, GSP, HXS, DDL, FKA, KKH, MOGA, PGW, PHR & MCTM stations.
App. Cost. ₹	3,53,76,844.39P
Cost of Tender form ₹	NIL
Date & time for submission of Tender	Upto 27.10.2025 15:00 Hrs.
Completion period	05 Months
Opening of tender	27.10.2025 after 15:00 Hrs.
Website Particulars	www.ireps.gov.in

Note: Tenderer(s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-2) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.

No: 27-TRD-GSU-T-109-2025-26 Dated: 04.10.2025

SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE

3071/2025



DEVOTEES OFFERING PRAYERS inside the Dastgeer Sahib Shrine at Khanyar in Srinagar.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Decongesting Srinagar Roads: Div Com Reviews Measures

Departments Instructed To Remove Bottlenecks On Key Corridors

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a bid to streamline traffic mobility in Srinagar, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting with stakeholder departments to review ongoing and proposed measures aimed at decongesting major and interior roads of the city.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairpersons of LCMA and SDA, SSP Traffic Srinagar, ADC Srinagar, Chief Engineer R&B, Joint Commissioner SMC, and representatives from the Wildlife, Transport, and SRTC departments.

Officials held detailed discussions on developing multi-level parking at strategic locations, widening Boulevard Road, operationalizing ITMS cameras and traffic signals, developing Smart City electric bus charging infrastructure, regulating e-rickshaws, and framing a policy to manage the influx of used vehicles.

Div Com Garg emphasized expediting multi-level parking facilities, particularly in high-density areas including Nishat, Shalimar Bagh, Jamia Masjid, Sanat Nagar, Bemina, and Batamaloo. The meeting also discussed easing traffic on Boulevard Road, facilitating one-way traffic from Dalgate to Nehru Park, and pi-



PLANS DISCUSSED

- ▶ Multi-level parking in high-density areas
- ▶ Widening of Boulevard Road
- ▶ Pilot one-way traffic on selected interior roads
- ▶ Smart City e-bus charging infrastructure
- ▶ Operationalization of ITMS cameras & traffic signals
- ▶ Regulation of e-rickshaws,
- ▶ Demarcation of 'No-Go Zones'

loting one-way movement on selected interior roads before wider implementation.

The development of charging infrastructure for Smart City electric buses was highlighted as a key step to prevent bus bunching, while Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) was direct-

ed to ensure timely operation of traffic lights and ITMS cameras at 66 key junctions.

Garg further urged to encourage private landowners along Boulevard Road to partner with the administration by providing land for parking on a tripartite basis. He called for regulation of e-rickshaws and demarcation of 'No-Go Zones' to reduce congestion on main roads.

The meeting also deliberated on the need for a policy to regulate the growing number of used vehicles entering the Kashmir Valley. To ensure effective execution, all departments were instructed to categorize proposed measures into short-term, mid-term, and long-term actions, with strict adherence to timelines and inter-departmental coordination.

Emphasizing the removal of bottlenecks across key corridors, Div Com Garg urged all departments to work collectively to improve Srinagar's urban transport ecosystem.

500 Challans Issued To Smart City Buses In 3 Months: SSP Traffic

Agencies

Monitoring the conduct of Smart City bus drivers.

"Wherever violations are observed, action is taken without delay," Ahmad said, adding that such medical initiatives would be extended to other areas in the future to ensure safer roads.

The camp was aimed at promoting road safety through health awareness, providing eye check-ups, diabetes screening, and general health consultations, with a special focus on elderly drivers vulnerable to

vision problems that could contribute to road accidents.

In his address, the SSP issued a public advisory against rising online fraud, urging citizens to use only official platforms such as the government's Perian app and to avoid falling prey to suspicious links.

"Our efforts are twofold - improving driver health to reduce accidents, and taking strict action against traffic violations," he said. "Public safety remains our top priority." (KNO)



- TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 245583
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228209
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BUBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Srinagar-Leh (Open)
- Mughal Road (Open)
- Srinagar-Leh (Open)



PRAYERS

FAJR	5:06
ZUHR	12:20
ASR	4:31
Magrib	6:16
ISHA	7:37

This Day In History

- 1957 - USSR launches Sputnik I, 1st artificial Earth satellite
- 1958 - Fifth Republic of France is established.
- 1959 - Netherlands beats Belgium 9-1
- 1959 - USSR Luna 3 sent back 1st photos of Moon's far side
- 1964 - 3 cars of a commuter train derails in South Africa killing 81
- 1965 - USSR launches Luna 7; crash lands on Moon
- 1967 - Omar Ali Saifuddin III of Brunei abdicates in favour of his son, His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah.
- 1968 - A Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) delegation meet with the Derry March organisers and try to have the march cancelled; eventually it was decided to go ahead with the march.
- 1975 - A Cessna 310Q airplane crashes over Wilmington, North Carolina, killing the pilot and severely injuring several pro wrestlers affiliated with the NWA's Mid-Atlantic promotion. One of the survivors is the legendary Ric Flair.
- 1976 - Official launch of the Intercity 125 High Speed Train (HST).
- 1978 - Funeral services held for Pope John Paul I
- 1982 - West German parliament officially confirms Helmut Kohl as the country's new Chancellor
- 1985 - Free Software Foundation is founded in Massachusetts, USA
- 1990 - Regional elections held in East Germany
- 1993 - Troops of President Boris Yeltsin occupy Russian White House (parliament)
- 1994 - Soyuz TM-20 launches
- 1996 - Shahid Afridi scores century in 37 balls for Pakistan v Sri Lanka
- 2006 - WikiLeaks is launched, created by internet activist Julian Assange
- 2011 - US State Department lists Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi (ISIL) as a Special Designated Global Terrorist with a \$10 million reward for information leading to his capture
- 2012 - Turkey's parliament approves cross-border military operations in Syria

From KO Archives

IAS Officer, Others Face Prosecution For Fraud

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmiri officialdom was never very particular about how contemptibly low stoops to plunder public funds, but it must have required an unusual degree of meanness to cheat backward Gujjars and Bakarwals of their paltry government compensation for losses suffered due to hailstorms and heavy rain. In this 7-year-old case, the then deputy commissioner Pulwama - incidentally, a senior IAS officer - S. D. Lone; the then assistant commissioner, revenue, and presently director, land records, Srinagar, Muhammed Afzal Bhat and the then tehsildar Pulwama, Habibullah Mir, along with nearly half-a-dozen petty officials of the district DCs office have been channelling by the vigilance organisation for misappropriating Rs 15 lakh which the state had sanctioned as relief to the nomads for livestock losses during natural calamities in the hilly areas of Shopian and Pulwama. The entire amount had been placed at the disposal of the then DC, who had been charged with the responsibility of disbursing it to the deserving members of the community after proper verification.

Vigilance investigations revealed that the officers named in the case, in collusion with four private persons (who have asked been charge sheeted) had manipulated records to show that Rs 14,80,940 had been distributed among 652 members of the Gujjar and bakarwali community.

Sixty-two persons among the supposed beneficiaries selected at random by the VO, denied having received any relief, and the finger impressions on acquaintance rolls did not tally with the fingerprints. Expert established that thumb impressions supposed to be the marks of 181 different recipients were in fact the thumbprints of only a few people repeated over and over on the rolls. The VO also found that recipients who were shown belonging to the Udhampur and Rajouri districts were only fictitious names and that Rs 3,75,090 were deposited with Reshi Gas Agency rather than going to a sufferer. Having prima facie established the officers' involvement in the fraud; the VO has pressed charges against them under relevant laws before the special anti-corruption court in Srinagar.

(Kashmir Observer, October 05, 2000)

Pakistan, Protesters Strike Deal to End POK Unrest

KO News Desk

Muzaffarabad — After five days of violent unrest that left at least 10 people dead and hundreds injured, the Pakistan government and protest leaders in Pakistani side of Kashmir (PoK) signed a 25-point agreement late Friday night to end the mass demonstrations that had paralysed the region.

The deal, reached following marathon negotiations between a federal delegation and the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC), comes as a relief to residents of the mountainous territory where a strike called on September 29 had escalated into deadly clashes with security forces.

The protests erupted when talks collapsed between officials and the JKJAAC, a representative body of traders, activists and civil society groups that had tabled a 38-point charter of demands earlier this year.

Clashes between demonstrators and security forces left six civilians and three police officers dead, according to officials, while nearly 172 policemen and around 50 civilians sustained injuries. Protesters accused paramilitary forces of opening fire, while authorities blamed "miscreants" for instigating violence.

The unrest triggered a sweeping communications blackout across the region, with mobile and internet services cut for almost a week. Public transport and markets came to a halt, leaving daily life for the nearly four million residents in limbo.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) expressed alarm at the violence, stating on X that it was "deeply alarmed by the ongoing violence" and condemning both the "excessive force" used against protesters and the communications blackout.

The Agreement

The breakthrough came after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif dispatched a high-powered team led by former prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf to Muzaffarabad for talks. The delegation engaged

in two days of negotiations, concluding late Friday.

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry announced the deal on X, writing:

"Negotiating delegation has signed the final agreement with the Action Committee. The protesters are returning to their homes. All roads have been reopened. This is a victory for peace."

The 25-point agreement addresses several long-standing grievances of the protesters:

- Judicial probe into protester deaths, with compensation for families of those killed.
- Release of all detained demonstrators.
- Investment package worth PKR 300 billion (approx. Rs 3,000 crore) for PoK's development.
- PKR 10 billion for upgrading electricity infrastructure in the region.
- Implementation of Sehat Sahulat health cards within 15 days, providing free medical treatment, along with phased installation of MRI and CT scan machines in each district.
- Two new education boards for Muzaffarabad and Poonch divisions.
- Cabinet downsizing: PoK cabinet capped at 20 ministers and advisors; number of administrative secretaries limited to 20, with departments merged to reduce government size.
- Feasibility studies for two tunnels in Neelum Valley (Kahori/Kamser and Chaplani) and construction of an international airport at Mirpur.
- Property transfer taxes to be brought at par with Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa within three months.
- High-level committee to review the controversial system of 12 reserved assembly seats for refugees from Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir.
- A monitoring and implementation committee to ensure delivery of commitments.



A man embraces Palestinian children at the site of an Israeli airstrike on a residential building in Gaza City (OSV News photo/Yasser Qudih)

Israeli Strikes Kill 20 More Despite Trump Directive

Trans Asia News

Cairo — Israel struck multiple targets across the Gaza Strip on Saturday, killing at least 20 Palestinians, including children, just hours after US President Donald Trump asked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to halt the bombing and welcomed what he described as a "positive response" from Hamas to his peace plan.

Trump, who has cast himself as the only leader capable of brokering peace in Gaza, said he believes Hamas is ready for a "lasting peace" and called on Israel to "immediately stop bombing Gaza, so that we can get the hostages out safely and quickly."

He urged both sides to seize what he framed as a "long-sought opportunity for peace in the Middle East."

On Friday, Hamas submitted its formal reply to Trump's 20-point peace proposal. The group said it was prepared to hand over the administration of Gaza to a technocratic Palestinian

authority and release all remaining Israeli captives. While the response sidestepped the contentious issue of disarmament, Hamas declared itself willing to "immediately enter" mediated peace negotiations.

Trump hailed the move as a breakthrough, saying, "We are already in discussions on details to be worked out." He insisted that the momentum now rested with Israel, which he pressed to pause its campaign in Gaza.

Continued bombardment despite calls

Despite the US president's intervention, Israeli forces intensified their operations. Local health authorities said Israeli drone strikes and shelling killed at least 20 people since dawn Saturday.

Among the dead were two children in al-Mawasi, southern Gaza, after a drone hit a tent in what Israel had previously designated a "humanitarian zone." Four others were killed in a separate strike on a house in Gaza City's Tuffah neighborhood.

"It was a very violent night, during which the [Israeli army] carried out dozens of air strikes and artillery shelling on Gaza City and other areas in the Strip, despite President Trump's call to halt the bombing," said Mahmoud Basal, spokesperson for Gaza's civil defense.

Hospitals in Gaza, already overwhelmed by months of attacks, confirmed dozens of new casualties. Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis reported eight people, including children, were wounded in strikes on displacement camps.

Mounting toll and famine deaths

Since Israel launched its offensive in retaliation for Hamas's October 7, 2023 attacks, Gaza's Health Ministry says more than 66,280 Palestinians have been killed and 169,165 injured. The ministry estimates that women and children make up roughly half the casualties. Experts warn that thousands more remain trapped under rubble or unaccounted for.

Gaza peace plan

Key Reactions To Hamas's Response

Associated Press

Gaza City: International reactions have been pouring in following Hamas's positive response on Friday to US President Donald Trump's plan to free Israeli hostages in Gaza and end the nearly two-year conflict.

Here are some of the main reactions from around the world:

United States

"Based on the Statement just issued by Hamas, I believe they are ready for a lasting PEACE. Israel must immediately stop the bombing of Gaza, so that we can get the Hostages out safely and quickly," Trump posted on Truth Social.

The US leader also said in a brief video message that "everybody will be treated fairly" in talks on the future of Gaza.

Israel

In light of Hamas's response, Israel is preparing for the immediate implementation of the first stage of the Trump plan for the release of all the hostages," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said.

"We will continue to work in full cooperation with the President and his team to end the war in accordance with the principles set out by Israel, which align with President Trump's vision," the statement added.

Mediating countries

Qatar "welcomes the announcement by Hamas of its agreement to President Trump's plan", said foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari, also expressing support for Trump's call for an immediate ceasefire.

Egypt said it hoped "this positive development will lead all parties to rise to the level of responsibility by commit-

ting to implementing President Trump's plan on the ground and end the war".

United Nations

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "welcomes" Hamas's response and "urges all parties to seize the opportunity to bring the tragic conflict in Gaza to an end", spokesman Stepan Dujarric said.

UN rights chief Volker Turk said he hoped the plan would "pave the way for a permanent cessation of hostilities... in line with international human rights and humanitarian laws".

It was, he said, a "vital opportunity for all parties and influential states to pursue in good faith and stop - once and for all - the carnage and the suffering in Gaza, to flood the strip with humanitarian aid, and to ensure the release of the hostages and numerous detained Palestinians".

Child Deaths Spark Nationwide Cough Syrup Probe

KO News Desk

removal of the product from markets starting October 1 and froze existing stocks. Inspections were carried out at the company's Sungvaramurthram facility in Kanchipuram district, where samples were collected for testing at government laboratories.

Officials confirmed the company has been directed to halt production of the syrup until laboratory results are released. The firm supplies the medicine to Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Puducherry.

Health Ministry advisory
Taking cognisance of the infant deaths, the Union Health Ministry on Friday issued an advisory to all states and Union Territories, directing that cough and cold medicines

A team of experts from the



Six Drug samples tested by CDSCO and three by the Madhya Pradesh Food and Drugs Administration (MPFDA) have so far been found free of Diethylene Glycol (DEG) and Ethylene Glycol (EG), toxic chemicals known to cause kidney failure

should not be prescribed to children under the age of two.

Senior Congress leader Kamal Nath alleged that a solvent used in brake oil was mixed in the syrups, leading to suspected kidney ailments and the deaths in Chhindwara since September 7.

The final laboratory reports on the collected samples are awaited, officials said, adding that results are expected in the coming days.

Indian Student from Hyderabad Shot Dead in US

Press Trust Of India

India before moving to Dallas for further studies.

"It is tragic that Chandrashekhar Pole, a Dalit student from LB Nagar who completed BDS and went to America (Dallas) for higher studies, died in a shooting carried out by miscreants early morning," he said.

Harish Rao, nephew of BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao, urged the Telangana government to take steps to bring back the body of the deceased student.

270,000 Indian Students Enrolled in US Universities: Report

New York (PTI) — Indian Americans have donated over USD 3 billion to US universities since 2008, according to a new study that highlights the multigenerational multiplier effects of the diaspora community's contribution towards strengthening research, innovation and access to higher education across the US.

In a new research, leading nonprofit organisation Diaspora said Thursday that Indian-Americans, many of whom credit their undergraduate and graduate experiences at US universities as the foundation of their professional success, are giving back in transformative ways.

"By investing in universities, Indian American donors who value education are 'putting their money where their mouth is.'

Wife Elopes, Man Jumps Into Yamuna With 4 Kids

Muzaffarnagar, (PTI) A man, along with his four children, allegedly jumped into the Yamuna River here after his wife eloped with another man, police said on Saturday.

According to police, Salman took the extreme step after a dispute with his wife on Friday. Before jumping, he recorded a video and sent it to his sister, Gulista, in which he held his wife, Khushnuma, and her lover responsible.

The video also surfaced online.

On Saturday, Gulista approached the police, who reached the spot and launched a rescue operation with the help of divers.

The children were identified as Mahak (12), Shifa (5), Aman (3), and an eight-month-old infant, Inaisha, Additional Superintendent of Police Santosh Kumar Singh said.

According to family members, Salman and Khushnuma had been married for 15 years, but recent family disputes had escalated. The latest quarrel occurred on Friday, after which Khushnuma reportedly eloped with her boyfriend. Salman subsequently took his children to the Yamuna bridge and jumped.

Further investigation is underway, Singh added.

Was Zubeen Garg Poisoned in Singapore?

Guwahati, (PTI) In a startling claim, Zubeen Garg's bandmate Shekhar Jyoti Goswami has alleged that the singer was poisoned in Singapore, which led to his death, according to official documents with the police.

Goswami alleged that Garg was poisoned by his manager Siddharth Sharma and festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta in Singapore, according to the Detailed Grounds of Arrest or remand note accessed by PTI.

The festival organiser, Garg's manager and two band members - Goswami and Shyamkanu Mahanta and his company.

"During the critical mo-

ments when Shri Zubeen Garg was gasping for breath, almost drowning, Siddharth Sharma was heard shouting 'Jabo de, jabo de' (let him go, let him go). The witness emphasised that Zubeen Garg was an expert swimmer and therefore, could not have died due to drowning.

He (Goswami) alleged that Shri Sharma and Shri Shyamkanu Mahanta had poisoned the victim and deliberately chosen a foreign venue to conceal their conspiracy. Shri Sharma also instructed him not to share the yacht videos with anyone," stated the note, signed by SIT member and senior SP Rosie Kalita.

N E W S M A K E R S

SC To Hear Plea Challenging Wangchuk's Detention On Oct 6

Observer News Service

LEH: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on October 6 a plea filed by Gitanjali J Angmo, wife of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, challenging his detention under the National Security Act (NSA) and seeking his immediate release.

The plea, listed before a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria, comes nearly two weeks after Wangchuk was detained on September 26, following protests in Ladakh demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule status that left four dead and 90 injured. Wangchuk is currently lodged in Jodhpur Central Jail in Rajasthan.



Filed through senior lawyer Vivek Tankha and advocate Sarvam Ritam Khare, the petition questions the invocation of the NSA, which allows detention

without trial for up to 12 months. It also seeks urgent production of Wangchuk before the court, immediate access for his family and lawyers, and quashing of the pre-

ventive detention order.

The plea names the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ladakh UT administration, Deputy Commissioner of Leh, and the Jodhpur jail superintendent as respondents. It alleges that Wangchuk's detention is "illegal, arbitrary, and unconstitutional," violating his fundamental rights under Articles 14, 19, 21, and 22 of the Constitution.

Highlighting Wangchuk's work as an internationally acclaimed innovator, environmentalist, and social reformer, the plea states he has always employed peaceful, Gandhian methods to advocate for Ladakh's ecological and democratic concerns.

According to the petition, Wangchuk was detained while

recovering from a prolonged fast and transferred to Jodhpur without access to medicines, personal belongings, family, or legal counsel. It further alleges harassment of the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh (HIAL) staff and students, and virtual house arrest of his wife.

The plea emphasizes the mental anguish caused by the detention, including a reported suicide linked to the incident, and calls on the authorities to ensure Wangchuk receives medical care, clothing, food, and other necessities immediately. It also seeks production of the detention order, grounds for detention, and medical records before the Supreme Court.

Ladakh LG Plans Phased Relaxation of Restrictions

Chairs Key Security Meet; Hails Public Restraint

Observer News Service

LADAKH: Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta on Saturday reviewed the security situation in Ladakh and discussed a roadmap for phased relaxation of restrictions, stressing that any easing of measures would be implemented carefully, balancing public safety with the resumption of routine socio-economic activities.

Gupta has been holding daily security review meetings since September 24, when Leh town was placed under curfew following violent protests demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule safeguards for Ladakh, which left four people dead and scores injured. While the curfew was largely lifted four days ago, prohibitory orders banning assemblies of five or more persons remain in place. Schools up to Class 8 have reopened, but higher educational institutions remain closed, and mobile internet services continue to be suspended in Leh town.

Chairing a high-level meeting in Leh, the LG emphasised vigilance and preparedness as key to addressing emerging challenges. Senior officials from the civil administration, security agencies, the army, and



central armed police forces attended the meeting.

"The meeting discussed the roadmap for phased relaxation of restrictions," an official spokesperson said. "Any easing of measures will be implemented carefully, ensuring public safety while allowing the resumption of socio-economic activities." Gupta also lauded the people of Ladakh for their restraint and cooperation, stating, "The cooperation and resilience of the people are instrumental in restoring normalcy in the region."

Meanwhile, political groups in Ladakh, including the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) and Leh Apex Body (LAB), have said they will stay away from talks with the Centre scheduled for October 6 until a judicial probe is ordered and all detained persons, in-

cluding climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, are released.

A fact-finding report released by the Socialist Party of India and NGOs including the National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM) and Hum Bharat Ke Log highlighted four core demands of the movement, including full statehood and Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh, which it described as crucial for preserving the region's distinct cultural and ecological identity.

The BJP, however, insisted that there was no mishandling of the situation and pointed to the central government's steps over the past six years, including granting UT status, creating seven districts, and prioritising development and tribal welfare in Ladakh. (inputs from PTI)

Govt Keen To Start Dialogue Process: CS

Observer News Service

LEH: Ladakh Chief Secretary Pawan Kotwal on Saturday said the government remains committed to addressing the aspirations of the people of Ladakh and is keen to resume the dialogue process soon. He attributed the September 24 violence in Leh, which left four people dead, to certain leaders who misled youngsters for personal and political gains.

Kotwal stated that of the 70 youth detained in connection with the unrest, 30 have been released while 40 remain in judicial custody awaiting court orders. He assured that innocent youth will not face hardship and said investigations will establish the role of leaders who provoked the unrest.

The Chief Secretary highlighted that the government has been engaging with the Apex Body Leh and the Kargil Democratic Alliance through the High-Powered Committee (HPC). Key demands, includ-

ing increasing ST reservation in jobs from 45% to 85%, 4% for LAC-border residents, and 1% for SCs, have been accepted. Recruitment for over 1,600 posts, including medical officers, lecturers, and accounts officers, has already begun.

Kotwal also said that no powers of the Ladakh Hill Development Councils (LHDSC) have been curtailed; their capex budget has increased nearly five-fold, from ₹150 crore to ₹2,750 crore, managing about 30% of Ladakh's total capex. On environmental and cultural issues, he reaffirmed that there has been no commercial exploitation of resources, and future projects will involve local consultation.

Regarding accusations of demographic changes and increasing Lok Sabha seats, Kotwal called them baseless and politically motivated, reiterating the government's commitment to dialogue and safeguarding Ladakh's cultural and ecological identity.

Amarnath Yatra Donations Soar 100-Fold Post-Pandemic: RTI

Rs 9.75 Crore Collected in 2025-26

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: The annual Amarnath Yatra has witnessed a massive surge in donations, with cash offerings at the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in south Kashmir rising nearly 100-fold since the resumption of the pilgrimage post-pandemic restrictions, official data revealed.

Figures released by the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB) in response to an RTI query showed that cash donations jumped from just Rs 9.23 lakh in 2020-21 to Rs 9.75 crore in 2025-26. The offering peaked in 2024-25 at over Rs 11.58 crore.

The yatra, which draws devotees from across the country to the naturally formed ice-shivlingam, has recorded steadily increasing footfall since the lifting of COVID-related restrictions: over 3 lakh in 2022, around 4.5 lakh in 2023, 5.1 lakh in 2024, and 4.1 lakh this year. The 2025 yatra, which commenced on July 3, was cut short by a week due to rain-damaged tracks requiring maintenance.

The SASB data also highlighted a shift back to traditional cash donations, while online contributions, which had seen a temporary rise during the pandemic, declined sharply. Online donations amounted to Rs 80.64 lakh in 2025-26, down from Rs 1.89 crore in 2024-25.

Pilgrim registration fees similarly witnessed a steep increase, climbing from Rs 0.12 lakh in 2020-21 to Rs 7.71 crore in 2025-26, reflecting the growing number of registered devotees.

Udhampur Airport Operationalisation Finalised: Jitendra Singh



KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh today disclosed that Udhampur airport operationalisation has been finalised while the proposed Kishtwar airport is being included in the "UDAN" scheme.

The Minister was taking a review of the aviation plans for Jammu & Kashmir, underlining their importance for improving regional connectivity and providing affordable travel options to local residents as well from the point of view of security.

Union minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that improving air connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir is crucial not only for passenger convenience but also for economic growth, tourism and greater integration of the region with national mainstream.

Reviewing aviation plans for the Union Territory, he underlined the importance of improving regional connectivity and providing affordable travel options to local residents.

At a meeting attended by Samir Kumar Sinha, Secretary of Civil Aviation Ministry, and Vipin Kumar, Chairman of Airports Authority of India, Singh called for fast-tracking necessary approvals and technical work.

Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, emphasised that the Udhampur airport could initially begin operations with ATR 72-seater aircraft under the Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAAN, which would cap ticket fares at nearly half the prevailing market rates.

This would not only make flights more affordable but also bring Delhi-Udhampur fares substantially lower than the Delhi-Jammu route, thus offering a huge incentive to even Jammu-bound passengers to take the Delhi-Udhampur air route.

The step would be a major relief for students and young professionals who often face steep travel costs, he said.

Singh said that earlier attempts to develop an airstrip in Kishtwar faced hurdles, and fresh feasibility and land assessment studies are now being initiated to find a feasible solution.

Referring to Kishtwar as an "aspirational agricultural district", he highlighted that an airport there would boost the region's economy, especially the agricultural economy, by helping local saffron cultivators and farmers reach wider markets.

The minister said that he would personally take up the matter of land requisition, wherever required, with the chief minister and chief secretary.

He also reviewed the ongoing expansion of Jammu airport, which is being upgraded at a cost of around Rs 860 crore, according to a statement.

Expired IV Fluid Administered At Pulwama Hospital Sparks Outrage

Observer News Service

PULWAMA: In a shocking case of alleged medical negligence, a young female patient at District Hospital Pulwama was reportedly administered an expired intravenous (IV) fluid on Saturday, raising serious concerns over hospital safety protocols.

Videos circulating on social media show a 500ml Dextrose Normal Saline (DNS) bag being connected to the patient's drip line inside a crowded ward. The footage captures a healthcare worker preparing and

inserting the IV line while the patient lay on a hospital bed.

The label on the fluid bag indicates a manufacturing date of June 2023 and an expiry date of May 2025. Attendants alleged that the packet appeared discoloured, prompting suspicion that it was either expired or improperly stored.

Locals and patients' families have urged authorities to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and ensure regular inspections of medical supplies and quality control.

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom,

while taking serious note of the matter, directed the hospital's Medical Superintendent to conduct a detailed inquiry.

"An immediate probe has been ordered to ascertain the facts and ensure accountability. Strict action will follow based on the findings," he said.

Locals and patients' families have urged authorities to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and ensure regular inspections of medical supplies and quality control. "This should serve as a wake-up call. Patients' lives are at stake, and such negligence

cannot be tolerated," a local social activist said.

Medical experts warn that using expired IV fluids can lead to serious complications, including infections, phlebitis (vein inflammation), infiltration (fluid leaking into surrounding tissue), and potentially life-threatening reactions such as septic shock or severe tissue damage. Other risks include extravasation, tissue death, nerve damage, and hypersensitivity reactions to degraded components in the expired solution.

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KO VIEW

Kashmir's Kidney Emergency

The growing number of dialysis chairs across Kashmir tells a story of a crisis that few are willing to confront.

Every week, hospitals in Srinagar and beyond admit more patients with damaged kidneys. Doctors say they are seeing people in their twenties and thirties, many of them too young for such serious illness.

What was once considered a disease of aging is becoming a generational threat.

This rise mirrors a breakdown of the systems that should've kept people healthy. Kidneys are sadly paying a heavy price in a region where drug addiction has become a major public health concern.

Many young people arrive at hospitals with organ damage caused by contaminated narcotics, repeated infections, or extreme dehydration. Others suffer the same fate because of painkillers and steroids sold easily over the counter. In the absence of medical guidance, self-medication has turned into self-harm.

Unsafe water adds another layer to this growing emergency. Research from Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology has shown that several water sources across the valley contain heavy metals and bacterial contamination. The National Green Tribunal has raised similar alarms about untreated discharge and dying springs.

In towns that once took pride in their natural springs, clean drinking water has become an uncertainty. The kidneys, filtering these toxins daily, are failing in silence.

Treatment, when it begins, often drains families of everything they own. Dialysis sessions in private centers cost between 1,500 and 3,000, and many patients need two or three each week. Government hospitals struggle to keep pace with demand. Machines run around the clock, and there are not enough trained technicians.

Patients from remote areas travel long distances to reach a dialysis chair, spending more on transport than treatment. Some stop coming altogether.

The cost is social, emotional, and generational. For every patient hooked to a dialysis machine, there is a family member who has left work or studies to become a full-time caregiver. For every young life battling renal failure, there are parents watching their child's future shrink under the weight of medical bills.

What makes this tragedy harder to grasp is the absence of data. There is no central registry to track the number of chronic kidney patients in Jammu and Kashmir. Health officials rely on hospital reports that capture only a fraction of the reality. Without numbers, the problem remains invisible, and invisible problems rarely get solved.

The response must begin with prevention. The government needs to start screening programs in schools, colleges, and rural health centers to identify kidney disease early. Public campaigns must teach people how to protect their kidneys. Pharmacies should be regulated to stop the sale of painkillers and antibiotics without prescription. Safe water audits are essential, especially in villages that depend on spring water.

These steps are neither expensive nor complicated. They only require the will to act.

Notably, healthcare in Kashmir has mostly focused on treatment rather than prevention. Dialysis units are expanding when clean water and awareness could have reduced the need for them in the first place.

Unless the valley begins to see kidney health as a collective responsibility, the number of patients will keep rising.

When Apples Float Down the River in Kashmir

A journey through South Kashmir reveals how the valley's most prized harvest is sinking under neglect and poor planning.



Khair Ull Nissa Shah

A few days ago, while travelling to Ashmugam in South Kashmir, I came across a sight that still troubles me.

Truck after truck stood by the Lidder River, unloading apples straight into the water. The river carried them away, bobbing helplessly downstream.

For a moment, I felt disbelief. Then came a wave of sadness.

These apples could have fed families, created jobs, built enterprises. Instead, they were being discarded.

What I saw that morning was a mirror of our broken priorities.

Apple orchards are the lungs of our economy. Nearly half of Kashmiri population depends on apple cultivation, directly or indirectly.

With more than 20 million metric tonnes of production every year, nearly three quarters of India's total output, this single fruit sustains around 3.5 million people.

But year after year, nearly a third of our harvest, worth over 3,500 crore rupees, is lost before it reaches the market.

This loss doesn't come from lack of capacity. Kashmir has over 250,000 metric tonnes of cold storage space, among the largest in the country. The problem lies in weak planning, poor accountability, and an alarming absence of vision.

What we need is a new way of thinking.

In other parts of the world, what we throw away becomes a source of wealth.

In France and the Netherlands, surplus apples are used to produce cider, vinegar, and ani-



The apple that drifts away today could tomorrow become the base of industries in biotechnology, renewable energy, or pharmaceuticals. The only question is whether we have the will to ripen our priorities before another harvest is lost to the river.

mal feed. Chile has turned rejected apples into a two-billion-dollar juice concentrate export industry.

In Himachal Pradesh, the remains of apples, pomace, are converted into pectin, ethanol, and bio-briquettes.

Globally, the cider industry is projected to reach 17.5 billion dollars by 2028, and apple-based juices and concentrates could touch 38 billion dollars by 2030.

Even apple waste is being transformed into biogas, biodegradable packaging, and drug delivery systems.

What other countries see as innovation, we treat as garbage.

The tragedy is in our handling.

The apple economy is failing to evolve.

We continue to export raw fruit at minimal margins and import finished products at inflated prices.

Our farmers work through storms and sleepless nights only to see their produce rot or sell at throwaway rates.

Our policies sound generous but are rarely followed through.

Entrepreneurs hesitate to step in because of tangled regulations and unclear incentives.

The entire chain, from field to factory, remains disjointed.

The solution lies in collaboration. Government must set the

direction and ensure ease of doing business, but revival cannot be state-driven alone.

Civil society, entrepreneurs, and academia must work together. Cooperatives could play a decisive role here. By bringing together farmers, local entrepreneurs, and institutions, these cooperatives could set up small processing units, manage cold storage, standardize packaging, and reduce wastage. They could ensure fair prices for farmers and bring research from universities to the ground.

During a recent visit to Khanqah-i-Hyderi, I discussed with community leaders the idea of piloting such a cooperative model in one district before expanding it valley-wide.

The idea was simple: let the community own the solution.

Institutions like SKUAST, its Atal Incubation Centre, and Start-up-Kashmir already have the expertise, mentorship, and investor networks needed for such transformation.

What is missing is the pace to connect these dots, and link innovation with the orchard economy and turn waste into wealth.

The apples floating in the Lidder that day represented wasted potential, time, and responsibility. If we keep following the same path, we will remain a supplier of raw produce and a buyer of finished value, exporting potential and importing prosperity.

But there is still a choice. We can shift from waste to worth.

The apple that drifts away today could tomorrow become the base of industries in biotechnology, renewable energy, or pharmaceuticals.

The only question is whether we have the will to ripen our priorities before another harvest is lost to the river.

The author is a Global Business Leader; Executive Director, Alson Motors and Emaar Chalets; and Co-founder, Startup-Kashmir.

The Valley's Oldest Investment

Even as global markets evolve, Kashmiris keep faith in gold for its stability, liquidity, and enduring value.

Irshad Mushtaq

People of Kashmir have relied on gold for generations, trusting it to keep their wealth safe when times get uncertain.

Markets may fluctuate, money may lose value, and politics may turn, but gold remains constant. It fills family chests, a bride's trousseau, and the simple belief that wealth should shine.

From the pharaohs of Egypt to the Mughal courts that once ruled the subcontinent, gold has been the language of power. Empires were built on it. Wars were fought for it. It served as currency, art, and prayer all at once.

In every era, gold held its place as a store of value when paper lost meaning. Kashmir, shaped by centuries of trade and turmoil, learned this lesson early.

Its people stored gold in jewelry and coins, trusting it more than any institution. In Kashmiri households, mothers still tell their daughters that gold is the only wealth that never betrays.

Gold's story has been one of constant ascent in India.

In 1960, a gram of gold cost 7. By 1970, it had risen to 18. In 1980, it touched 133. By 2000, it reached 440. In 2010, it crossed 1,850, and by 2025, it stands near 11,000 per gram.

Behind these numbers lies a truth that every Kashmiri household understands: gold rewards patience.

If someone had invested 1,00,000 in gold in 1965, that investment would now be worth over 15 crores.

Very few assets can match such long-term resilience.

This steady rise reflects something cultural, almost emotional. Kashmir's economy has lived through decades of disruptions. Jobs have been lost, industries have shrunk, and access to formal credit often remains limited.

In such an environment, gold offers both

For many Kashmiri families, gold is the emergency fund, the retirement plan, and the inheritance. It's a tangible link between aspiration and security.

comfort and confidence. It is liquid, easy to trade, and universally valued. Unlike land, it needs no paperwork or government clearance.

Unlike currency, it does not erode with inflation.

When everything else feels uncertain, gold holds its ground.

Gold's durability goes beyond its price. It does not rust, tarnish, or decay. It travels effortlessly across borders and generations. A gold bangle given to a Kashmiri bride today may one day pay for her child's education or her family's future.

For many Kashmiri families, gold is the emergency fund, the retirement plan, and the inheritance. It's a tangible link between aspiration and security.

Even as the world shifts toward digital currencies and online trading, gold refuses to lose its relevance. Scientists are finding new uses for it in medicine, electronics, and renewable technologies, giving it another layer of modern value.

But its emotional weight remains untouched. It is still the symbol of prosperity, a promise of stability in a place where uncertainty often defines life.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

The Buzz We're Losing

Scientists and beekeepers warn that electromagnetic radiation from 5G towers may be disrupting bees' lives, posing serious risks to food, farming, and local ecosystems.

Dr. Waseem Ahmad

The orchards of Kashmir feel emptier these days. Bees that used to hum through the blossoms are disappearing from the trees.

Honey bees have long been a life-line for Kashmiri farmers and orchards. They pollinate fruit, vegetables, and oilseeds, sustaining the livelihoods of thousands of small farmers across the valley.

Their disappearance would disturb the very pulse of life here.

The concern stems from Kashmir's leap into the digital future with 5G towers rising in towns and villages.

Researchers around the world are increasingly focused on the unseen impact of electromagnetic radiation (EMR) from mobile networks on honey bees. The science is still evolving, but early signs suggest this invisible energy may be disrupting the bees' navigation, foraging, and reproduction.

Honey bees have a remarkable internal compass. They sense the Earth's magnetic field through tiny iron-rich structures in their bodies, helping them cruise back to their hives.

When radiation interferes with these magnetoreceptors, bees can lose their way, leaving hives abandoned.

This phenomenon, known as Colony Collapse Disorder, has long troubled scientists, with traditional causes like pesticides, habitat loss, and disease only partially explaining the crisis.

Now, EMR is being considered as a silent, yet serious, factor.

5G technology operates on high-frequency "millimetre waves" that require dense networks of small towers every 100 to 200 meters. These towers are often installed near homes, roads, and farms, placing bees in constant proximity to EMR.

Insects, because of their small size and unique physiology, absorb more radiation than larger animals, increasing their vulnerability.

Experiments have shown that bees exposed to mobile phone radiation lay fewer eggs, return late or not at all, and display stress behaviours that threaten colony survival.

Anecdotal reports in Kashmir mirror these global findings.

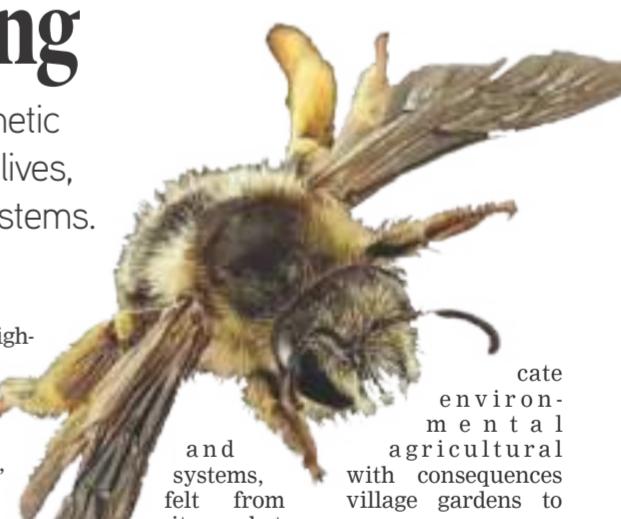
Beekeepers in Anantnag and Shopian describe hives behaving unusually, with fewer foragers returning and colonies weakening faster than in previous years.

India's fast-tracked 5G rollout has proceeded with little attention to ecological impacts, leaving farmers and pollinators vulnerable.

Research on how native bee species respond to EMR remains minimal, and structured monitoring is almost nonexistent.

Notably, honey bees are essential to apples, walnuts, almonds, and other cash crops in the valley. Pollination services have a direct economic value that runs into billions of rupees across India.

Beyond economics, bees maintain biodiversity and support ecosystems that sustain other wildlife. The loss of bees could ripple across Kashmir's delicate



The author is an agricultural analyst focused on farming, climate, and culture in Kashmir. He can be reached at wasembatspn@yahoo.com.

The Shadow of a Teacher

On World Teachers' Day, a walk down memory lane reminds me of the educators who shaped us, and the struggles they silently carry.

Tanveer Magrey

Many moons ago, on an autumn morning in 2017, I found myself wandering through the Sonwar area of Srinagar, nervously asking passersby for directions to a Government Higher Secondary School.

That was where my government job exam was scheduled. After following hurried instructions from strangers, I finally reached the center.

As I walked into the room, my eyes caught a familiar face. Before he could see me, I lowered my head and slipped into my seat.

It was one of my own teachers, sitting there like me, trying his luck to secure a place on the same selection list.

I didn't make it. I don't know if he did either. But his presence pulled me back into my school days, like a sudden gust of wind carrying memories.

I could hear again the metallic clank of the school gong announcing the morning assembly. The air filled with Dr. Iqbal's famous prayer: "Lab pe aati hai dua..." A couple of students would step forward, trembling or bold, to deliver speeches on topics given the day before. Some earned roaring applause, others stumbled with shaky voices.

Whenever my turn came, my knees grew heavy, and my heartbeat raced like the



Today's students carry smartphones in their pockets, consumed by reels, endless scrolling, and social media illusions. A good teacher, one who shares in their co-curricular passions, can pull them back toward purpose.

Jhelum in full flow. Many classmates even skipped school on their speech day. Stage fright was real.

But teachers and parents rarely cared for such skills. Public speaking held no place on the marks card. Back then, the marks card alone decided whether you were considered brilliant or branded dumb.

The classrooms come alive in my mind: the chalk-stained blackboards, shavings scattered on the floor like little white petals testifying to the teachers' toil. Some teachers drew triangles and circles, others filled the board with equations that never befriended my mind. That's why I abandoned science after Class 10.

Then there were Urdu teachers, carefully writing couplets of Iqbal or Ghalib, unravel-

ing their meanings with patience.

One teacher, Javid sir, remains etched in my heart. He made English grammar feel simple and alive. His voice, clarity, and skill shaped the way I write and speak today.

But those days were harsh. Corporal punishment was routine. Sui shalak, kan pekr, and endless squats were painful rituals we all endured.

Some teachers were dreaded for their severity. Their very presence made us shiver. Others were gentle, their kindness a balm we still carry within us.

We never saw thrashings as abuse. It was almost accepted as discipline. Old people would recall their teachers' beatings with pride: "Wastad sund maar gow bateh." The teacher's thrashings were a blessing.

Today, we rightly call it what it was: a bane, an offense.

Our education relied on rote learning. Teachers dictated notes, we filled our copies, and near exams, we mugged them like parrots.

Guidebooks were our saviors. Career counseling was absent, and students with rare talents often withered.

I remember a classmate, brilliant at drawing, who ended up driving for a living. Another, a gifted poet, faded into his family's shop. Art died silently in many hearts.

Mobile phones hadn't entered our lives yet. Social media was unheard of. We spent free time outdoors, playing Casco cricket, gully danda, and hopscotch. Those games now feel like treasures buried in memory.



As I walked out of the examination center that day in Sonwar, I saw my teacher once again. He boarded a local bus, weary and frail, a shadow of the vibrant man I once admired.

Fast forward to 2025. The role of teachers has changed completely. Technology has rewritten everything. Every answer is just a click away.

Now, the teacher's true task is to guide us: what to read, what to ignore, and how to channel our energy. An updated teacher is a blessing. One who doesn't evolve is like an outdated chip in the age of Artificial Intelligence.

AI rules our world, but it cannot replace wisdom. Teachers who understand AI can guide students to use it wisely, so it becomes a light, not a darkness.

Today's students carry smartphones in their pockets, consumed by reels, endless scrolling, and social media illusions. A good teacher, one who shares in their co-curricular passions, can pull them back toward purpose.

As I walked out of the examination center that day in Sonwar, I saw my teacher once again. He boarded a local bus, weary and frail, a shadow of the vibrant man I once admired.

Once strong, smiling, and confident, now he seemed burdened by life.

Something stirred deep inside me. No student can bear to see their mentor in misery. I am no exception.

I could only whisper a silent prayer for him under my breath.

— The author has a Masters in Convergent Journalism from Central University of Kashmir.

A Home Turned Battlefield

The story of Arman and Rukhsar uncovers how pride and greed can fracture homes in Kashmir, yet goodness survives in silent endurance.

Syed Majid Gilani

Arman's family thought they had found the perfect daughter-in-law in Rukhsar. They wanted warmth, kindness, and peace in their home. Money and status meant little. Her gentle manners promised loyalty, but behind her smile, a different story waited.

Arman had stepped into marriage with hope and faith. He imagined mornings full of laughter and evenings calm and gentle. When the children came, every smile and sigh felt like proof that life was whole. He held their little hands and listened to their voices fill the house. For a while, he believed happiness had truly arrived.

But that happiness did not last. Smiles grew careful, and the gentle care he once knew turned distant.

At first, Arman excused the distance as ordinary differences between spouses. Gradually, he understood that her heart had never belonged to him.

She had married him for security, comfort, and the power of a stable household. Her own upbringing in a small, modest home left her unaccustomed to stability.

But large rooms, fine furniture, and calm nights were never enough. She called them "too small."

Her demands grew bolder. Pride replaced need. She treated Arman's parents with disdain, turning small disagreements into drawn-out conflicts. Money became a battleground. Remarks about spending turned into restrictions. She wanted control over finances, decisions, and him.

Arman's refusal to surrender only increased her frustration. When she could not dominate at home, she took her battles outside. Police stations, women forums, courts, relatives, and neighbours. They became stages for accusations designed to trap him.

Years into the marriage, the deepest humiliation arrived. Rukhsar, backed by her family, filed false charges of domestic violence and dowry against him and his parents.

The irony cut deep: Arman's family never asked for, nor received, dowry.

Her parents had no stable income. Silence and modesty were twisted into greed and theft. Courts and police sta-



tions became theaters of degradation. Material loss mattered less than the assault on dignity and honour.

The ordeal reflects more than Arman's life. Many men today face similar trials. False complaints, emotional manipulation, and unjust legal battles are increasingly common.

But the justice system, through careful investigation and fair trial, often reveals the truth. Evidence matters, patience matters, and the law, despite its weight, works to untangle lies from reality.

The most piercing wound came from the children. Those small voices, once the source of joy, became instruments of manipulation. Stories distorted by their mother strained the bond between father and children, leaving grief that no parent should bear.

Arman endured silently. Insults, accusations, and betrayal tested him, but he chose patience. Even from a distance, he stayed present for his children, prayed for them, and hoped they would one day see the truth.

Arman's story is not unique, but it is instructive. Not all women are like

Rukhsar. Many remain loving, loyal, and wise. Not all men falter under pressure. Some, like Arman, retain dignity, patience, and love even in hardship.

Life in Kashmir can twist homes into battlegrounds, but goodness persists through endurance.

Arman's life is struggle turned into strength. He was betrayed but not defeated, hurt but not broken. Faith and honour remained intact. He lives for his children, for truth, and for values that cannot be stolen.

Questions remain: Will the storm pass? Will the lies unravel? Will his children one day recognize the sacrifices of a father who never abandoned them in spirit, even when circumstances pulled him away?

Time alone holds the answer. Until then, the Kashmiri father walks under the weight of reality, trusting almighty to reveal intentions.

— The author is a government officer by profession and a storyteller by passion. He can be reached at syedmajidgilani6676@gmail.com

The Rock That Refuses to Move

In the heart of the desert, a lone stone defies camels, ropes, and even divine intervention, forcing reflection on stillness, struggle, and the mind's illusions.

Faizaan Bashir

Get strong ropes capable of holding tons. Tie them to camels, and then try to get them to carry a stone lying in the middle of the desert, and witness failure.

The stone doesn't move, not an inch. The ropes and the heavy burden-carrying animals aren't at fault: they are perfectly anchored and correctly positioned. It is the stone that refuses to amble along.

The stone, soft and weightless, sticks to the ground and doesn't budge. One, two, three, and often occasional, attempts by ropes and camels end in vain.

The situation is gloomy, grim, and perplexing. Earthquakes and sandstorms curse their formidable destructive power, observing this tiny rock isolated, in peaceful tension, suffering under sloth and sluggishness.

The rock, inanimate though it is, has carried this immobile legacy for decades. Animals have surrounded it more than a thousand times, looking at it and pushing it forward or backward.

Dead, it stands there, amazing those who come closer. It has had the privilege of receiving both human and divine intervention. But something is missing. Not external help, not the action or inaction of animate, inanimate, or esoteric forces. It lacks an analysis of its own. Both objective and subjective. Countable and uncountable. Measurable and immeasurable.

The battle is not to budge, walk, or sprint across the torrid stretches of the desert. It is to understand, dissect, and resolve why it is positioned there to begin with and what cumulative events have concretized its stolidity. Half the answer is hidden there. But it is not easy to grasp, given that it has now grown unhinged.

Analysis breeds action, that's one thing. But when you fail to string together the series of events in your mind, much less reflect on them (let alone act in real life), it pinches.

In the same way, the rock only wishes for a one-time solution, as intensely as it could, but fails at everything. The suffering is, in part, fantastical.

The rock begins to philosophize. Amazed? It adds meaning to one thing and assigns meaninglessness to another. It obsesses over the rhythmic, smooth flow of rivers and curses the raging, unpredictable seas. Mountains dance in



Questions remain: Will the storm pass? Will the lies unravel? Will his children one day recognize the sacrifices of a father who never abandoned them in spirit, even when circumstances pulled him away?

whatever cranial capacity it has, and sand dunes vanish all of a sudden.

So far, it has been that way, cooking its mind with something far, far from reality. Amid these imaginary crises, it has forgotten to look within and around, failed to recognize external help, and neglected the deep-seated base upon which its illusory superstructure rests.

The camel, ropes, and even God have proved useless, no wonder. It is its battle. It versus itself. No amount of abstract thinking will push it forward. However, the real concern, something as nasty as grilling a chicken alive, is the reality hitting it as it tries to leave its unique landscape. Building castles in the air is, thus, a foregone conclusion.

Now, right at this moment, it is stuck in the predicament even more badly. Wind and animals have decided to remain on the sidelines, not helping it, though the effort is futile. It is beginning to earn a bad name in the desert. "Don't become Rockish," a camel warns another, a lesson to kill indolence. They are ditching it, isolating it and it's eroding. It's a lost cause.

A slight sandstorm is now enough to break it into smithereens. It is ill-fated, no wonder. Its degeneration, though in part, comes from its sloth and its derivatives, illusions, mental illness, precisely, if that can be called such.

If calling someone sick is not the same as a sick calling someone sick, or sane!

The desert, the camels, the ropes, and the unseen forces remain. But it is falling apart, finally.

— The author holds Masters in History. He can be reached at peerafaizanbashir@gmail.com.

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: LIC Golden Jubilee Scholarship 2025-26

Description: The LIC Golden Jubilee Scholarship 2025-26 is being offered by the Life Insurance Corporation of India to school students from economically weaker sections pursuing their higher studies.

Eligibility: Application is open to students, who have passed Class 10 or 12 or an equivalent securing a minimum of 60% marks or an equivalent grade. They must be pursuing their studies in Class 12, 1st year of undergraduate, vocational/diploma/ITI or integrated courses in a government-recognised college/institution. Applicants must have an annual family income not exceeding 4,50,000.

- Prizes & Rewards: Up to 40,000 per annum.
- Last Date to Apply: 06-10-2025
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/LICGI

QR Code: <https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/lic-golden-jubilee-scholarship-2025-261759146629.png>

Scholarship Name 2: BYPL SASHAKT Scholarship 2025-26

Description: The BYPL SASHAKT Scholarship Program 2025-26 is an initiative by BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) dedicated to supporting the higher education of students from economically weaker sections of society. It offers financial assistance of up to INR 30,000 to final-year undergraduate students enrolled in any stream at government institutes across Delhi.

Eligibility: Must be Indian nationals with permanent residence in Delhi.

Must be in the final year of a regular or distance UG course at a government institute in Delhi.

Minimum 55% marks in the last qualifying examination are required.

Annual family income must be up to INR 6,00,000.

Priority will be given to candidates pursuing Nursing, Para-Medical, B.Ed, Engineering, or CA courses, students from Central and East Delhi, and those willing to take up employment after graduation.

UG students: Must have secured at least 85% marks in Class 12 (Science Stream) and be pursuing an undergraduate degree in a science-related field (except final-year students).

PG/PhD students: Must have secured at least 60% marks in their

undergraduate course and be pursuing post-graduation (any year) in fields such as Technology, Science, Pharma, Life Sciences, Biotechnology etc. (except final-year students).

Students from PAN India are eligible.

Children of L'Oréal India and Buddy4Study employees are not eligible.

Note: Criteria may be modified at the discretion of the scholarship provider. Final selection for PG/PhD students is contingent upon the submission of an admission letter from a recognised college/university in India.

Prizes & Rewards: UG students: Fixed scholarship of INR 62,500

PG and PhD students: Upto scholarship of INR 1,00,000

Last Date to Apply: 03-11-2025

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/LIS6

QR Code: <https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/l-oreal-for-young-women-in-science-program-2025-261759212114.png>

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Ms. Unieab Javid, D/o Javid Hussain Mukeem, R/o Maisuma Colony, Chanapora, has applied for registration of a firm under the name and style of M/s Kashmir Shore Tours and Travel, situated at Hamdania Colony, Chanapora, Srinagar – 190001, with the concerned authorities.

If any person or party has any objection in this regard, they may file the same in writing with the concerned department within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice.

media line

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer id no: 0206020016812 from Gh Mohammad Ganai S/o Mohd Ibrahim to Mohammad Ibrahim Ganai S/o Ghulam Mohammad Ganai. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned PDD Office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Ibrahim Ganai
S/o.Ghulam Mohammad Ganai
R/o.Khanda

GOVERNMENT OF UT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER PULWAMA

Sh. Ghulam Qadir Sheergozi
S/o Abdul Samad Sheergozi
R/o Monghama Pulwama

Subject:Notice for surrender of Registration Certificate in respect of vehicle No. JK13H-1596 (EEC0 7 STR)

NOTICE

Whereas, you have purchased the vehicle from PEAKS AUTO PVT. LTD. (PUL) on 29-12-2021. Whereas, the same vehicle stands registered in the name of Ghulam Qadir Sheergozi S/o Abdul Samad Sheergozi R/o Monghama Pulwama.

Whereas the registration No JK13H 1596 has been allotted to your vehicle.

Whereas the same vehicle has been financed by the JK Bank Wahibugh Pulwama.

Whereas, the JK Bank Zonal Office, Pulwama has auctioned the aforesaid vehicle

citing you as defaulter and the same has been communicated by the J&K Bank to this office vide No. JKB/IAPMD/ZOPUL/2025-66 Dated: 09-09-2025.

Whereas, the J&K Bank Zonal Office, Pulwama requested to cancel the certificate

of registration and issue afresh RC in the name of JK Bank, Wahibugh, Pulwama.

You are therefore directed to surrender the RC of the vehicle with Reg. No. JK13H-1596 which has been retained by you in spite of you having lost the possession

and thereby the ownership of the motor vehicle under section 2(30) of MV Act and

to send your representation in this regard, if any, to this office within 15 days

from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which a fresh RC will be issued in the

name of financer, Le, JK BANK cancelling the RC held by you, in accordance with

section 51(5)

Assistant Regional Transport Officer
Pulwama

REF NO: UFJKBS/25-2

Dated: Oct. 4th 2025



PRESS RELEASE

This Session of Forum held today the 4th Oct. 2025 puts on record its gratitude and appreciation for the employees and officers of The JK Bank who under the Banner of All India JK Bank Officers and Employees Federations, affiliated to All India Bank officers and Employees Associations, having made a contribution of Rs.4,10,00,000/- (Rupees Four crore Ten lac only) being amount as one days Salary of their members to Chief Minister (Jammu Kashmir) Relief Fund to be used for relief and rehabilitation of flood victims affected by the flood of August 2025. Earlier the authority for this remittance was handed over by the leadership of two Federations to HR department of The Bank and later delivered to Hon'ble Chief Minister J&K Jenab Omar Abdullah by Bank's Worthy MD & CEO Amitava Chaterjee. The Forum further records that Staff of The Bank under Banner of Two Federations had already contributed Rs. 1,00,00,000/- (Rupees one crore) for immediate relief work which was undertaken by the affiliated units in Jammu, JKBOA(J) and JKBEA(J), of two Federations in coordination with Divisional Authorities of The Bank.

The Forum unanimously resolves to stand united not only for the cause of social welfare and development but also for fighting any kind exploitation undertaken by the working class in general and JK bank officers and Employees' in particular.

ISSUED BY: MEMBERS OF STEERING COMMITTEE

Sd/-
S. Iqbal Singh
President.

Sd/-
Com. Kapil Nanda
President.

Sd/-
Com. Dheeraj Singh
President.

Sd/-
Zaffar Ahmed Makdoomi
Gen Secretary
AIJKBPF

Sd/-
Riyaz Ahmed Bhat
Gen Secretary
AIJKBOF

Sd/-
Mohammed Rafi Shah
Gen. Secretary
AIJKBEF

Sd/-
M A Khan
President
JKBPAK

Abs/Ad: 700544730



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OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE

INKISHAF

VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR

J&K Bank Continues To Empower Aspiring Youth Under Mission YUVA

Conducts multiple Login Day events across J&K, distributes hundreds of sanction letters



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- In line with its mission to promote entrepreneurship and self-reliance among the youth, J&K Bank organised Multiple Login Day events across Jammu and Kashmir under Mission YUVA during this week.

Held at various district and zonal offices, these Login Day events witnessed the participation of senior government officials, officers of the Bank, and dozens of enthusiastic youth—all united by a shared vision of contributing to the region's economic growth through innovation and enterprise.

Participating in some of these events, senior officers of district administrations lauded the Bank for its proactive approach in implementing the J&K Government's flagship Mission YUVA program. They advised the aspiring entrepreneurs to pursue their ventures with innovation and dedication so that they not only become self-reliant but create jobs for others as well.

Speaking at these events, the Bank's leadership stressed that the Bank sees youth as a force for change who can shape not only their own destiny but can transform the socio-economic conditions of this region. Under Mission YUVA, they said,

RBI Has Kept Possibility Of Future Rate Cuts Open: Report

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the possibility of future rate cuts open, with its monetary policy committee (MPC) sharply revising its inflation forecast downwards, according to a recent report by Crisil Intelligence.

The central bank had on October 1 kept its policy interest rate unchanged at 5.5 per cent for the second consecutive time, citing concerns over tariff uncertainties.

The report said the MPC acknowledged that GDP growth would face downside risks in the second half of the current financial year (2025-26), due to the impact of US tariffs.

However, the recent rationalisation of GST rates will partially offset the overall impact, Crisil Intelligence said.

"Certain labour-intensive sectors are most vulnerable to the impact of US tariffs and need policy support. With in-



flation becoming a less worry this fiscal, the initiation of US Federal Reserve's rate cuts will provide space for the RBI to cut rates," the report stated.

Since February 2025, the RBI has reduced the policy rate by 100 basis points. In its previous policy review in June, it had trimmed the repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.5 per cent.

The central bank has been tasked by the government to ensure that Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

Based on the recommendation of the MPC, the RBI reduced the repo rate by 25 bps each in February and April, and 50 basis points in June amid easing retail inflation.

The retail inflation is trending below 4 per cent since February this year. It eased to a six-year low of 2.07 per cent in August, aided by an easing of food prices and favourable base effect.

Series Of Collaborative Programmes Kickstart At Gurez

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA- In a major step towards strengthening the agricultural landscape of Gurez Valley, a series of collaborative programmes were launched by Dryland Agriculture Research Station (DARS) in partnership with KVK/MAR&ES Gurez.

The initiative aims to enhance productivity, promote niche crops, and uplift tribal farmers through technological interventions and hands-on support.

The programmes were conducted across various pockets of the valley, including Koragbal, Naibasti (Bogote), and the remote Angakoot Tulail, drawing overwhelming participation from the local tribal farming community.

Providing an overview of the first event at Naibasti, Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Lone, Professor and PI AICRP on Pulses, highlighted that Rajmash holds immense potential as a major crop in Gurez. He stressed that adopting the package of practices developed by the institute would significantly boost both yield and quality.

Dr. Seerat-un-Nissa, Associate Professor, emphasized the importance of soil health and adherence to Good Agricultural Practices.



tices (GAP) for maximizing returns under Gurez's unique agro-climatic conditions.

At Koragbal, the team underscored the role of fodder oats (Var. SFO-01) introduced under HADP:15 (Rainfed), as a sustainable solution to address fodder scarcity in the region.

Continuing their outreach, another programme was held at Angakoot Tulail as part of the University's flagship initiative for the conservation of local Gurezi sheep and improvement of fodder availability under HADP:01 (Seeds).

To support farm operations and reduce drudgery—particularly among farm women—various farm tools and prototypes were distributed among the beneficiaries.

Govt Launches 'Swadeshi Campaign' To Boost Domestic Demand For Handloom, Handicraft Products



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- The government is launching a 'Swadeshi Campaign' to boost the demand for domestic handloom, handicrafts, and textile products in the country, the Textile Ministry said on Saturday.

The campaign will be run across India for next 6 to 9 months. It aims to create awareness and educate people about the rich heritage of domestic products.

The objective is to reposition Indian textiles as symbols of pride, style, especially among youth and urban consumers.

The campaign aims to stimulate domestic demand and reposition Indian textiles as symbols of pride, style and heritage among youth and urban consumers.

Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a clarion call for promoting 'Swadeshi' goods.

In a statement, the Textile Ministry said the aim of the campaign is "to increase do-

mestic textile consumption especially among urban millennial and Gen Z".

Moreover, it aims to reposition Indian textiles as symbols of pride, style, especially among youth and urban consumers.

Awareness will be created through various events, social engagements and by using social media platforms. The campaign seeks active participation of various state governments.

The objective of the campaign is also to expand market access, visibility, and income opportunities for weavers, artisans, and textile MSMEs.

Aligning with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, it will integrate campaign efforts with initiatives like PLI for Textiles, PM MITRA Parks, One District One Product and Institutional Procurement, besides encouraging ministries, PSUs and educational institutions to adopt Indian-made textiles in uniforms, furnishings etc.

India's market size of textiles and clothing is USD 179 billion in 2024, which is growing at an Average Annual Growth Rate (AAGR) of more than 7 per cent per annum.

The contribution of household sector to the domestic market is 58 per cent and it is growing at a CAGR of 8.19 per cent.

At the same time, the non-household consumption is 21 per cent of the domestic market and is growing at a CAGR of 6.79 per cent.

However, the recent changes in the rates due to GST reforms, it is expected that there will be enhanced demand for the textiles and apparels in the household and non-household sector, which may yield in higher growth rates in the consumption of textiles in the country.

With continued initiatives of the government through various programmes and implementation of Swadeshi campaigns, it is expected that domestic demand shall increase by a CAGR of 9 to 10 per cent to reach a total domestic demand of textiles to USD 250 billion by 2030.

TO INCREASE DOMESTIC TEXTILE CONSUMPTION especially among urban millennial and Gen Z".

Vehicles Without FASTag To Pay 1.25x Toll Via UPI From November 15

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- With an aim to reduce cash transactions, the government on Saturday said that from November 15, vehicles entering a fee plaza on a National Highway without a valid, functional FASTag will be charged 1.25 times of regular toll amount if users opt to pay using UPI.

Currently, those without a valid FASTag are required to pay double the toll charges in cash.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in a statement said in a significant step to incentivise digital payments and eliminate cash transactions at the user fee plazas on National Highways for non-FASTag users,

the Government of India has amended National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates

and Collection) Rules, 2008.

"Under the new rule, vehicles entering a fee plaza without a valid, functional FASTag will be charged twice the applicable user fee, if the fee payment is made in cash.

"Such users who opt to pay the fee via the Unified Payment Interface (UPI), will be charged only 1.25 times the applicable

user fee for that category of the vehicle," it said. This notification will come into effect from November 15, 2025.

The statement said the revised rules will encourage the adoption of digital payments, enhance transparency in toll operations, and improve the overall user experience on National Highways.

FASTag



Key Issues Still Unresolved In India-EU FTA Talks: EU Envoy Delphin

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The proposed free trade pact and the investment protection agreement between India and the European Union can be a "game changer" at a time some countries are raising tariffs and closing their markets, EU envoy Hervé Delphin has said.

At the same time, Delphin noted that the negotiations for the trade deal are "challenging" and important issues remained to be solved.

His comments came days before India and the 27-nation bloc hold the 14th round of negotiations in Brussels on the much awaited free trade agreement (FTA).

Last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen reaffirmed their commitment to finalise the trade deal by December.

The European Union is India's biggest trade partner with bilateral trade in goods recording USD 135 billion in the financial year 2023-24.

"The FTA can open new opportunities for EU and Indian businesses and

create conditions to significantly increase our bilateral trade and investment," Delphin said.

"While some countries are raising tariffs or otherwise closing their markets, we should use the FTA to diversify trade, hedge against uncertainties and strengthen our supply chains," he said at Federation of European Business in India (FEBI) on Tuesday.

The remarks by ambassador of the European Union to India came amid trade disruptions caused by the Trump administration's policies on trade and tariff.

The text of the envoy's speech was released to the media on Saturday.

Delphin said the negotiating teams from India and the EU are working hard on the FTA.

"(It is) fair to say the negotiations are challenging and important issues remain to be solved. The 13th round earlier in September with the direct involvement of Commissioners (Marios) Sefcovic and (Christophe) Hansen on the EU side did not result in the sort of breakthrough, which was expected," he said.

ED Attaches Rs 423 Cr Assets In Karnataka Home Buyer Fraud

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Unsold flats and lands worth more than Rs 423 crore of the promoters of a Karnataka-based real estate firm were attached under the anti-money laundering law on Saturday in a case linked to alleged duping of homebuyers, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said.

The action has been taken against Bengaluru-based Ozone Urbana Infra Developers and its main promoter S Vasudevan.

A provisional order has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to attach the unsold stock in the Avenue (92 flats) and Aqua 2 projects (13 flats) of the company apart from 4.5 acres of commercial land and personal properties of Vasudevan, the ED said in a statement.

The attachment also includes the assets of Vasudevan's wife -- 179 acres of land in Kannegalli village, Mudigere (Chikkamagaluru district).

The total value of these properties is Rs 423.38 crore, the agency said.

The money laundering case stems from a CBI FIR that was



registered on the directions of the Supreme Court, it said.

The ED had conducted searches in this case in August. The company and Vasudevan "defrauded" home buyers to the tune of Rs 927.22 crore and "did not" deliver possession of apartments/units against the said money, thereby dishonestly retaining and diverting the funds, the ED alleged.

"The accused diverted the funds to other group entities and associated individuals, including Vasudevan himself, and his family members.

"Therefore, the company and Vasudevan generated proceeds of crime of Rs 927.22 crore and routed the same through various entities and used for the purpose other than the funds actually meant for, ie, construction and development of realty projects," the federal probe agency said.

Delhi High Court Directs 11 Online Sellers Not To Infringe Trademark



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Delhi High Court has restrained 11 online companies and sellers or their representatives from manufacturing, selling, advertising or promoting "counterfeit products" bearing the plaintiffs' (Fullife's) registered trademark 'Chicnutrix' or a deceptively similar mark.

Justice Tejas Karia was hearing a plea by the registered trademark owner Fullife Healthcare Pvt Ltd seeking a permanent injunction restraining infringement of the mark.

Fullife's advocate, Sumit Nagpal, said that the e-commerce platform Meesho had permitted the continued listing of counterfeit products within 72 hours, besides disclosing the details, including contact numbers, addresses and GST details of the infringing sellers within two weeks.

In an order dated September 25, made available on Saturday, the high court, in an interim order, restrained the 11 sellers or their representatives from manufacturing, selling, advertising or promoting "counterfeit products" bearing the plaintiffs' (Fullife's) registered trademark 'Chicnutrix' or a deceptively similar mark.

The high court also directed Meesho to take down, block or suspend 21 URLs mentioned in the plaint showing the listing of counterfeit products within 72 hours, besides disclosing the details, including contact numbers, addresses and GST details of the infringing sellers within two weeks.

Goyal urges Singapore-Based Investors To Explore Opportunities In India

Press Trust Of India

SINGAPORE- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has urged Singapore-based investors to look at the opportunities that India offers across the spectrum of economic development.

"I would urge each one of you to look at the scale of opportunity that India offers," Goyal said at a meeting with investors under the theme "India Singapore @ 60: Partnership for Growth" on Saturday.

Emphasising the basis for the rapid economic development, the minister highlighted India's "three singular definitions" -- the size of its market, opportunities, and the skill of its workforce.

"We are looking at working together, fast-tracking various initiatives that the India-Singapore Business Roundtable initiated," he said, pointing out that officials from both public and private sectors are putting in relentless hours to try and create those models which will help the two countries' relationship to grow on a faster track.

"I think, together, there are many new frontiers to scale," said Goyal, who is visiting Singapore.

"Whether it's in the world of capital, whether it's in the world of research and development, whether it's in the world of people development, skills, skill sets, talent, the world of

education, our effort to look at sustainability going forward, something which both Singapore and India, people of both countries, the leaders of both countries recognize for the future," he noted.

All these efforts put together define the Singapore-India relationship, he said.

Stressing that all chambers of commerce and industry in India came together with Singaporean chambers, along with European, American and Japanese companies, on one platform here on Friday to explore opportunities in India, the minister told a gathering of about 250 investors, "I think the time is now, the time is right."

"If we lose this opportunity, if we fail to capture the momentum that this relationship has gained, we will really miss out on a very defining moment, which can take the Singapore-India partnership to newer levels."

"We need your support," Goyal told a gathering of about 250 investors. "We need to work with all of you...and well-wishers from the world of business."

Goyal exuded confidence that the India-Singapore partnership, driven by the collective abilities of both governments and investors, and resting on the strong bilateral leadership, will enter a "fast track mode", transforming the relationship between the Asian financial hub and the Indian market.

Budget 2026-27

Govt Asks Depts To Submit Proposals By Oct 30

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has begun preparations for the annual budget for the financial year 2026-27. The Finance Department has instructed all administrative departments, Heads of Departments (HODs), Budget Controlling Officers, and Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) to start the budget exercise promptly.

A circular issued by the Finance Department directs departments to submit their budget proposals after scrutiny by October 30. Budget preparation at the DDO and HOD levels is to be completed by October 20 and October 25, respectively.

According to the guidelines, both the Revised Estimates for 2025-26 and the Budget Estimates for 2026-27 should be prepared only against existing filled positions. No provision should be made for vacant or deputation posts, and no creation of new posts shall be anticipated or budgeted for in either the revised or upcoming budget. A separate statement for vacant posts may be appended if necessary.

Departments are also required to project works-related estimates in consultation with MLAs. Revised estimates under CDF, DDC/BCD, and PRI/JLB grants should be prepared within available funds and in coordination with relevant local representatives.

The Finance Department said the measures are aimed at ensuring timely, accurate, and realistic budget preparation across the Union Territory.

Anantnag Hosts Mega Awareness Camp For Senior Citizens

Legal Rights, Welfare Kits Distributed



Observer News Service

Anantnag: A mega awareness and distribution camp was organised by the Department of Social Welfare, Anantnag in collaboration with the District Information Center, Anantnag and Cultural Wing, DIPR Kashir today at Achabal.

Secretary DLSA, Fozia Paul graced the event as Chief Guest while SDPO Achabal attended as Guest of Honour. Principal GHSS Achabal, TSWOs, officials of SW & other departments, civil society members and a large number of senior citizens attended the camp.

Addressing the gathering, Secretary DLSA briefed about the legal services and rights available to the senior citizens and called for implementing holistic

measures for the elderly and senior citizens so they age with respect and dignity. She advocated for a rights based approach to ensure social security and overall welfare of senior citizens and other vulnerable sections of society.

On the occasion, officers from Social Welfare highlighted the services and facilities provided by the department to senior citizens such as Old Age Pension, Hearing Aids and Old Age Homes.

During the program, colorful cultural items like skits and songs on rights of senior citizens and Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan were presented by the artists of Cultural Wing, DIPR Kashir.

At the conclusion, carrom boards and other sports kits were distributed among the senior citizens for their recreation and psychological well being.

Div Com Kashmir Reviews Mobile Connectivity Issues

Directs BSNL to Expedite Tower Installation in Shadow Areas



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Saturday chaired a meeting to address ongoing network coverage problems in shadow areas across various districts, including Srinagar, Kupwara, Shopian, and Anantnag.

The meeting highlighted the need to improve mobile connectivity in these areas, with a focus on the timely erection of telecom towers.

He instructed BSNL to submit a phase-wise report detailing all existing telecom tower sites & stages of work and urged to initiate the construction of towers at locations where land has already been transferred to the telecom company.

Regarding revenue & land transfer issues, District administrations were directed to resolve any revenue-related issues to facilitate the land transfer

process for the timely completion of tower installation in shadow areas. He emphasised on eliminating duplicate entries from the combined list of proposed tower sites to avoid redundant efforts and to streamline the process.

To address concerns regarding the erection of a tower near the Dachigam Wildlife Park, Div Com directed officials to find an alternative location for the tower at Mulnar to avoid potential conflicts with the park's conservation efforts.

He instructed BSNL officers to adopt a proactive approach to pursue the cases with district administrations and other concerned officers.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Shopian; Additional Commissioner Kashmir; Additional Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Kupwara & Anantnag; Assistant Commissioner Central, DGM BSNL, OSD to Div Com and other officers.

Pak Drone Spotted Along IB In Samba, Search Op Launched



Press Trust Of India

Samba: Security forces have launched a search operation after Pakistani drone was sighted hovering over a forward village along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said on Saturday.

The drone-like object was seen coming from the Pakistani side and hovered over Nanga village in the Ramgarh sector late Friday, triggering alarm in the border belt, they said.

According to officials, security forces and police teams were immediately deployed to scour the area and ensure that there is no airdropping of any payload like narcotics and weapons from across the border.

The search operation was underway when last reports were received, officials said, adding that security has been heightened in adjoining villages as a precautionary measure.

CONT'D. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K High Court Draws

Procedure, which protects women in long-term live-in relationships.

The High Court said the law cannot stretch to cover both situations.

If the relationship resembled marriage, co-habitation could not be considered rape. If it was rape, he could not be compelled to support her.

The judgment cites Supreme Court rulings that allow maintenance for women in long-term relationships resembling marriage to prevent destitution.

In this case, the court said that obligation cannot coexist with a conviction for rape arising from deception. The woman's claim for interim support was therefore denied.

The ruling underscores the vulnerability of women outside formal marriage in Kashmir, where social norms remain rigid.

Women in live-in relationships face stigma, and economic independence is rare. Female workforce participation in Jammu and Kashmir remains below 15 percent, leaving many dependent on men.

The judgment made a clear point: a woman cannot pursue a criminal conviction for rape and claim maintenance at the same time. She must choose one path.

PM Welcomes

ordered Israel to stop bombing the Gaza Strip after Hamas said it had accepted some elements of his plan to end the nearly two-year war and return all the remaining hostages taken in the October 7, 2023, attack.

Hamas said it was willing to release the hostages and hand over power to other Palestinians, but that other aspects of the plan require further consultations among Palestinians.

J&K Braces For

areas may see light snowfall, while the plains could experience moderate to heavy rainfall. Jammu division is expected to face thunderstorms, lightning, hailstorms, and winds gusting up to 60-70 kmph.

Meanwhile, Independent weatherman Faizan Keng said the effect of the Western Disturbance will become noticeable from Sunday evening, intensifying from Monday onwards. "Plains are likely to receive light to moderate rain, while higher reaches will witness snowfall which may lead to closure of key mountain passes including Sinthan Top, Zojila Pass, Margan Top and Sadhna Top," Keng said.

He added that the upper reaches of South Kashmir may witness 6 inches to 1.5 feet of snowfall, while North Kashmir's upper reaches could record nearly a foot of snow.

The Meteorological Department has issued a detailed advisory for the people and has asked the farmers to suspend harvesting and other agricultural operations between October 5-7.

"There is a possibility of heavy to very heavy rainfall in parts of Jammu division and moderate to heavy rainfall in isolated areas of Kashmir division, accompanied by thunder, lightning and gusty winds. Landslides and shooting stones are likely at vulnerable stretches," reads the advisory.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has directed all administrative departments to remain fully prepared to tackle any eventuality. "Our priority is the safety of every citizen. All district and divisional administrations must stay alert, ensure readiness of control rooms, and respond swiftly to any distress calls," he said.

Divisional Commissioners of both Jammu and Kashmir have activated field officers from district administrations, police, PWD, PDD, and health departments to coordinate immediate response measures. Authorities are closely monitoring river levels, road conditions, and weather updates.

The Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRR) department has cautioned that the weather system could lead to disruption of surface transport

including Jammu-Srinagar and Srinagar-Leh National Highways, landslides, mudslides, waterlogging, damage to crops, and power or communication outages in snow-affected areas.

Safety guidelines issued by DMRR advise citizens to stay indoors during heavy rain, snowfall, or thunderstorms, keep emergency supplies ready, drive cautiously, secure rooftops and loose objects, and ensure the safety of elderly, children, and specially-abled members.

People are warned against venturing into flooded rivers, touching fallen electric wires, traveling on landslide-prone or snow-covered roads, and engaging in outdoor activities during hailstorms or strong winds.

Emergency helpline numbers have been activated: 112; Landline: 0194-2502254, 0194-2950767; Mobile: 700607453, 9086131746. The Union Territory Emergency Operation Centre (UTEOC) at Hari Niwas, Gupkar Road, Srinagar, has been fully activated, with disaster management teams, police, and local administration on standby for rescue and relief operations.

Authorities have urged citizens to rely only on official updates issued by the IMD and DMRR and avoid spreading unverified information on social media. "The situation is being closely monitored. We urge people to remain calm, stay informed, and cooperate with the administration to ensure everyone's safety," a senior DMRR official said.

J&K Bans Sale

of freezing and cannot be sold beyond 12 months from that date. E-commerce deliveries should have at least 30 percent of their total shelf life or 45 days before expiry remaining. Storage and transport facilities must have calibrated temperature monitors with proper records, and labels must clearly state the animal species, such as goat, buffalo, or chicken.

The order further stated that, as per Section 18(1)(f) of the Act, if there are reasonable grounds to suspect a food may pose a risk to human health, the Food Authority and the Commissioner of Food Safety are bound to take preventive measures and inform the public about the nature of the risk and actions taken.

The Food Safety Commissioner emphasized that the action is being taken under Section 30 of the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006, empowering the Commissioner of Food Safety to prohibit the manufacture, storage, or sale of any food article in the interest of public health for a specified period.

"Having regard to the inspection findings and the potential health risk involved, a condition exists across the Union Territory that requires immediate preventive action in the interest of public health," the order reads.

The ban will remain in force until further orders or until the administration is satisfied that the health risk no longer exists.

The ban will remain in force until further notice or until authorities confirm that the products pose no health risk.

Crime Branch

10.05.2021", was found to be forged and caused confusion among applicants.

The preliminary investigation revealed that during the Covid-19 pandemic, an NGO named J&K Health Care Services had been approved by the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir, to provide voluntary manpower to address staff shortages in medical blocks. However, members of the NGO allegedly exploited this approval to defraud volunteers.

The accused reportedly approached volunteers under the pretext of securing permanent engagement under NHM, collected their documents, and also demanded money. Subsequently, the NGO allegedly prepared a fake selection list, forging the signatures of the NHM mission director.

The accused have been identified as Abdul Qayoom Naik (Check Ferozpora, Tangmarg), Abdul Qayoom Khan (Harwan, currently in

Omporta, Budgam), Mohammad Ashraf Hurrah (Saria Bala, Srinagar), Mushtaq Ahmad Sofi, and Hilal Ahmad Bahar (both from Shadipora, Sumbal, Bandipora).

"Their actions prima facie disclose offences under Sections 420, 468, 471, 120-B RPC read with Section 66-D of the IT Act. Cognisance has been taken and a formal case registered," the spokesperson said.

The EOW is continuing its investigation into the matter.

JKBOSE Grants

and the Union Territory of Ladakh shall attempt 85% of the question paper, which will correspond to 100% marks, thereby availing a 15% relaxation in syllabus," the Board said.

The JKBOSE clarified that the question papers will be framed from the entire prescribed syllabus, but students will be required to attempt only 85% of the questions, with internal choices provided accordingly.

The decision, the Board said, was taken following recommendations from the Directorate of School Education in Kashmir and Jammu and requests from various stakeholders citing loss of instructional time.

It added that multiple-choice questions and grammar portions in language papers will follow the same marking pattern, ensuring uniformity in evaluation.

Class 10 Date-sheet Out

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JK BOSE) has notified the date-sheet for Class 10th Annual/ Regular, 2025 (Oct-Nov session), scheduling the examination from November 3 from 11 am to 2 pm.

In all, nearly 95,000 students from Kashmir Division and winter zone areas of Jammu Division including students from Ladakh UT are expected to take up the exam, which the Government has restored back to October- November session.

As per the date- sheet, the exams will commence on November 3 for Mathematics subject followed by Social Science on November 7.

The examination for Science subject has been scheduled on November 11 while English paper will be held on November 14. The Urdu/ Hindi papers have been scheduled on November 17, Computer Science on November 19 while the vocational subjects paper will be held on November 21.

Subjects with smaller number of candidates like Home Science will be held on November 23, Music on November 25 and additional/ optional subjects including Kashmiri/ Dogri/ Bhoti/ Punjabi/ Arabic/ Urdu/ Hindi/ Persian/ Sanskrit on November 24.

The examination will conclude on November 27 with Painting/ Art and Drawing subject papers scheduled on that day.

Custodial Torture

applicants had sought regular bail, claiming innocence, professional integrity, and absence of necessity for continued custody, the prosecution opposed their plea, citing the seriousness of offences, supervisory and direct complicity of the accused, risk of tampering with evidence and influencing witnesses, ongoing investigation, and the larger public interest. The CBI had argued that grant of bail at this stage would undermine the rule of law and erode public confidence in accountability of law enforcement personnel.

Special Public Prosecutor for CBI, while opposing the bail applications, submitted that the case is one of custodial torture resulting in mutilation of genitalia, fractures and multiple grievous injuries, fully supported by medical and forensic evidence. He argued that the allegations, taken at their face value, clearly disclose the ingredients of Section 307 IPC, and that the question whether the charge ultimately sustains is a matter for trial, not for determination in bail proceedings.

"It is not disputed that the FIR was registered pursuant to the binding directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, thereby investigating the case

Pak Drone Spotted Along IB In Samba, Search Op Launched



Press Trust Of India

Samba: Security forces have launched a search operation after Pakistani drone was sighted hovering over a forward village along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said on Saturday.

The drone-like object was seen coming from the Pakistani side and hovered over Nanga village in the Ramgarh sector late Friday, triggering alarm in the border belt, they said.

According to officials, security forces and police teams were immediately deployed to scour the area and ensure that there is no airdropping of any payload like narcotics and weapons from across the border.

The search operation was underway when last reports were received, officials said, adding that security has been heightened in adjoining villages as a precautionary measure.

underlining that the argument that 307 IPC is inapplicable cannot by itself justify release on bail when the investigation is at a crucial stage and there remains a risk of tampering with evidence and influencing witnesses, particularly when the accused persons are police officials themselves.

BJP To Contest

will win both these seats comfortably. However, the party is expected to field a heavy-weight candidate for one of the two remaining seats, where it has strong chances of winning.

Addressing a press conference, Sethi said the party's core group discussed the criteria and political requirements for selecting suitable candidates, though no names have been finalized yet. "We have not discussed specific people or names today. We focused on what the situation demands and who can effectively represent the people in the Rajya Sabha," he said.

Sources within the party added that discussions emphasized regional balance, representation of diverse communities, and the ability of candidates to project J&K's interests at the national level. The final decision is expected after consultations with central party leaders in New Delhi.

The Election Commission had earlier announced the schedule for Rajya Sabha polls from Jammu and Kashmir.

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Rohit Loses ODI Captaincy, Gill Named Captain With 2027 WC In Mind

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: In a significant transition move, the Indian selectors on Saturday removed Rohit Sharma from ODI captaincy and expectedly handed over the reins to young Shubman Gill, keeping the 2027 World Cup in mind.

Rohit is the only skipper apart from Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who led India to three ICC white ball finals, winning T20 World Cup and Champions Trophy titles. He had a runners-up finish at the ODI World Cup.

As an ODI skipper, he won 42 out of the 56 ODIs that he captain with a winning percentage of 76.

The selection panel's move also underlines Gill's transition as an all-format leader.

Rohit, though features in the 15-member squad for the upcoming Australia Tour along with other stalwart Virat Kohli as the selection panel chose not to fully sacrifice the experience.



Shreyas Iyer has been named vice-captain for the three-match series. The ODIs are scheduled to be

played in Sydney, Adelaide, and Melbourne between October 19 and 25 and will be followed by a five-match T20 series.

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been rested for the ODI leg of the tour to manage his workload, while promising left-hander Yashasvi Jaiswal has been recalled to the 50-over setup after a string of consistent performances in T20 internationals.

Chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar confirmed that Rohit has indeed been communicated about the change in captaincy but kept it open-ended when asked if both him and Kohli will play the 2027 ODI World Cup.

The 2027 World Cup is a huge part of this committee's plan and Gill needs to be given time to settle down into the role.

The ODI World Cup is still two years away but in terms of volume of games available, it is around 30 and simply playing one format would remain a chal-

lenge, feels Agarkar.

The selectors have retained T20 squad that won the Asia Cup, except that injured Hardik Pandya has been replaced by Nitish Kumar Reddy.

ODI squad for Australia tour: Shubman Gill (Captain), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer (VC), Axar Patel, KL Rahul (WK), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohammed Siraj, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Yashasvi Jaiswal.

India's T20I squad: Suryakumar Yadav (Captain), Abhishek Sharma, Shubman Gill (vice-captain), Tilak Varma, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shivan Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (WK), Varun Chakaravarthy, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Sanju Samson (WK), Rinku Singh, Washington Sundar.

UT Level U17 Girls Volleyball Tourney Begins In Budgam



Under the supervision of Ghulam Hassan Lone, District Youth Sports and Services Officer Budgam, an Inter Division UT Level Under-17 Volleyball Tournament kicked off at the Synthetic Turf of Boys Higher Secondary School in Beerwah. Two teams from Kashmir and Jammu provinces are participating in the competition. Tehsildar Beerwah Aliya Tabasum inaugurated the tournament as the Chief Guest and urged the girls to work hard and increase their interest in sports along with their studies.

On this occasion, many senior officials of the department, who, apart from ZPEO Jahan Ara, Physical Lecturer Mudasir Ahmad, Incharge Activity Budgam Ghulam Hassan Khanday and Incharge Activity Beerwah Mohammad Yaseen Jan, were also present.

Although during the first match, the players of both teams were seen attacking each other fiercely and trying their best to defeat each other. However, in the first match set, the Jammu team defeated the Kashmir province team. It should be noted that all arrangements were made by the department for both the teams including the hostel facilities. (Younis Paray)

Martial Arts Prodigy Ahmed Taha Masoody Wins 2 Gold At Nationals

Adil Khan

SRINAGAR: In a moment of pride for Jammu and Kashmir, 13-year-old Ahmed Taha Masoody from Srinagar has once again showcased his brilliance on the national stage.

The young athlete bagged two gold medals at the 13th National Pencak Silat Championship 2025, held in Koppal, Karnataka, from September 26 to 28. At least 1500 athletes from all over India took part in the competition. He excelled in both the Tunggal and Solo events, outshining opponents from across the country.

This remarkable feat has made Taha a 14-time national champion, marking his consecutive gold-medal victories for the past six years. His name now stands tall in the history of Indian Pencak Silat.

What makes Taha's success even more

special is his consistency. At just 13 years old, he has managed to dominate national-level championships year after year, proving that age is no barrier when it comes to talent and determination.

Behind his success lies a strong foundation of dedication, discipline, and hard work. Taha has been training tirelessly, often balancing his studies with intense practice sessions, showing maturity well beyond his years.

A big share of credit goes to his mentor, Mohd. Iqbal, the Chief Coach of India. Iqbal has been guiding young athletes for more than 14 years, becoming the backbone of the Silat community in the country.

Taha's medal tally speaks volumes about his dominance in martial arts. Over the past six years, he has collected 36 medals at District, UT, National, and International levels, of which 33 are Gold, 1 Silver, and 2 Bronze.



National Pride: DPS Srinagar Athletes Bring Home Silver For India



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a triumphant moment for both school and country, three students from Delhi Public School Srinagar have etched their names on the international stage, securing prestigious medals for Team India at the 3rd Junior Asian Pencak Silat Championship 2025.

Making the victory even more special, the championship was held right here on home soil at SK Indoor Sports Complex in Srinagar, from September 25 to 30. The championship brought together 11 countries and

12 teams.

In a powerful demonstration of skill and tenacity against Asia's elite, three of our most formidable athletes ascended the podium clinching coveted Silver Medals. The school and the nation celebrate the monumental achievements of:

Hurriyah Showkat (Class 11th)
Samma (Class 11th)
Mysha Bilal Kanth (Class 10th)

Principal, Ms. Shafiq Afshan, expressed her profound pride: "Representing India is the highest honour, and our students have done

so with exceptional power and grace. Their victory is a testament to their relentless dedication and serves as a profound inspiration to their peers. They have proven they can compete with the world's best."

Chairman, Mr. Vijay Dhar, lauded the champions, remarking, "These athletes are a source of immense pride for the entire DPS family and the nation. We celebrate this historic victory and wish them boundless success in their future endeavors. May they continue to soar, inspire, and achieve even greater heights."

MD & CEO Felicitates J&K Bank FC For Winning 20th J&K Police Martyrs Memorial Football Tournament 2025

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank MD and CEO Amitava Chatterjee on Saturday felicitated the Bank's Football Team for clinching the 20th J&K Martyrs' Memorial Football Tournament 2025 title after defeating Kashmir Avengers FC in an electrifying grand finale at TRC Synthetic Turf here.

The felicitation ceremony was held at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters, where MD and CEO Amitava Chatterjee and Executive Director Sudhir Gupta congratulated the players, coaching staff, team-manager and sports-board for their outstanding performance and spirited teamwork that led the team to a string of victories during the tournament.

General Manager and Chair-



man Bank's Sports Board Syed Rais Maqbool, General Manager and Vice Chairman Sports Board Rakesh Koul, Deputy General Managers Anup Bhat, Shabir Ah-

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