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Dry Weather From Oct 9 To 17: MeT Major Highways Closed; Temp Remains Low



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir was recorded at multiple places on Tuesday, bringing a chill across the region, while weather conditions improved from the afternoon, officials said.

High-altitude areas including Kokernag, Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Sadhna Top, Karnah, Sinthan Top, and Pir Ki Gali witnessed fresh snowfall, leading to a

further dip in daytime temperatures. Srinagar recorded a maximum of 16.1°C, about 9.4°C below normal, while Pahalgam saw 12.1°C, and Kokernag 13.2°C. In Jammu division, Banihal recorded 16.8°C, Jammu 27.2°C, and Bhaderwah 13.4°C.

The Meteorological Department reported heavy rainfall in several districts over the past 24 hours, with Udhampur receiving 100.2 mm, Bate 98.2 mm, and Doda 86 mm. | More on P6

PM-KISAN Scheme

Centre Transfers Rs 171 Cr To 8.5 Lakh J&K Farmers

Rs 85.62 Cr Approved For 5,100 Flood-Damaged Homes: Union Minister

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday released 21st instalment of Rs 171 crore under the PM-KISAN scheme to 8.55 lakh farmers of flood-affected Jammu & Kashmir.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, the Centre provides Rs 6000 per year financial assistance to farmers in three equal instalments.

According to an official statement, Chouhan "released in advance" the 21st instalment of the PM-KISAN scheme for flood and landslide-affected farmers of Jammu & Kashmir.

The instalment was released through video conferencing from Krishi Bhavan in New Delhi.

"Under this instalment, Rs 171 crore has been directly



transferred to the bank accounts of 8.55 lakh farmers, including 85,418 women farmers," the statement said.

With this, farmers in Jammu & Kashmir have received a cumulative assistance of Rs 4,052 crore under PM-KISAN so far.

Chouhan said the central government, under the leadership of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, stands shoulder to shoulder with farmers and people affected by floods and other natural calamities in Jammu & Kashmir.

"We will ensure that no farmer is left alone in this hour of crisis. The release of this PM-KISAN instalment is a crucial step to help them meet immediate | More on P6

LG, CM Express Gratitude

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed gratitude to the Centre on Tuesday for the advance release of the 21st instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme for the farmers of the Union Territory.

"I am extremely grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri @Narendramodi Ji and Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri @ChouhanShivraj Ji for advance release of 21st instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme for the farmers of J&K UT," the LG said in a post on X.

Approximately Rs 171 crore will be directly transferred to the bank accounts of | More on P6

PM Modi Marks 25 Years In Power



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday began his 25th year as the head of a government, asserting that improving the lives of people and contributing to the progress of this great nation have been his constant endeavour.

He noted in a series of posts on X that he had taken oath on this day in 2001 as Gujarat's chief minister for the first time and emphasised on the changes first his home state and then the country witnessed on his watch.

"Thanks to the continuous blessings of my fellow Indians, I am entering my 25th year of serving as the head of a Government. My gratitude to the people of India," Modi said.

He added, "Through all these years, it has been my constant endeavour to | More on P6

Horticulture Dept Assesses Crop Losses

Observer News Service

The Horticulture Department of Kashmir has begun assessing crop damage following unseasonal snowfall and rains that affected several parts of the Valley in recent days, officials said on Tuesday. Deputy Director of Horticulture, Kashmir, Javid Ahmad Bhat said, that field officers have been | More on P6

ROAD CLEARANCE AGENCIES HAVE BEEN PRESSED INTO SERVICE to make the road trafficable at the earliest. Efforts are on to clear the debris, and we are hopeful of restoring traffic by late afternoon."

Movement Of Pedestrians, Non-motorised Vehicles SC Gives States, UTs Six Months To Frame Rules

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed all the states and Union Territories to frame road safety rules within six months by regulating the movement of non-motorised vehicles and pedestrians in public spaces.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan directed all the states and UTs to frame such rules under Sections 138 (1A) and 210D of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

"We direct all the states and UTs to formulate rules under Section 138(1A) of the Motor Vehicles Act within a period of six months, if not already framed, for the purpose of regulating activities and access of non-mechanical propelled vehicles and pedestrians to public places and national highways.

"We direct all the states and UTs to formulate and notify rules under Section 210D of the Act within a period of six months, if not already framed, for design, | More on P6

Major Reshuffle Looms In J&K Police

LG Likely To Approve Transfers Soon

Agencies

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is likely to order transfers and postings of senior police officers, including those at the DIG, SSP, and SP ranks, in the coming days.

According to highly placed sources quoted by media, the upcoming transfer order is expected to be a major one, involving a substantial number of officers across various districts and ranges of the Union Territory.

The reshuffle, sources indicated, has been under discussion as part of a broader effort to streamline law enforcement operations, strengthen field supervision, and enhance coordination between different police units.

The Home Department, in consultation with the Police Headquarters, is reportedly finalizing the list of officers likely to be affected by the reshuffle. The transfers are expected to cover both Kashmir and Jammu divisions, impacting officers heading district police units, specialized wings, and operational zones.

Sources said the changes are also aimed at injecting new energy | More on P6

'Baseless & Misleading'

SIA Opposes Parra's Plea To Travel Outside J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: State Investigation Agency (SIA) has urged the High Court to dismiss an application filed by PDP youth president and MLA Waheedur-Rehman Parra seeking permission to travel outside of Jammu and Kashmir.

In its response to Parra's plea, the agency, through Additional Advocate General Mohsin S Qadri, described the application as "baseless and meritless", citing his alleged involvement in "serious and heinous offences" linked

to a 2020 terror-related case.

"It may be true that the applicant has not violated any bail condition in the last three years. However, the present application, which seeks to allow the applicant to visit outside J&K without the permission of the trial court, would jeopardize the powers of the trial court in proper supervision, conduct and monitoring of trial," the SIA counsel said.

Parra, who was granted bail in May 2022, recently moved the High Court seeking permission | More on P6

Cough Syrup Deaths

PIL In SC Seeks CBI Probe, Drug Safety Review

Observer News Service

New Delhi: A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a comprehensive inquiry and systemic reforms in drug safety regulations following the deaths of children in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, allegedly caused by toxic cough syrups.

Filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari, the PIL requests a court-monitored investigation and the constitution of a National Judicial Commission or Expert Committee headed by a retired Supreme Court judge. It also

seeks the transfer of all pending FIRs and investigations related to the incidents to the CBI to ensure uniformity and fairness.

The petition argues that separate state-level investigations have resulted in fragmented accountability, allowing repeated lapses that let hazardous formulations enter the market.

It urges the Supreme Court to direct the Central government to set up a national-level expert body to identify regulatory failures and prevent future tragedies. The plea also calls for mandatory toxicological testing of all | More on P6

CM Calls For Early Execution Of MLA-Prioritised CDF Projects Orders Quick Filling Of Vacancies In Engineering Departments

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday directed officials to accord administrative approval to works prioritised by MLAs under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) scheme and ensure their early execution.

The Chief Minister, who chaired a high-level review meeting here, instructed the Finance Department to prepare constituency-wise data of works incorporated in the



budget and asked district administrations to immediately upload CDF projects on the BEAMS portal. He emphasized granting administrative approvals promptly and initiating work execution without delay.

Highlighting the importance of coordination with elected representatives, Abdullah stressed that close cooperation with MLAs is essential to expedite CDF works and ensure visible development outcomes on the ground.

"Wherever | More on P6

As Skies Grow Bumpier, Scientists Turn To Birds For Clues On Turbulence

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The skies above us are getting rougher. Once considered little more than an in-flight nuisance, turbulence is fast becoming a serious aviation challenge as the planet warms — and some scientists believe the key to understanding it may lie with the world's best fliers: birds.

Turbulence — the irregular, invisible movement of air caused by eddies and vertical currents — can turn a smooth flight into a stomach-lurching experience. Most of the time, it's harmless. But in extreme cases, it can cause injuries, damage aircraft, and even prove fatal.



That danger became tragically clear when a Singapore Airlines flight from London encountered severe turbulence earlier this year, leaving one passenger dead

and more than 30 injured. "It's a reminder of how unpredictable the skies can be," says Paul Williams, an atmospheric scientist at the University of

Reading, whose research has documented a sharp rise in turbulence linked to climate change. "Our studies show that clear-air turbulence — the invisible kind that can't be seen or detected by radar — has increased by 55% over the North Atlantic since 1979," BBC quoted him saying in a recent report.

The Invisible Threat

Clear-air turbulence (CAT) strikes without warning, often in calm blue skies at cruising altitude. It occurs when fast-moving air currents in the jet stream become unstable. Neither satellites nor onboard sensors can detect

it; pilots typically rely on reports from aircraft ahead of them.

"Climate change is intensifying the temperature differences that shape the jet stream," Williams explains. "That's making it less stable and allowing more turbulence to break out."

According to data from the University of Reading, severe turbulence incidents have risen 41% over the U.S., 55% over the North Atlantic, and similarly across Europe and Asia. Projections suggest such episodes could double or even triple by the end of the century.

While modern planes are built to withstand turbulence, it remains the | More on P6

Top Army Commanders Review Security Challenges At 2-Day Meet

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Top commanders of the Indian Army carried out a comprehensive review of national security challenges along the borders with Pakistan and China at a two-day conclave that concluded on Tuesday.

Sources in the defence and security establishment said the commanders largely delved into various aspects

of Operation Sindoor and the security implications for India over its decision to suspend the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan.

A day after the April 22 Pahalgam attack, India announced a series of punitive measures against Pakistan, including the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty with New Delhi asserting that "blood and water" cannot flow together.

New Delhi | More on P6

Exports Making Indian Factories Greener: IIM Study

Press Trust Of India

Exports not only boost business growth but also make Indian factories greener, a study by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Lucknow, has found after analysing two decades of firm-level data. Described as the first-of-its-kind, the study examined whether export orientation encourages Indian manufacturing companies to adopt greener practices. Led by Chandan Sharma, professor of Economics and Business Environment at IIM-Lucknow, it has been published in the prestigious Energy Economics (Elsevier) journal. While trade is often criticised for raising environmental pressures in developing countries, there is limited causal evidence on whether exporting firms adopt greener practices, especially in terms of energy use. By applying the Propensity Score Matching-Difference-in-Differences (PSM-DID) methodology, the researchers addressed this gap and explored several important insights. "Our research shows that exports don't just boost growth, they also make Indian factories greener. Within a few years of entering global markets, companies become more energy efficient, largely by adopting advanced technologies.



"This highlights how trade can be a partner in India's journey toward sustainable and competitive manufacturing, apart from creating jobs," Sharma told PTI. The findings of this study challenge the general perception that globalisation harms the environment in developing countries. Instead, it shows that international trade can become a driver of green growth to meet India's climate goals under the Paris Agreement. According to the study, adoption

of advanced foreign technologies improves a firm's energy efficiency by 25 per cent within three years, compared to similar non-exporters. "We found that exposure of non-exporting firms to export-intensive industries leads to efficiency improvements. The findings also validate the robustness of results across multiple methods, alternative measures, and extended samples," Sharma said. The professor explained that the

firms entering the export markets tend to improve their energy efficiency, and these improvements persist over time. "Mechanism analysis further reveals that these gains are largely driven by access to more advanced foreign technologies. In this way, trade may also serve as a channel for technology diffusion. "By highlighting this connection, our study contributes to policy discussions on aligning trade with environmental objectives,



This highlights how trade can be a partner in India's journey toward sustainable and competitive manufacturing, apart from creating jobs

particularly in developing economies facing the dual challenges of economic growth and ecological responsibility," Sharma said. According to the professor, the findings of the study are relevant for policymakers who can induce exports by aligning trade policy with energy efficiency objectives. "For instance, promoting foreign technology access, providing incentives for firms to upgrade to energy-efficient processes and reinforcing environmental standards among export-oriented industries," Sharma said.

Public Notice

MY name and parentage has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Aadl Yaseen Shah Peerzada Qadri S/o Mohd Yaseen Shah Peerzada Qadri while my correct name is Aadil Yaseen Shah S/o Mohd Yaseen Shah. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the concerned adhaar centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Aadil Yaseen Shah
 S/o Mohd Yaseen Shah
 R/o Mashwara Keller Shopian

fko

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 issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 210278
 Class 10th
 Year & Session 1994-PZ-IX-92
 Registration: 7092
 Name : Mir Amjad Aziz
 Father's Name: Mir Gh Mohamad
 Mother's Name : Atiqah Bano
 Date of Birth:- 01-12-1977
 Residence:- Hushroo Qnoogopora



According to 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
 fko
 Assistant Secretary
 Certificates, KD.

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 2519442 Session: Biannual Year 2019-20 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/ Board/parent against my Father's Name as Iskanderpora instead of Gh Ahmad Mir and Mother's name as Zabina Baigum instead of Zaiba Baigum



Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.
 Name: Zahoor Ahmad Mir
 Father's name: Gh Ahmad Mir
 Mother's Name: Zaiba Baigum
 DOB: 03-05-2001
 Residence: Iskanderpora
 Mobile no: 7298477800

bmg

NOTICE

I, Kamal Jahangir, S/o Mohammad Kamal Thoker, R/o Azad Pora Check Govind Judhar Charri Sharif, Budgam- 191112 have lost my passport while travelling, and it is untraceable. Now i, am applying for a duplicate/reissue of my passport. If any body having any objection he/she may contact passport office Srinagar, within 7 days . After that no objection will be entertained.

Media line advert

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the name and date of birth of my daughter have been incorrectly recorded in her Aadhaar card as:

Name: **Abroo Jan** Date of Birth: **11/10/2010** the correct details as per her Birth Certificate issued by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation are: Name: **Abiru Bashir** Date of Birth: **04/04/2009**

If any body having any objection he/she may contact concerned department, within 7 days. After that no objection will be entertained.

Name of Father: Bashir Ahmad Dar
 R/O: Mulphaq Burzahama, Hazratbal, Srinagar, J&K

Media line advert

NOTICE

I, Zahoor Ahmad Mahajan, R/o Govt Housing Colony, illahi Bagh, hereby declare that the name of my daughter is recorded as **Aroofah** and the name of my wife as Yasmeena in the school records of R.P. School, Nagbal. The correct name is **Aroofah Zahoor**, D/o Zahoor Ahmad Mahajan and Yasmeen.

If anyone has any objection to this correction, they may contact the Principal of R.P. School, Nagbal within 7 days of this publication. After that no objection will be entertained.

Media line advert

NOTICE

I, Zahoor Ahmad Mahajan, R/o Govt Housing Colony, illahi Bagh, hereby declare that the name of my son is recorded as **Abdullah** in the school records of Hill Top Educational Institute Darend Ganderbal. The correct name is **Muhammad Abdullah Mahajan**, S/o Zahoor Ahmad Mahajan and Yasmeen.

If anyone has any objection to this correction, they may contact the Principal of Hill Top Educational Institute Darend Ganderbal within 7 days of this publication. After that no objection will be entertained.

Media line advert

Public Notice

MY name and parentage has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Alfaz Jan D/o Mohd Aslam while my correct name and parentage is Ulfat Jan D/o Mishri Khan . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the concerned adhaar centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ulfat Jan D/O Mishri Khan
 R/O Badhal Rajouri
 A/P Balapora Kanipora Shopian Tehsil & Distt Shopian

FKO

Public Notice

I have lost fitness certificate of my vehicle bearing Regd No. JK01 AT-4231 from Sangam to Saidpora. Now I am applying for its duplicate. Objections if any, must reach RTO Srinagar within a week at the most.
 FAYAZ AHMAD BHAT
 S/O NAZIR AHMAD BHAT
 R/O CHINAR MOHALLA ZAINAKOTE HMT,
 SHALATENG GHAT, SGR

mdl

Public Notice

I, Mohd Ashraf Tantray S/o Ab Samad Tantray R/o Mugdom Mohallah Palhalan Pattan, intend to change the name on the electricity bill bearing Consumer ID No. 0213040005495 from Ab Samad Tantray S/o Wali Mohd Tantray to Mohd Ashraf Tantray S/o Ab Samad Tantray R/o Mugdom Mohallah Palhalan Pattan.

If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of the AEE Pattan within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the said period.

Mohd Ashraf Tantray
 S/o Ab Samad Tantray
 R/o Mugdom Mohallah, Palhalan Pattan

fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... Application of Nisar Ahmad Bhat s/o Ghulam Mohi ud din Bhat R/o Hanjiwera for issuance of dependent certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT is inform to general public that applicants father's dependent certificate is under process in this office in this matter report was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants father namely Ghulam Mohi ud din Bhat s/o Ghulam Qadir Bhat R/o Hanjiwera died on 17/08/2025 and dependents on deceased are as under..

S.No.	Name	Age	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
1.	Nisar Ahmad Bhat	35	Son	Unmarried
2.	Razia	32	Daughter	Unmarried
3.	Rubeena	40	Daughter	Married
4.	Sarwa Begum	57	Wife	Widow

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

fko
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

SD

Public Notice

I have changed my Name from (Old Name) AATIFA ALTAF WANI to (New Name) AATIFA ALTAF in future I will be known as (New Name) AATIFA ALTAF. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 (Seven) days after 7 days no objection will be accepted.
 AATIFA ALTAF
 D/O ALTAF AHMAD WANI
 R/O AISHMUQAM PAHALGAM ANANTNAG

JNA7780878931

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LONE NEW/ADVT AGENCY	RATNIPORA, PULWAMA
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CITY

Fire Guts Three Houses In Habbakadal's Ganpatyar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Three residential houses were reduced to ashes after a massive fire broke out in the Ganpatyar area of Habbakadal on Sunday evening, triggering panic in the densely populated locality as firefighters battled the blaze for several hours.

Officials from the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Department said that soon after receiving the distress call, fire tenders from Gowkadal, Habbakadal, and Headquarters Command Srinagar were immediately rushed to the spot. Additional reinforcement from the Babademb Fire Station was also deployed to control the rapidly spreading flames.

Eyewitnesses said thick smoke and fire engulfed the houses within minutes, forcing residents to rush out in fear. The congested layout and narrow lanes of the old city hampered the

firefighting operation, but personnel managed to prevent the blaze from spreading to adjoining structures.

"Three residential houses were gutted despite a prompt response. The exact cause of the fire is being ascertained," an F&ES official said, adding that multiple fire tenders and water sources were used to douse the flames.

Locals appreciated the quick response of fire personnel but expressed concern over the lack of proper access routes for emergency vehicles in the area. They urged authorities to develop alternative pathways to ensure faster intervention during such incidents.

No casualties were reported in the incident, though the affected families have suffered significant property losses. Police have taken cognizance of the matter and launched an investigation to determine the cause of the fire.



Representational Pic

KPDCL Schedules Power Shutdown For Maintenance In Several Areas

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has announced a series of scheduled power shutdowns across several areas in Srinagar and its outskirts to facilitate preventive maintenance works, including tree branch cutting and line looping on various 33 KV and 132 KV lines.

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution KPDCL, the shutdown of the 33 KV Shariefabad HMT and Narbal line will be carried out on 14 October 2025. During this period, Zainakote, Shalteng, Baskhipora, Narbal and Sanoor receiving stations will remain off, affecting power supply to Narbal, Mazhama, Sanoor, Malpora, Kawoosa, Sozeith, Lawaypora, Zainakote, ICC, Industrial HMT, Shalteng, Mujgund, Bakshipora and adjoining areas from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

Similarly, the shutdown of the 33 KV Shariefabad HMT line has been scheduled for 16 October 2025, impacting Zainakote, Shalteng and Bakshipora receiving stations. Power supply to Zainakote, ICC, Industrial HMT, Shalteng, Mujgund, Bakshipora and adjoining areas will remain affected from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

On 15 October 2025, shutdown of the 33 KV SH Pora and Kawdara line will affect SH Pora, MR Gunj, Shireen Bagh,

ing Safakadal, Wanganpora, Saidpora, Noorbagh, Chaidoad, Baghwanpora, Eidgah and adjoining localities will face power cuts from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Further, the 33 KV Bemina-I and II line will be shut down on 18 October 2025, impacting Bemina I and II receiving stations. Consumers in Hamdania Colony, HIG/MIG Colony, Nund Resh Colony, Hamza Colony, Gousia Colony, Sir Syed Abad, Qamarwari, Chattabal, SK Colony, Taushedabad Bemina, Court Complex, Mandi and adjoining areas will experience outages from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

On 19 October 2025, two separate shutdowns were announced. The first is for the 33 KV Bemina JVC line, affecting JVC, PC Depot, SKIMS and Children Hospital receiving stations. Power supply to JVC Hospital, Children Hospital, State Motor Garage, Hajj House, Forensic Lab, PC Depot, Qamarwari, Baranpathri and nearby areas will be disrupted between 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM. The second shutdown is for the 33 KV Bemina Karan Nagar line, affecting Karan Nagar and Shalstore receiving stations. Areas including Chatabal, Balgarden, Zaldagar, Police Lines, Civil Secretariat, SMHS Hospital, Gole Market, Guru Bazar, Tankipora and Shaheed Gunj will remain without power during the same hours. A major shutdown has also been

CME Workshop On Newborn Screening Techniques Held At GMC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A one-day CME cum workshop on "Key Laboratory Techniques in Newborn Screening" was held at the Department of Biochemistry, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, bringing together eminent experts, faculty members, and young researchers for a day of academic exchange and hands-on training.

Participants including clinicians, biochemists, lab technologists, and researchers received practical training in advanced laboratory methods such as automated capillary electrophoresis, ELISA, ECLIA, and multimode reader assays for detecting metabolic disorders.

The event marked the launch of the first phase of free screening for pregnant women and newborns under the DBT-GOI funded

NIDAN Kendra, in collaboration with the Departments of Pediatrics and Obstetrics & Gynecology, aimed at early detection of inherited metabolic and genetic disorders.

Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar, Prof. Iffat Hassan Shah, inaugurated the workshop and praised the department's efforts in translating molecular and genetic technologies into clinical practice. She highlighted the critical role of early diagnosis in reducing the burden of metabolic disorders in newborns.

Prof. Sabhiya Majid, Coordinator, elaborated on the objectives of the UMMID Initiative of DBT-GOI, emphasizing the NIDAN Kendra's focus on diagnosis, screening, and training for genetic and metabolic disorders, particularly relevant in regions like Kashmir with higher consanguinity rates.

J&K Police Holds ToT Programme On New Criminal Laws

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted for the officers of the rank of Sub Inspector (SI) to Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) on New Criminal Laws from 29th September to 4th October 2025, at the District Training Center (DTC), District Police Lines (DPL), Srinagar.

In a statement issued, The program was organized by Police Headquarters (PHQ) in collaboration with the Bureau of Police Research and Develop-

ment (BPR&D). The primary aim of the training was to enhance both the legal knowledge and instructional capabilities of Police officers, enabling them to serve as trainers in their respective jurisdictions. The training focused on the New Criminal Laws and their implications on investigation and prosecution.

More than 50 police officers, of ranks ranging from Sub-Inspector (SI) to Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP), participated in the training. These officers represented various districts of the Kashmir Zone.

भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण
SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
खेल विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports)
(युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय के तहत एक स्वायत्त निकाय)
(Human Resources Division -II)

**HEAD OFFICE, GATE NO.10 (EAST GATE),
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STADIUM,
LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003**

File No. 01-04001(03)/11/2025-Recruitment Cell Date: 18-09-2025

Sports Authority of India Recruitment – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (OFFICIAL LANGUAGE) Posts

The Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, invites applications for 01 Post of Assistant Director in Pay Matrix Level-10 (₹56100-177500/-) on deputation including short-term contract basis for a period of 3 years at its Head Office, New Delhi and various field units. Eligible officers may submit applications in the prescribed format, along with required documents, to the Deputy Director (Human Resources Division-II), SAI, J.N. Stadium Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003. Last date for receipt of applications is 17th November, 2025 (5:00 PM). Detailed advertisement, eligibility criteria, proforma and instructions will be available on the SAI website (www.sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in).

cbc47103/12/0009/2526

SAD DEMISE

With deepest sorrow and bereavement it is to inform the death of our beloved mother W/o Lt. Aga Syed Asgar R/o. Jan Mohalla, Lalbazar (Ganz Bagh), Srinagar, Who left for heavenly abode on 7th October 2025 at 8:30 am at her residence, after a brief illness.

The congregational Fateha Khawani will be held on Friday 10th October 2025, at our Graveyard Moughal Mohalla , Lalbazar Srinagar at 7 am & thereafter at our Residence Jan Mohalla Lalbazar (Ganz Bagh) Srinagar.

AGA SYED SHAMIM
AGA SYED MAHMOOD
AGA SYED JALAL
AGA SYED MASOOD
AGA SYED ASIF [SONS]

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub. Application of Gulzar Ahmad Gojri s/o Gh Mohd Gojri R/o poshwani Pattan for issuance of legal hair certificate.

Public Notice..

IT is inform to general public that applicants son's legal hair certificate is under process in this office in this matter report Was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants son namely Sahil Gulzar died on 17/05/2025 and left following legal hairs.

Name	Age	Relationship with the De-tus ceased	Marital Sta
Gulzar Ahmad Gojri	55	Father	Married
Haleema Begum	43	Mother	Married
Seerat Begum	27	Sister	Married
Basit Gulzar Sheer Gojri	18	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
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-39-25-26 Date:- 06.10.2025
Closing Date/Time: 27.10.2025 15:00

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <https://www.ireps.gov.in> against Tender Notice No. 433-Sig-T-39-25-26 Closing Date/Time 27.10.2025 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

NIT HEADER	
Contract Type	Works
Name of work	(i) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Siemens Make Electronic Interlocking system installed at 01 Station of Firozpur division for Three (03) Years. (ii) Signalling work in c/w (1) Through turnout renewal or 89 No. turnouts over Firozpur Division (TR (fs+TWS+WCMSC)-17 Set, TTR (TWS+WCMSC)-1 SET & TTR9TSR)-71 Set total-89 nos (2) Firozpur Division-TSR(P)-13.123 Tkm (3) estimate improvement in various yard by Misc. track work over Firozpur Division (4) CTR(p) 11.000 Tkm in the section of ASR-PTK.
Tender Closing Date Time	(i) 27.10.2025 15:00 (ii) 29.10.2025 15:00
Advertised Value (Rs.)	(i) 2881294.86 (ii) 12266780.60
Earnest Money (Rs.)	(i) 57600.00 (ii) 211300.00
Date Time of Uploading Tender	03.10.2025 18:16
Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	(i) 13.10.2025 (ii) 15.10.2025
Period of Completion	(i) 36 Months (ii) 6 Months

NOTE
Tenderer should keep himself updated about the Tender amendments, Corrigendum, etc. by remaining in touch regularly with the website.

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- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 06
ZUHR 12:19
ASR 4: 29
Magrib 6:12
ISHA 7: 31

HIJRI CALENDAR
14 Rabi-ul-Sani
1447

This Day In History

- 1480- Great Stand on the Ugra River: Standoff between forces of Akhmat Khan, Khan of the Great Horde, and Ivan III, Grand Prince of all Rus, ends with a Tatar-Mongol retreat, leading to the disintegration of the Horde
- 1619- Duke of Bavaria Maximilian I and Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II sign the Treaty of Munich
- 1625- English Admiral George Villiers' fleet sails from Plymouth to Cadiz, Spain
- 1740- Chinese assault on Diestpoort, Batavia
- 1769- Captain James Cook lands in New Zealand for the first time near present-day Gisborne on the East Coast of the North Island. A misunderstanding, possibly over a ceremonial challenge, causes the English to shoot and kill Ng ti Oneone leader Te Maro.
- 1775- Officers decide to bar enslaved and free Black individuals from the Continental Army
- 1813- Treaty of Ried between Bavaria and Austria
- 1856- Second Opium War or Second Anglo-Chinese War begins with the Arrow Incident on the Pearl River
- 1862- Battle of Perryville, Kentucky: Confederate invasion halted
- 1871- Forest fire destroys Peshtigo, Wisconsin, killing between 1,200 and 2,500 people, making it the deadliest wildfire in recorded history
- 1871- The Great Chicago Fire kills an estimated 300 people and destroys over 4 square miles (10 square km) of buildings and the original Emancipation Proclamation
- 1879- Battle of Angamos, War of the Pacific: Chilean Navy defeats the Peruvian Navy and kills Peruvian Admiral Miguel Grau
- 1897- Emperor Franz Joseph I appoints composer Gustav Mahler as Director of the Vienna Court Opera
- 1912- Montenegro declares war on Turkey, beginning the First Balkan War
- 1915- Battle of Loos ends as German forces contain the British attack, resulting in 85,000 casualties
- 1917- Leon Trotsky is named chairman of the Petrograd Soviet as Bolsheviks gain control
- 1924- The British Labour government of Ramsay MacDonald falls to the Conservatives
- 1929 - Mohammed Nadir Khan occupies Kabul Afghanistan and drives out Habibullah Ghazi
- 1932 - The Indian Air Force is established.
- 1940 - German troops occupies Romania
- 1945 - US President Harry Truman announced atomic bomb secret shared with Britain and Canada
- 1945 - Microwave oven patented
- 1946 - Military plane crashes at Christian HBS, 24 die
- 1952 - Chinese offensive in Korea
- 1957 - Turkish & Syrian border guards exchange fire
- 1963 - Sultan of Zanzibar cedes his mainland possessions to Kenya
- 1967 - Guerrilla leader Che Guevara and his men are captured in Bolivia.
- 1970 - Soviet author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn wins the Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1970 - The Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) propose that a system of Proportional Representation (PR) should be used in elections in Northern Ireland
- 1973 - OPEC meets with oil companies to discuss revision of 1971 Tehran agreement and oil prices; negotiations fail.
- 1993 - UN lifts remaining economic sanctions against South Africa
- 1998 - US House of Representatives votes to begin impeachment hearings against President Bill Clinton on charges of lying about his affair with Monica Lewinsky
- 1998 - José Saramago is the first person from Portugal to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature
- 2003 - Peter Agre and Roderick MacKinnon win the 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discoveries concerning channels in cell membranes
- 2008 - Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology awarded jointly to Harald zur Hausen (cause of cervical cancer) and Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, Luc Montagnier (discovery of HIV)

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KO VIEW

Make Solutions Happen

For years, Kashmiris have focused on unemployment and shrinking opportunities. Amid all this din and discourse, Srinagar's streets and small workshops silently show another way.

Street vendors, artisans, and cottage industries keep families going and communities alive. They show how problems can be solved with skill, creativity, and persistence, offering a blueprint for young people searching for their own path.

For educated and unemployed youth, these spaces are classrooms in problem-solving, adaptation, and creativity.

The streets teach practical lessons. Vendors selling fruits, snacks, or tea know how to read demand, manage stock, and keep customers coming back. In old Srinagar, craftsman weaving pashmina or shaping papier-mâché show patience, skill, and attention to detail. They survive rising rents, irregular tourism, and competition from larger stores by finding ways to adapt.

For young Kashmiris facing uncertain futures, these trades offer a model: success comes to those who act, learn, and solve problems.

Technology can expand these lessons. Social media and online marketplaces allow a Srinagar artisan to reach buyers in Europe, North America, or the Middle East. Small workshops can scale if supported with microloans, marketing training, and access to tools.

Blending traditional craft with modern business practices can turn family trades into sustainable ventures.

Government support and infrastructure improvements can help, but the most important effort must come from youth themselves. Learning to sell, adapt, and innovate in local markets builds independence and confidence.

Every scarf, bowl, or snack carries a story of spirit and a blueprint for entrepreneurial success.

Kashmir's informal economy shows that solutions exist. Streets, alleys, and small workshops are schools, laboratories, and incubators. Young people can turn uncertainty into opportunity by learning from these everyday examples.

By embracing creativity, skill, and determination, they can sustain themselves and contribute to a thriving local economy.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Silver's Second Shine

Once part of Kashmiri homes and heirlooms, silver is now powering global industries, and offering local investors a chance to grow with it.

Irshad Mushtaq

For generations, Kashmiris have trusted gold as the ultimate symbol of security. Silver, though equally rooted in our culture, slipped into the background. Today, it is silently reclaiming its place as a force driving modern technology.

From ancient Anatolia to the bazaars of Srinagar, silver has long carried value. Yet its modern story is written in silicon and sunlight. It conducts electricity better than any other metal, making it essential in smartphones, electric vehicles, and solar panels. As the world moves toward clean energy, demand for silver is expected to surge.

Unlike gold, silver's worth comes from both its beauty and its utility. It grows when industries expand and holds steady when markets falter. That balance makes it an appealing hedge for investors seeking stability.

And now, it's easier than ever to invest. Silver Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs), launched in India in 2021, allow even small investors to access the silver market without worrying about storage or purity.

For Kashmiri investors, this is an opportunity to diversify. Silver is affordable, practical, and aligned with the future economy. A gram costs a fraction of gold's price but carries global relevance.

In the story of wealth and progress, silver is no longer the supporting act. It's the metal of both memory and innovation, shining again for those willing to see beyond the old gold standard.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Her Turn in the Upper House

A single nomination could correct over 60 years of exclusion and signal that J&K's democracy finally includes half its people.

Muskan Shafi Malik

As Jammu and Kashmir prepares for another round of Rajya Sabha nominations, the question of representation returns. Will a woman finally be sent to the Upper House?

For more than sixty years, the answer has been the same. No.

The gap shows how deeply power in the region continues to resist sharing space with women, even as they hold up much of society's weight through decades of upheaval.

Women have been the region's unacknowledged leaders. They've kept communities together when systems broke down. They've led panchayats, run self-help groups, and carried forward social work in the hardest years of displacement and violence. They've been the backbone of families, schools, and relief efforts.

But when it comes to the formal arena of politics, where decisions are made and voices can shift outcomes, their presence fades away.

The only woman from Jammu and Kashmir to ever enter the Upper House was Krishna Mehta, nominated in 1962 for her humanitarian work. Her inclusion was historic, but it was never followed up.

In the six decades since, no woman from the region has been nomi-



nated again. The repetition of this absence across governments and ideologies makes it a pattern.

This lack of representation is not about a shortage of capable women. The region has produced remarkable leaders, academics, activists, lawyers, and administrators. The problem lies within political structures that remain tightly controlled by men.

Party hierarchies continue to be shaped by loyalty, family ties, and patronage networks, where women's participation is often decorative. The "women's wings" of parties rarely have a say in key decisions. Year after year, slogans of empowerment replace genuine inclusion.

Gender, in Jammu and Kashmir's politics, often becomes invisible under louder themes, like security, development, or identity. In this noise, women are treated as a constituency to be spoken for, not as agents who can speak for themselves.

The result is a political system that looks democratic on paper but lacks the full range of voices that democracy requires.

Representation changes how societies think. When women sit at the table, they bring with them an awareness of everyday realities. Their presence widens the understanding of what governance means.

These perspectives are essential for a region as complex as Jammu

and Kashmir, where policies touch the most fragile aspects of life. Excluding women weakens the conversation, and ultimately, the democracy itself.

The Rajya Sabha was designed to bring wisdom and experience into public life. It is, in fact, the perfect platform to correct the gender imbalance that has long defined the region's politics.

But every nomination cycle repeats the same story of exclusion.

The passage of the Women's Reservation Bill in 2023 was celebrated across India. It promised 33 percent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. But the law left out the Rajya Sabha.

This means the choice to nominate women rests entirely with political parties. It is not a legal issue anymore. It is a matter of conscience.

As nominations approach, parties like the National Conference, PDP, BJP, and Congress have an opportunity to move beyond slogans. Each has, at one time or another, spoken about women's empowerment.

This is their chance to prove those words carry weight.

The author is a civil service aspirant building a bridge between intent and impact. She can be reached at iasmuskanshafimalik@gmail.com

The Weight of Despair

A Kashmiri student reflects on how the valley's drug crisis is less about personal weakness and more about a collapse of purpose, opportunity, and belonging.

Taseer Majeed

I often hear people call it an epidemic. The news says it is spreading. The police say they are cracking down. Hospitals say they are overwhelmed. What no one says aloud is that drug addiction in Kashmir is a story of a society that no longer knows how to care for its young.

When I began studying political science, I learned to see patterns in pain. Addiction, for me, became one such pattern of collective disorientation.

What looks like substance abuse on the surface is, in truth, an outcome of deeper absence of politics that no longer inspires trust, and families and institutions that have lost their sense of connection.

In hospitals, the numbers keep rising. The age of those seeking help keeps falling. Heroin has replaced cannabis and prescription drugs as the most common escape. Parents who once dreamed of sending their children abroad now wait outside rehabilitation centers, hoping to reclaim them from the pull of addiction.

Every report and arrest feels like part of a larger story, one where the real crisis is emotional and political.

Our generation has grown up in uncertainty. The economy is fragile, the education system rigid, and the job market almost nonexistent. Each year, thousands graduate with degrees that lead nowhere. It creates a strange kind of exhaustion, a belief that effort will never be enough.

When that belief settles in, despair takes over. Drugs then become less a temptation and more a symptom of that despair.

In political theory, we speak of structural violence, when so-

cial systems cause harm by denying people dignity, opportunity, or hope. That is what Kashmiri youth live with every day. The promise of progress is spoken of often but rarely seen. Institutions feel distant, and trust in governance thins with each unmet promise.

The result is a form of powerlessness that silently reshapes how young people see their own lives.

Law enforcement tries to fight the drug trade through raids and arrests. Each new crackdown produces another headline, another brief moment of assurance.

But behind these actions lies a fragmented response. Rehabilitation centers are too few, social welfare programs too weak, and coordination among departments almost absent.

The state treats addiction as a law-and-order issue rather than as a social emergency that needs empathy, resources, and long-term planning.

Families, too, are changing. Economic strain and cultural transition have weakened old forms of support.



What we need is a coordinated effort that joins health, education, and governance in a single vision. Communities need to be empowered, schools sensitized, and families supported.

Conversations that once happened around shared meals are now replaced by screens. Religious and community leaders, hesitant to address taboo subjects, leave silence where guidance should exist.

That silence deepens the wound. Addiction grows in the spaces where

society withdraws.

Education could have been the first line of defense, but schools and colleges remain caught in a race for marks. Few talk about mental health, self-worth, or stress.

Classrooms are full, but conversations are empty. Teaching young people how to understand pain, or how to ask for help, could change far more than lectures on morality ever will.

When I meet young people struggling with drugs, I see exhaustion. I see the silent protest of those who have lost faith in the future offered to them. Addiction, then, is a form of structural unfreedom, a state where choice is shaped by despair, not will.

What we need is a coordinated effort that joins health, education, and governance in a single vision. Communities need to be empowered, schools sensitized, and families supported.

Most of all, our youth need to feel seen again, as human beings still capable of hope.

Every recovery and return from addiction is proof that change is possible. The real question is whether we, as a society, have the courage to rebuild the structures that failed them in the first place.

For me, politics has never been about slogans or power. It is about giving people reasons to believe in tomorrow. And in Kashmir today, that belief is what we are most in need of.

The author is a political science graduate from the University of Kashmir, focusing on youth, governance, and social issues in the valley.

Letter to Editor

The Clock is Ticking on Kashmir's Toxic Landfill

Srinagar has two years to clear more than 1.1 million tonnes of legacy waste from the Achan landfill. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) earlier ordered the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) to remediate the site by March 2027, including operationalizing leachate treatment and odor control systems.

The deadline is pressing. Decades of mismanagement have transformed a wetland into one of northern India's most serious environmental hazards.

Achan, originally part of the Syedpora wetland, absorbed Jhelum overflow and fed Anchar, Khushalsar, and Dal. That natural buffer is gone. Leachate from decomposing garbage now flows directly into Anchar Lake, contaminating downstream water bodies including Ramsar-protected Hokersar and Wular wetlands.

Daily, roughly 550 tonnes of garbage, including plastics, rotting food, hospital waste, and industrial debris are dumped into a site whose leachate plant functions intermittently. Methane and hydrogen sulfide escape freely, spreading pollution across Soura, Nowshahra, Eidgah, Bemina, and HMT.

The health impact is measurable. SKIMS and SMHS hospitals report rising asthma and bronchitis in surrounding neighbourhoods. Residents

describe coughing children, skin irritation, migraines, and nausea. Some households use air purifiers or keep windows sealed. Srinagar's air, once part of its appeal, now carries disease.

Legal and procedural failures underpin the crisis. India's Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, mandate segregation at source, daily soil cover, leachate treatment, and methane capture. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, prohibits untreated effluent discharge, and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, allows for criminal penalties. Achan violates all these standards.

Segregation remains below 15 percent. Leachate treatment is intermittent. Methane and hydrogen sulfide vent unchecked. Eight former municipal commissioners face scrutiny for failing to comply with NGT orders.

Citizen-led RTIs highlight the scope of neglect. In 2023, the leachate plant was non-functional for 124 days. In 2024, air-quality sensors installed under the Smart City Mission were found uncalibrated.

In 2025, groundwater samples near the landfill showed coliform bacteria, ammonia, and heavy metals. Environmental impact assessments have not been conducted since 2019. The evidence points to one conclusion: Achan is not a "scien-

tific landfill," it is an open dump.

Meeting the two-year deadline requires precise action. Legacy waste must be bio-mined, recyclable and inert material separated, and old landfill cells capped with multilayer liners and methane-capture systems. Leachate treatment must run continuously under independent supervision, with real-time data accessible to the public. Decentralized composting should reduce organic waste inflow. Daily dashboards showing waste inflow, air quality, and groundwater results will ensure transparency. Legal enforcement must follow negligence.

Achan is a test of governance, law, and civic action. Students analyzing soil, activists filing petitions, and journalists exposing violations have already transformed environmental advocacy in Kashmir from abstract ideal to survival strategy.

The two-year clock measures accountability, public health, and the possibility of reclaiming Srinagar's wetlands.

Sincerely,

Hidayat Bukhari
hidfan@gmail.com

Queen Victoria's Gift to Kashmir

A mechanical marvel gifted by Queen Victoria to Maharaja Ranbir Singh lies abandoned at the city museum, its decay reflecting history, memory, and lingering prejudice.

Vikas Thakur

I stepped out of the Shri Pratap Singh Museum on Srinagar's Jhelum riverfront and stopped in my tracks at the sight of a large iron object resting on a rusted trolley.

The metal was pitted and corroded, almost like bones, and bits of trash had collected inside, as if the city had simply thrown it aside.

At first, it looked like an old, forgotten barge left to rot. Then a tarnished plaque caught my eye. I had to lean in to read it: "Presented by H.M. Queen Victoria to H.H. Shree Maharaja Ranbir Singh Ji Bahadar."

I could hardly believe it. Back home, I scoured archives and sources online. It was indeed the royal steam boat, a gift from Queen Victoria to Maharaja Ranbir Singh, who ruled Jammu and Kashmir from 1857 to 1885.

The Maharaja had earned it for aiding the British Empire, a token of imperial favour.

Kashmir had always been a river-



© NOSTALGIC KASHMIR

ine land, but until then, boats had relied entirely on human strength. This mechanical marvel promised something new: a vessel that could glide across Dal Lake and the Jhelum without oars or manpower.

The inauguration drew thousands to Dal Lake banks. Locals murmured in wonder and skepticism. How would this affect their livelihoods?

Boatmen feared the novelty would make their shikaras obsolete. British engineers had arrived to demonstrate the technology, though the boat refused to start that day.

Over time, however, Maharaja Ranbir Singh took to it with relish. The steam boat appeared in Daryavi

Juloos, the flotilla parades on Jhelum, riding waves of ceremonial grandeur. It symbolized a blend of Dogra pride, imperial recognition, and technological innovation that the valley had never seen.

But today, it sits abandoned.

Attempts by historians, activists, and locals to press the museum for restoration have failed. Rust deepens in the corners. Trash spills across its deck.

The sight makes me wonder whether the neglect is accidental or a subtle judgment.

The Dogras, like many rulers of their era, exercised power in ways that left scars: land acquisitions, taxation, control of lakes and forests, and episodes of harsh enforcement.

Seventy-five years after the end of Dogra rule, those memories linger in Kashmir's collective consciousness. Could this latent resentment be preventing a restoration of the Maharaja's boat, leaving it to decay rather than be celebrated?

The story reminds me of Maharaja Jai Singh of Alwar, whose mechanical indulgences had a different trajectory.

In 1920, he wandered into a Rolls Royce showroom in London, dressed plainly and unaccompanied, only to be dismissed by a salesman.

Insulted, he returned in full regalia, purchased all six cars on display, and upon returning to India, handed them to Delhi's municipal corporation to ferry garbage. The Rolls Royce company, humiliated, gifted him six more vehicles.

The Maharaja's lesson in humility and revenge became legend.

Both the steam boat and the Rolls Royces share an unlikely parallel: symbols of luxury and modernity deployed in ways that confound expectations.

The boat's decay, however, carries a heavier, more complicated weight. It is a tale of memory, politics, and unresolved historical grief.

Walking past it again, I imagine Dal Lake in its heyday: the steam hissing, the Maharaja aboard in flowing robes, the flotilla gliding past, and oarsmen's calls mingling with mechanical pulses.

Today, the boat sits in silence, almost as if judging us, reminding us that the past is never simple. It stands between grandeur and neglect, imperial legacy and local memory, fascination and resentment.

Perhaps one day it will be restored, its metal polished, its engine silent but its story alive, teaching Kashmiris and visitors about a time when a river carried both innovation and authority.

Perhaps one day someone will restore it, polish its metal, keep its engine silent, and bring its story to life, teaching Kashmiris and visitors about a time when the river carried both innovation and authority.

For now, the steam boat waits in the sun, rusting, and still tells the story of a Maharaja's pride, a queen's gift, and the valley's complicated past.

— Vikas Thakur is the author of the recently published memoir, *Pax Kashmir*.

Today, the boat's silence feels almost accusatory, a reminder of a past that refuses simple narratives. It embodies the tension between grandeur and neglect, between imperial legacy and local memory, between fascination and resentment.

Women Who Fade Away

Marriage promises love and partnership, but in Kashmir, many women enter it carrying dreams, only to find themselves weighed down by unspoken expectations, silent labour, and stifled ambition.

Sakeena Taqi

I've seen daughters-in-law arrive in their new homes with eyes full of hope, hearts brimming with dreams. They imagine hand in hand walks with their husbands, evenings filled with laughter, a home where their voices are heard and their presence celebrated.

In Islam, marriage is sacred. It completes half of one's faith. It teaches responsibility, nurtures compassion, and creates a space where love can grow in balance and peace.

Husbands and wives are meant to be allies, sharing burdens, building a life together, and shaping a home that is a refuge.

But I've also seen that ideal falling apart.

When a Kashmiri girl enters her marital home, she is treated as a guest who must disappear into the background. She is expected to abandon her habits, comfort, ties to her family, and fold herself seamlessly into a household that often sees her as an outsider.

Every gesture she makes goes unnoticed. Her effort is measured against invisible standards. She must do every household task, endure subtle critiques if she is more educated, suppress ambition, and manage a constant flood of emotions while performing the physical labour of daily life.

She gives endlessly and is rarely allowed to simply exist.

I've watched dreams silently wither. Girls enter marriage imagining growth, learning, knowledge, and contribution. Their ambitions are the God-given urge to rise, flourish, and balance family life with personal growth.



Marriage should never demand surrender at the cost of the self. Respect, compassion, and understanding can create homes that reflect the mercy Islam teaches. When we honour women in marriage, we honour the society we hope to see.

But, these aspirations are dismissed. Studies show that women forced to abandon their dreams experience higher rates of anxiety, depression, and a diminished sense of self-worth. The lose echoes through families,

communities, and society itself.

Even when every chore is performed with care, married women are told they are "not expressive enough," "not fun enough," and "not talkative enough."

The home thus becomes a landscape of endurance, and she, a ghost of herself, carrying invisible weights. Islam teaches kindness, fairness, respect. A daughter-in-law is not a vessel to be shaped at will. She is a human being, with a heart, a mind, and the right to her dreams. Small gestures can transform a home from a battlefield to a garden.

Marriage should never demand surrender at the cost of the self. Respect, compassion, and understanding can create homes that reflect the mercy Islam teaches.

When we honour women in marriage, we honour the society we hope to see.

— The author is a postgraduate in History from Kashmir University. She can be reached at syedasakeenataqi@gmail.com.

Lost in Transit

Horns, impatience, and chaos rule our streets, but they reveal something deeper about us.

Zayd Ibn Umar

I've spent years moving through Kashmir's roads, not just driving on them. Over time, they've started to feel like a mirror, reflecting the life, struggles, and stories of the people around them.

Horns dominate the landscape. A long honk seems to shout, "Move, or face the consequences." A short one carries anger, impatience, and assertion. And the endless blare, the one that never stops, feels like a declaration: this is my space and time.

Silence, when it comes, is almost disorienting.

Traffic rules exist, but they live mostly on paper. Red lights glow politely, but few obey them. Lanes are imagined, often ignored. Zebra crossings are more a courtesy to tourists than a guide for safety.

The streets operate on a harsher logic: speed is authority, force is respect, and noise is power.

Driving in the valley is an intimate act of negotiation with chaos. Indicators are considered superfluous. Mirrors are used for vanity more than caution.

A minor bump or scratch on a bumper can spark an outburst that seems disproportionate but feels entirely natural in this environment.

Every driver commands a small, fragile kingdom, asserting dominance over a few meters of asphalt with a sheer ferocity that is almost human.

Crossing the street here is a gamble, an act of courage. Signals are fleeting suggestions. Crossings are experiments in timing and fate. Watching someone steer speeding



The irony is clear. Traffic, in theory, is about movement, efficiency, reaching a destination. In practice, it has become a reflection of impatience, ego, and assertion.

traffic is witnessing a small act of bravery, a reminder of the precariousness that underlies daily life in Kashmir.

Safety is a habit we acknowledge but rarely practice. Helmets swing from handlebars. Seatbelts appear only when law enforcement is visible. Road safety campaigns exist as slogans and images, disappearing quickly under the weight of habit and neglect. Our approach to rules often mirrors our approach to life: loud, ambitious, and fleeting.

Parking is another lesson in human nature. Where space is scarce, we invent it. Sidewalks, shop entrances, even mosque gates become

temporary claims of territory. Convenience for oneself outweighs consideration for others. Creativity, it seems, is measured by one's ability to inconvenience.

The irony is clear. Traffic, in theory, is about movement, efficiency, reaching a destination. In practice, it has become a reflection of impatience, ego, and assertion.

We blame infrastructure, politics, weather, but rarely acknowledge our own role in the disorder.

We are the traffic, in every sense of the phrase.

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

Gen Z Leads Global Shift Away from Alcohol, Study Shows

KO WEB DESK

Srinagar: Younger generations are increasingly turning away from alcohol, with Generation Z at the forefront of a cultural shift that could have far-reaching public health implications, according to a new study.

Researchers from Flinders University in Australia analysed more than 20 years of data from over 23,000 Australians, revealing that abstinence from alcohol is on the rise and weekly alcohol consumption is declining, particularly among younger cohorts. Using data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey, the team tracked drinking patterns across five generational groups: the Silent Generation (1928–1945), Baby Boomers (1946–1964), Generation X (1965–1980), Millennials (1981–1996), and Generation Z (1997–2012).

Lead author Dr Gianluca Di Cenzo from Flinders' College of Medicine and Public Health

and the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) said the study provides robust evidence that the decline in alcohol use among young people is not a passing phase. "For decades, alcohol has been deeply embedded in social life, but that's changing," he said. "Younger Australians are growing up in a different world—one where abstaining from alcohol is increasingly normal, and where digital socialising, rising living costs, and health awareness are reshaping how people spend their time and money."

The research found that Generation Z is nearly 20 times more likely to abstain from alcohol over their lifetimes compared to Baby Boomers, even after adjusting for sociodemographic factors. Millennials are also drinking less than older generations, though binge drinking per occasion remains a concern for some groups.

Interestingly, older adults, particularly the Silent Generation, were found to consume more

alcohol weekly than Baby Boomers, highlighting that alcohol-related health risks remain for older populations even as younger people reduce consumption.

Co-author Dr Kirrilly Thompson said the findings challenge long-held assumptions about drinking culture. "Generation Z are redefining what it means to socialise and celebrate, and they're doing it with less alcohol," she said. "This research shows that change is possible, and it's something society should pay attention to."

The study suggests that understanding the drivers behind declining alcohol consumption—ranging from economic pressures and social norms to public policy—could help design effective health interventions. Policies such as minimum alcohol pricing, advertising restrictions, and targeted awareness campaigns may reinforce these positive trends and support healthier behaviours across all age groups.

'Stronger Demand, Faster Deliveries, & Smarter Savings' J&K Celebrates Amazon Great Indian Festival 2025

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Amazon Great Indian Festival 2025, which began on September 22, has seen enthusiastic participation from customers and sellers across Jammu & Kashmir, with strong growth across smartphones, electronics, fashion & beauty, home & kitchen, everyday needs, groceries, and large appliances. Starting October 6th, customers can access the much-awaited "Diwali Special" deals and offers across categories and get up to 40% off on smartphones; up to 80% off on electronics, fashion & beauty, home kitchen & outdoors; up to 70% off on everyday needs; up to 65% off on TVs and home appliances; up to 50% off on Amazon Fresh, Echo with Alexa, Fire TV & Kindle and lots more. Jammu & Kashmir customers are increasingly choosing premium products while enjoying significantly faster deliveries, with Amazon's expanded logistics network ensuring packages reach faster than before.

"Customers across Jammu & Kashmir are celebrating with Amazon Great Indian Festival 2025 in bigger ways than ever before. From premium TVs and precious jewellery to everyday essentials and products from Amazon Bazaar, the state has shown tremendous growth in online shopping. With the support of GST savings, bank and Amazon Pay offers, we are making festive shopping more affordable and rewarding for customers across Jammu & Kashmir. As we head towards Dhanteras and Diwali, we will continue to offer our customers the widest selection, unmatched value, and enhanced convenience with the fastest speed, making this festive season even more joyful for them," said Saurabh Srivastava, Vice President, Amazon India.

The first 10 days of Amazon Great Indian Festival 2025 saw record participation from small and medium businesses (SMBs) across India, compared to all previous editions, including an unprecedented number of SMBs

from Jammu & Kashmir. More than two-thirds of these SMBs are based in Tier 2, 3 cities and beyond. With over 50% increase in SMBs crossing INR 1 crore in sales as compared to last year, seller success has surged at Amazon Great Indian Festival 2025. These milestones highlight the growing role of digital marketplaces in empowering local entrepreneurs and driving inclusive economic growth across India.

Premium choices lead festive shopping: Premium TV segment above INR 1Lakh grew almost 90%, and large appliances grew more than 20% YoY in Srinagar, led by air conditioners at 60% and refrigerators at 25%. Smartphones priced above INR 20,000 witnessed strong double-digit, with the premium smartphone segment, priced above INR 30,000 witnessing 1.3X YoY growth in value, led by Apple, which grew 1.4X YoY and Samsung which grew by 2.5X YoY in the region.

Beauty and fashion surge: Customers in Srinagar embraced premium fashion and

beauty this festive season. Precious jewellery witnessed a remarkable 10X YoY growth, while makeup grew 2X. Silver jewellery and travel luggage also grew 1.5X each, while men's fashion recorded a 50% YoY rise.

Home transformation: Srinagar customers invested heavily in home and kitchen products with appliances gaining more than 140% YoY, driven by air purifiers. Demand for furniture was strong with beds rising 300% YoY. In Jammu, kitchen appliances grew by almost 150% YoY and wardrobes saw more than 60% growth.

Outdoor living and gardening gain momentum: Gardening and outdoor products grew 26% YoY, led by pest control, landscaping tools, and garden essentials.

As of Day 10, 1 in 4 customers are using Amazon Pay instruments to shop during the sale. UPI continues to be a popular choice, with 1 in 4 orders placed through it and an 11% growth in UPI users compared to last year. Additionally, 1 in 10 orders were made using the Amazon Pay ICICI Bank Credit Card.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Dry Weather From

The weather department predicted an overall improvement from Wednesday with no rain or snowfall expected over the next fortnight.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Director of Meteorology, forecast generally dry weather expected from October 9 to 17.

Traffic on Tuesday remained suspended on the Jammu-Srinagar and Srinagar-Leh national highways, after multiple landslides and snow accumulation in the higher reaches triggered by heavy overnight rainfall.

Officials said that the wet weather led to a sharp drop in temperatures and widespread disruption of normal life.

A traffic department official said the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway — the only all-weather road connecting the Valley with the rest of the country — was closed for vehicular movement due to landslides and shooting stones at several locations between Udhampur and Banihal.

"Road clearance agencies have been pressed into service to make the road trafficable at the earliest. Efforts are on to clear the debris, and we are hopeful of restoring traffic by late afternoon," the official said. Vehicles bound for Srinagar were stopped at Nagrota in Jammu.

Traffic on the arterial highway has been regulated alternately from Srinagar and Jammu due to ongoing repair work after the road suffered extensive damage during record rainfall in August and September. Traffic was scheduled to ply from Jammu to Srinagar on Tuesday.

The 434-km Srinagar-Leh National Highway and the Mughal and Sinthan Top roads — alternative routes connecting the Valley with the rest of the country — were also closed due to snow accumulation, the official added. "People are advised not to travel until the roads are fully restored," he said.

The Zo-jila Pass along the Srinagar-Leh highway recorded about six inches of snowfall, while Peer Ki Gali on the Mughal Road and Sinthan Top in Kishtwar district saw three to four inches of snow. Snowfall was also reported from the upper reaches of Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar, Kathua, Rajouri, and Poonch districts.

The pilgrimage to the Vaishno Devi temple atop Trikuta Hills in Reasi district and the Machail Mata shrine in Kishtwar remained suspended for the third consecutive day due to the inclement weather. Both are expected to resume on Wednesday, officials said.

Meanwhile, all government and private schools across the Jammu division remained closed for the second straight day on Tuesday as a precautionary measure.

Authorities also issued advisories for vulnerable areas prone to landslides and shooting stones. Farmers have been advised to resume agricultural activities from Wednesday onwards, following the easing of weather conditions.

Horticulture Dept

directed to conduct detailed surveys in their areas to evaluate losses faced by fruit growers, particularly apple cultivators, as the harvesting season is still ongoing in many regions.

"Assessment of crop damages is currently underway across various districts. Officers have been instructed to visit affected orchards and compile detailed reports. We are taking all possible measures to ensure accurate estimation of losses," Bhat said.

He added that the department had issued advisories to orchardists before the recent weather, urging them to harvest fruit ahead of the expected rain and snow. "However, in many areas, apples were still on the trees when the snowfall occurred. Despite advisories, some growers could not complete harvesting due to time constraints or lack of manpower," he explained.

Bhat also advised growers to be cautious while resuming harvesting. "Farmers should wait for the weather to improve and allow the fruit and trees to dry properly. Packing wet apples can lead to spoilage during storage or transportation, causing economic losses," he said.

Highlighting post-rain orchard management, he stressed the importance of proper drainage to prevent water stagnation, which can harm trees and trigger diseases such as root rot and fungal infections. "Farmers must ensure their drainage channels are clear to avoid such issues," he added.

The department has also been raising awareness among farmers about post-snowfall precautions and providing technical guidance to reduce potential losses. "Our focus is on helping growers recover from the impact of this unseasonal weather and safeguard the remaining crop," Bhat said.

The untimely snowfall struck at a critical time when apple harvesting was in full swing, causing concern among growers in Shopian, Kulgam, Pulwama, and Kupwara, where apples were yet to be fully picked.

Officials assured that comprehensive loss reports will be shared with the administration soon to facilitate appropriate measures for affected growers.

Centre Transfers

needs," he said.

Chouhan said that the rural development ministry has sanctioned Rs 85.62 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-Gramin) for the reconstruction of around 5,100 damaged houses, as reported by the Jammu & Kashmir government.

The package includes financial assistance for toilet construction and additional funds under MGNREGA, enabling families to rebuild their homes.

He further announced that "MGNREGA workdays will be increased from 100 to 150 days for affected households upon receipt of the Jammu and Kashmir government's proposal, providing them additional livelihood support".

The Union Agriculture Minister assured that the Centre would provide seeds, fertilisers, and other essential inputs.

He mentioned that the Jammu and Kashmir government has granted permission for sand sales under the 'Jiska kheth, uski reth' (the sand belongs to the one who owns the field) policy, and that additional funds could be released under the NDRF, depending on the Jammu & Kashmir government's request.

Chouhan stated that compensation will be provided to insured farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) as soon as the Jammu & Kashmir government submits its proposal.

LG, CM Express

around 8.55 lakh eligible farmers of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sinha said this much-needed financial assistance will help the farmers sustain their livelihoods and speed up recovery to resume agricultural activities.

He said the farmers are the backbone of the economy and provide a strong foundation for growth in other sectors.

"The GOI is committed to provide all possible assistance to mitigate the effects of worst floods in several decades and ensuring stability in the lives of the affected population," the LG added.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also expressed gratitude to the Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

"Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister @ ChouhanShivraj for the release of over Rs 170 crore under the 21st PM-KISAN installment, benefiting more than 8.5 lakh farmers in Jammu and Kashmir," Abdullah said from his official handle on X.

The release of the amount follows the Jammu and Kashmir government's consistent efforts to ensure timely support for the farming community, the chief minister added.

He said Jammu and Kashmir's Agriculture Minister Javed Dar, along with his officers, attended the online function held in this regard.

PM Modi

improve the lives of our people and contribute to the progress of this great nation that has nurtured us all."

Modi said India, which was marred by "the worst form of corruption, cronyism and policy paralysis" during the UPA government, is now home to one of the largest healthcare and social security schemes in the world.

Indian farmers are innovating and ensuring that the nation is self-reliant, while the government has undertaken extensive reforms and the popular sentiment is to make the country "aatmanirbhar" across all sectors, reflecting in the clarion call of "Garv Se Kaho, Yeh Swadeshi Hai," he added.

He said, "Over the last 11 years, We The People of India have worked together and achieved many transformations. Our path breaking efforts have empowered people from all across India, especially our Nari Shakti, Yuva Shakti and hardworking Annadatas. Over 25 crore people have been removed from the clutches of poverty."

India is now seen as a bright spot among major global economies, he said.

Modi said when the BJP picked him as its prime ministerial candidate in 2013 for the Lok Sabha elections in 2014 the nation was witnessing a crisis of trust and governance.

He said, "The then UPA Government was synonymous with the worst form of corruption, cronyism and policy paralysis. India was seen as a weak link in the global order. But, the wisdom of the people of India gave our alliance a thumping majority and also ensured that our party got an absolute majority, a first after three long decades."

Recalling his appointment as Gujarat chief minister, Modi said he took over in very testing circumstances as the state was jolted by a massive earthquake and people's suffering was made worse as they were hit by a super cyclone, successive droughts and political instability before that.

He said, "Those challenges strengthened the resolve to serve people and rebuild Gujarat with renewed vigour and hope."

Modi fondly recalled his mother's suggestions to him as he took over as chief minister.

"When I took oath as Chief Minister, I remember my Mother telling me — I do not have much understanding of your work but I only seek two things. First, you will always work for the poor and second, you will never take a bribe. I also told people that whatever I do will be with the best intent and will be inspired by a vision to serve the very last person in the queue," he said.

It was believed in 2001 that Gujarat could never rise again, he said, adding common citizens, including farmers, complained about lack of power and water, while agriculture was in the doldrums and industrial growth was stagnant.

"From there, we all worked collectively to make Gujarat a powerhouse of good governance."

He added, "Gujarat, a drought-prone state became a top performing state in agriculture. The culture of trading expanded into robust industrial and manufacturing capacities. Regular curfews became a thing of the past. Social and physical infrastructure received a boost. It was very satisfying to be able to work with the people to achieve these outcomes."

After spearheading the BJP to victory in three consecutive assembly polls in Gujarat, Modi has led the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance to win in three successive national elections.

As an incumbent, Modi has never faced an electoral defeat and holds the record as the longest head of a government, including as chief minister for more than 12-and-a-half years, among all prime ministers.

LG Likely To Approve

into district-level policing and ensuring effective implementation of the government's anti-narcotics, anti-terror, and community policing initiatives.

The transfer order could be issued anytime soon, once the Lieutenant Governor gives his final approval, officials said.(KINS)

SIA Opposes

to travel outside the Union Territory. The SIA, however, argued that merely being on bail does not entitle an accused to unrestricted movement, especially when "larger public interest and national security" are at stake.

"The applicant has not come with clean hands before the court and has tried to mislead it by misrepresenting facts," the counsel said, adding that a similar petition filed by Parra in 2023 seeking identical relief was still pending adjudication.

The SIA accused Parra of suppressing material facts and attempting to "abuse the process of law." The agency further argued that allowing such an application would amount to a "reversal" of the earlier bail order, which is not permissible under criminal jurisprudence.

"The precondition of seeking prior permission before travelling outside J&K was a

crucial ingredient of the bail conditions, keeping in view the seriousness of offences involved. Diluting that condition on grounds of convenience would be unjustified," the counsel maintained.

The agency also cautioned that granting Parra's plea could set a "bad precedent" for other accused in similar cases, potentially undermining the trial process.

"The condition is not harsh since he has been consistently allowed permission to travel whenever sought through proper procedure," the SIA said, urging the court to dismiss the application outright.

PIL In SC Seeks

suspect products through NABL-accredited laboratories before any further sale or export is permitted.

The PIL comes amid reports of multiple child deaths in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan linked to a specific cough syrup, raising serious concerns over the safety of medicines in circulation.

Meanwhile, two more children from Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara who were undergoing treatment for kidney failure after drinking a contaminated cough syrup have died, taking the number of such deaths in the district to 16, an official said on Tuesday.

Earlier, the state government had confirmed the deaths of 14 children from Chhindwara who had allegedly consumed the cough syrup Coldrif, samples of which were found to have toxic contents.

The Madhya Pradesh Police has formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the deaths and filed a case against the Tamil Nadu-based manufacturer of Coldrif.

CM Calls For Early

possible, we have to boost our revenues, cut down on unnecessary expenditure, but at the same time, the money that has been allocated must be spent efficiently in various schemes," the Chief Minister observed.

Abdullah also directed concerned ministers to conduct fortnightly reviews to monitor expenditure and improve utilization of funds within their respective departments. The meeting included Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, ministers Sakina Ito, Javed Ahmed Rana, Javed Ahmed Dar, and Satish Sharma, along with Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretaries of Higher Education, Jal Shakti, Tourism, Agriculture Production, and other senior officials.

The CM reviewed department- and district-wise progress under the UT Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) and CDF schemes for the financial year 2025-26. He stressed the need for accelerated project execution, timely utilization of allocated funds, and visible impact on the ground.

He further directed the departments to ensure 100 per cent uploading of works on the BEAMS portal and expedite the administrative approval and tendering process, especially considering the limited working season in the Kashmir division.

Officials were also asked to fill vacant posts in engineering departments immediately to avoid delays in project execution. Abdullah underlined the importance of completing macadamization and black-topping of roads planned under the current financial year.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the need to implement reforms such as revision of mining royalties, establishment of vehicle scrapping facilities, operationalization of electronic enforcement devices for road safety, digitization of land records, and agricultural reforms linked to farmers' registry and digital crop surveys. He said these initiatives, along with urban land and fiscal reforms, would help the J&K government access central funds to achieve developmental milestones.

The meeting concluded with Abdullah stressing the dual objective of ensuring fiscal prudence while delivering tangible developmental outcomes through efficient utilization of allocated resources.

SC Gives States

construction and maintenance of standards for roads other than national highways," the bench said.

The directions came on a petition filed by Coimbatore-based surgeon S Rajasekaran, who highlighted the large number of road

accidents in India.

The plea sought directions to the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to make coordinated efforts to prevent road accidents.

As Skies Grow

leading cause of in-flight weather injuries. Between 2009 and 2024, 207 injuries were reported on U.S. commercial flights. "The main risk isn't the aircraft itself," says John Abraham, a mechanical engineering professor at the University of St. Thomas. "It's unbelted passengers and crew who are most vulnerable."

Nature's Navigators

As researchers race to improve prediction models, some are turning their gaze to the natural world. Birds, which face turbulence daily, may hold critical insights.

"Birds are masters at navigating choppy air," according to Emily Shepard, a professor of biosciences at Swansea University in Wales. "By studying how they sense and exploit turbulence, we can improve our understanding of airflow and even inspire better aircraft designs," the BBC report quoted him saying.

While few bird species fly at the heights of commercial airliners, their low-altitude maneuvers in turbulent urban environments could inform the design of drones and future electric aircraft, particularly those operating close to buildings.

Bracing for Bumpier Skies

The aviation industry is already adapting. Improved forecasting systems now predict about 75% of turbulence up to 18 hours ahead. Researchers are testing technologies such as LIDAR, which uses laser beams to detect minute changes in air density and wind speed, potentially allowing pilots to "see" invisible turbulence in real time.

Still, experts say the simplest precaution remains the most effective: keep your seatbelt fastened. "Even mild turbulence can become dangerous if you're not strapped in," says Williams.

Beyond turbulence, climate change threatens to make air travel more unpredictable, with stronger storms, flight delays, and rerouting becoming increasingly common. Aviation itself contributes about 3.5% of global warming, according to the International Air Transport Association, and airlines are under growing pressure to cut emissions through cleaner fuels and more efficient flight paths.

For now, as aircraft, airlines, and scientists adapt to a changing atmosphere, the lessons of evolution may yet prove vital. "Birds have spent millions of years learning to live with turbulence," says Shepard. "If we can understand how they do it, we might just learn how to make our skies safer."

Top Army Commanders

has been maintaining that the Indus Waters Treaty will remain in "abeyance" until Islamabad "credibly and irrevocably" abjures support to cross-border terrorism.

In August, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and some other Pakistani leaders resorted to warmongering against India, saying Islamabad would not allow New Delhi to take "even one drop" of water belonging to Pakistan.

The people cited above said the commanders' conference held in New Delhi also majorly focused on ways to boost the Indian Army's combat capabilities.

It is learnt that the use of Artificial Intelligence and big data in a significant way was discussed at the commanders' conference. The commanders also focused on issues pertaining to logistics, administration, human resource management and modernisation through indigenisation.

The conclave is an apex-level biannual event that is held in April and October every year.

The commanders' conference is an institutional platform for conceptual-level deliberations, culminating in making important policy decisions for the Indian Army.

In a post on X, the Army said the conference is a pivotal forum for the apex leadership of the force to brainstorm conceptual issues, review and assess the overall security situation and lay down key priorities facilitating important policy decisions for a future-ready Indian Army.

Govt Prioritising Efficient Functioning, Modern Facilities At GMCs: Sakeena

Calls For Expediting Projects, Ensuring Transparency In Healthcare

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a bid to strengthen Jammu and Kashmir's medical education and healthcare infrastructure, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Tuesday conducted a comprehensive review of the functioning and performance of Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) in Anantnag, Srinagar, Baramulla and Handwara, along with their associated hospitals.

The review meeting, held in Srinagar, was attended by Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; MD JKMSCL; Principals and Medical Superintendents of all GMCs; Director Finance/Planning Health and Medical Education Department; Chief Engineers of R&B and Mechanical wings for South, Central and North Kashmir; and other senior officers.

During the meeting, the Minister assessed the academic performance, patient care services, manpower availability, and the progress of ongoing infrastruc-



ture projects across the four medical colleges. She underlined the critical role GMCs play in delivering tertiary healthcare services and medical education, stressing that efficiency, transparency and accountability must remain at the core of their functioning.

"These medical colleges are not only centres of academic excellence but also vital institutions for delivering accessible and affordable healthcare to the people. Our focus is on ensuring

that every GMC functions efficiently and provides modern facilities to patients and students alike," Sakeena Itoo said.

Taking stock of the infrastructure projects, she directed executing agencies to accelerate all pending works and ensure that hospital services are made fully operational without further delays. She called for improved coordination between GMC administrations and the Public Works Department (R&B) to remove bottlenecks hindering

timely completion of projects.

Reiterating the government's commitment to expanding medical education capacity, she informed that around 200 MBBS seats have been added in J&K, a move aimed at strengthening the healthcare landscape and ensuring availability of trained medical professionals. She further highlighted that high-end medical care facilities are being developed at district and sub-district hospitals to meet the growing healthcare demands of the population.

To strengthen monitoring mechanisms, the Minister directed the Secretary Health to frame a committee at the Secretariat level for conducting routine checks in hospitals to ensure no expired medicines are stocked or used. She also instructed MD JKMSCL to procure medical equipment as per requisitions from hospitals and GMCs in a transparent and accountable manner.

Pushing for reforms to improve patient services, Sakeena Itoo called for the creation of an online system for scheduling surgeries in government hospitals. She urged authorities to raise awareness about the services available through the SEHAT app, which enables citizens to access healthcare benefits.

She also directed hospital administrators to ensure the uninterrupted availability of free medicines for patients suffering from cancer, kidney ailments, liver diseases, and other serious health conditions to ease the financial burden on affected families.

THESE MEDICAL COLLEGES ARE NOT ONLY CENTERS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE but also vital institutions for delivering accessible and affordable healthcare to the people. Our focus is on ensuring that every GMC functions efficiently and provides modern facilities to patients and students alike."

LG Kavinder Gupta Assesses Overall Situation Of Ladakh



Reaffirms Commitment To Peace, Welfare, & Inclusive Growth In Ladakh

Observer News Service

LEH: The Lt Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to maintaining peace, ensuring welfare of the people, and advancing Ladakh's vision as a model of sustainable and inclusive growth.

Chairing a high-level review meeting in Leh, the Lt Governor assessed the overall situation in the Union Territory, including law and order and essential services. He appreciated the coordinated efforts of the district administration, police, and security agencies in maintaining harmony and normalcy across the region.

In view of the positive public response and improving situation, Kavinder Gupta directed officials to ease certain restrictions in a calibrated manner while ensuring that peace and public order are maintained. He emphasized that public cooperation and responsible behavior have been crucial in re-

storing normalcy.

The Lt Governor stressed the need for responsive and people-centric governance, directing officers to maintain close engagement with local communities and address grievances promptly at the grassroots level.

Acknowledging the patience and resilience of the people of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta commended their unwavering faith in the Administration and their collective spirit in upholding peace and unity. He assured that the government remains fully committed to safeguarding their interests, improving their quality of life, and ensuring that every section of society benefits from the region's development journey.

Kavinder Gupta expressed confidence in the people of Ladakh for choosing the path of peace, and cooperation. He assured that the Administration values their sentiments and is committed to addressing genuine concerns through continuous engagement, transparency, and participatory development. He appealed to all sections of society to work together in strengthening peace and unity for Ladakh's brighter future.

Apple Growers Struggle Amid Early Harvest, Weak Demand

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The sluggish demand for apples has resulted in the early filling of cold storage units across Kashmir, with growers lamenting that they are facing one of the toughest seasons in years due to weak market response, logistical challenges, and unseasonal fruit drop.

Growers said that with low demand for apples across major markets in India, they were forced to store their produce early. However, within just 15 days, most cold storage units in South and North Kashmir have reached nearly full capacity — well before the region's traditional peak season.

"Usually, cold storages start filling in October and it was ending in November as well and peak was remaining around 20 October when the harvest reaches its peak, but this year everything happened early," said Ghulam Nabi Dar, an apple grower from Shopian. "Due to heavy fruit fall and poor demand, people started picking apples in advance to save what they could. But the highway closure for almost a month made things worse — our fruit couldn't



reach outside markets, and demand dropped sharply."

According to growers, the closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway during crucial days of transportation not only delayed shipments but also discouraged traders from placing new orders. Many orchardists, fearing losses, rushed to book cold storage units in September itself — much earlier than usual and even hundreds of growers didn't get any space.

"Bookings were full even before the season started," said Abdul Rashid Bhat, a grower from Kulgam. "We had no choice but to store our produce, but the rush was unimaginable. Our apples remained in vehicles for more than 24 hours waiting to be unloaded at storage units."

Cold storage owners admitted that they were overwhelmed by the unprecedented rush this year. "We

tried to accommodate as many growers as possible, even by optimizing space and adjusting batch timings," said Manzoor Ahmad, owner of a cold storage unit in Lassipora, Pulwama. "But we cannot go beyond our capacity — if we overload, the temperature control system will fail and it could damage the stored produce."

He added that as of now, over 90 percent of cold storage space in the Valley has already been occupied, and the remaining will likely be filled within the next two to three days.

Industry observers said that early filling of cold storages indicates a worrying trend for the apple economy of Kashmir, which has already been hit by falling prices and rising transportation and packaging costs.

"Farmers who haven't got any space are forced to sell apples at throwaway prices as they can't wait more in the hope of a better market," said Basher Ahmad another fruit grower.

"The government must step in to stabilize the situation by facilitating market linkages and ensuring smooth transport on the highway."—(KNO)

Snowfall At Sonamarg Brings Hope For Tourism Revival



Agencies

GANDERBAL: The fresh snowfall at the picturesque tourist resort of Sonamarg has rekindled hopes among tourism stakeholders for a revival of winter tourism in the Valley.

The fresh spell of snow covered the upper reaches of Sonamarg and adjoining areas, bringing cheer to both locals and visitors.

According to tourism players, the early snowfall is expected to attract more tourists in the coming weeks.

Riyaz Ahmad, a local tourism associate, said, "This is October's first snowfall, and we are very excited about it. It's a positive sign for the tourism sector, which has been slow in recent months. We hope this early snowfall will bring back tourists and get the season back on track."

The Meteorological Department had earlier predicted light to moderate snowfall in the higher reaches of Kashmir, with rain expected in the plains. The department also predicted more spells of precipitation in the coming days.

Tour operators in Sonamarg said inquiries have already started pouring in following the snowfall. "We have begun receiving calls from tourists eager to visit Sonamarg after seeing snow pictures online. It's a great start to the season," said Bilal Ahmad, a travel operator based in Ganderbal.

Local residents, too, are welcoming the snow. Gh Hassan, a pony owner from Sonamarg, said, "For us, snow means work. When tourists come to see the snow, our livelihood improves. We are hopeful this year will be better."—(KNO)

Digital Arrest Scam 3 Held For Duping Jammu Trader Of ₹4.4 Cr

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU- The cyber wing of Jammu and Kashmir police has uncovered an online fraud involving Rs 4.4 crore with the arrest of three accused from Gujarat's Surat who had kept a Jammu-based businessman under digital arrest, police said on Tuesday.

The fraud came to light on September 2 when the businessman lodged a written complaint at the cyber police station here, alleging that he had been defrauded of huge amounts of money by cyber criminals impersonating as law enforcement officials, Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, Joginder Singh said.

The SSP said the fraudsters falsely accused the complainant of being involved in money laundering using his Aadhaar and SIM credentials.

After keeping him under digital arrest, they deceitfully coerced the victim into transferring Rs 4.44,20,000 across multiple bank accounts through a series of transactions, Singh said.

The officer said an FIR un-

der Section 66D of the Information Technology Act read with relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was registered and a detailed investigation was launched.

During the investigation, the cyber police team traced the money trail, examined bank transactions, scrutinised mobile communications, and analysed digital footprints linked to the fraud, he said, adding the investigation revealed that the network involved in the fraud was primarily operating from Gujarat.

Based on credible intelligence, a special investigation team was deputed to Surat and in a well-coordinated operation, three accused — Chauhan Manish Arunbhai, Ansh Vithani and Kishorbhai Karamshibhai Diyoria — were arrested, he said.

He said the arrested individuals were subsequently brought to Jammu for sustained interrogation to identify other co-conspirators, uncover additional evidence, and trace further financial links associated with the crime.

J&K Celebrates Amazon Great Indian Festival 2025 With Stronger Demand & Faster Deliveries

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Amazon Great Indian Festival 2025, which commenced on September 22, has witnessed enthusiastic participation from customers and sellers across Jammu & Kashmir, reflecting strong growth across multiple categories including smartphones, electronics, fashion & beauty, home & kitchen, everyday needs, groceries, and large appliances. Starting October 6, customers in the region gained access to the much-awaited "Diwali Special" deals and offers, with discounts of up to 40% on smartphones; up to 80% on electronics, fashion & beauty, and home, kitchen & outdoor products; up to 70% on everyday needs; up to 65% on TVs and home appliances; and up to 50% on Amazon Fresh items, Echo with Alexa, Fire TV, and Kindle devices.

Jammu & Kashmir customers are increasingly opting for premium products while enjoying faster deliveries, thanks to Amazon's expanded logistics network ensuring timely



arrival of packages.

"Customers across Jammu & Kashmir are celebrating Amazon Great Indian Festival 2025 in bigger ways than ever before. From premium TVs and precious jewellery to everyday essentials and products from Amazon Bazaar, the state has shown tremendous growth in online shopping. With the support of GST savings, bank, and Amazon Pay offers, we are making festive shopping more affordable and rewarding for customers across Jammu & Kashmir. As we head towards Dhanteras and Diwali, we will continue to offer our customers the widest selection, unmatched value, and enhanced convenience with the fastest speed, making this festive season even more joyful for them," said Saurabh Srivastava, Vice President, Amazon India.

18 Years On, Two Key Pulwama Bridges Remain Incomplete

Locals Decry Neglect, Risk To Lives As Projects Stuck For Decades

Eighteen years after their foundation stones were laid, the vital Dogripora and Reshipora bridges over the Jhelum in Pulwama remain incomplete, leaving residents of over a dozen villages isolated and frustrated.

Sanctioned in 2006, work on Dogripora Bridge began in 2008, while Reshipora followed soon after. But both projects have remained stalled due to funding shortages and administrative delays. Locals, including schoolchildren, cross the river daily on unsafe wooden boats, fearing a tragedy similar to the Gandbal incident.

Residents say the incomplete bridges have cut them off from highways, schools, and hospitals, forcing long detours and endangering lives, especially during emergencies and bad weather.

Though Rs 1529.47 lakh was sanctioned in May this year for Dogripora's completion, no work has resumed, deepening resentment. About 70% of the structure stands unfinished. Officials said both bridges are partially complete, with revised DPRs prepared. "The projects haven't been abandoned. Work will restart once approvals and tendering are completed," they assured. (With KNO Inputs)

Dy CM Calls For Collective Efforts To Tackle Drug Menace

Adeputation of Civil Society Forum Kashmir called on Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary in Civil Secretariat here and submitted a memorandum requesting firm efforts to curb the menace of drug addiction in Jammu & Kashmir.

The deputation also apprised the Deputy CM regarding drug addiction spreading in an alarming manner across educational institutions, including schools, colleges, universities, and coaching centres stressing on urgent need to address the issue in a systematic, coordinated, and evidence-based manner.

The deputation suggested various recommendations to combat and control drug addiction within educational institutions including Institutional Monitoring Committees, enhanced surveillance and security, faculty training and capacity building, monitoring of vendors, Anti-Narcotics awareness camps etc.

Understanding the seriousness of the issue, the Deputy Chief Minister called for collective efforts aimed at tackling drug addiction and ensuring a safer educational environment.

He said that drugs have severely impacted the social fabric of our society which needs urgent address

The Deputy Chief Minister stressed on coordination between educational institutions and local police, health departments, and de-addiction centres for joint interventions, awareness drives, and response mechanisms.

Choudhary also advised for conducting biannual parent counselling sessions and educational workshops to help families recognize signs of drug abuse. (Observer News Service)

Nasir Aslam Promotes J&K As Prime Film Destination

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, engaged with top leaders and stakeholders from the film and entertainment industry during the FICCI Events in Mumbai.

The discussions focused on positioning Jammu and Kashmir as a key hub for film production and fostering a thriving cinematic ecosystem in the region. Nasir Aslam emphasized the government's commitment to facilitating filmmakers, assuring them of comprehensive support and assistance for projects shot in J&K. He also encouraged industry representatives to explore the state's scenic and varied locations for upcoming film ventures.

The Advisor met with senior officials and heads from prominent industry bodies, including the Producers Guild of India, National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Motion Picture Association (America), Prasar Bharati, Indian Motion Picture Producers Association (IMPPA), and other leading production houses.

These interactions aimed to strengthen collaboration between the J&K Government and the national film fraternity, with a vision to revive the region's cinematic heritage and establish it as a preferred destination for filmmakers from across the globe. (Observer News Service)

CS For Fast Tracking Modernization Of Transport Sector

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a high-level review meeting of the Transport Department to assess its overall functioning, modernization initiatives, and measures aimed at enhancing road safety across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Transport Department, Avny Lavasa; Transport Commissioner; Managing Director, J&K RTC; Director, Motor Garages; RTOs of Kashmir and Jammu, besides other senior officers of the department.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary laid strong emphasis on the early completion and operationalization of key infrastructure projects, including the Institute of Driver Training & Research (IDTR), Jammu, and the Inspection & Certification Centre (ICC), Samba, terming them as critical to modernizing transport services in the Union Territory.

He directed all implementing agencies to ensure mission-mode execution and time-bound completion of projects so as to improve public service delivery and efficiency.

Underscoring road safety as one of the department's top priorities, the Chief Secretary called for a comprehensive action plan to curb traffic violations and reduce road accidents. He reviewed enforcement measures such as the cancellation of driving licences and Registration Certificates (RCs) and the seizure of vehicles belonging to repeat offenders.

He also took stock of the incidence of road accidents, fatalities, and the relief extended to victims under the Road Safety Fund, besides reviewing the pace of dispatch of driving licences to applicants, including clearance of pending backlogs. (Observer News Service)

Runners From 21 Indian States, 5 Countries Register For Kashmir Marathon 2025

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Marathon 2025, scheduled to take place from November 2, is set to draw participants from across India and abroad, according to officials associated with the event.

Officials from the organizing committee said that so far, runners from 21 Indian States and Union Territories have registered for the marathon, along with foreign nationals representing five countries, reflecting continued confidence in Kashmir's sporting and tourism potential.

"The registrations show that both domestic and international athletes are eager to visit the Valley. We expect more participants to join in the coming weeks," said a senior official.

The Srinagar marathon aims to promote sports tourism, healthy lifestyles, and public



engagement. Participants will run through breathtaking scenery, including Dal Lake and the Zabarwan mountains, with the route offering stunning views of Chinar trees and landscaped

beauty, providing a scenic and culturally immersive experience.

Officials said that the combination of ideal climate, rich cultural heritage, and warm local hospitality makes the Kashmir

Marathon a scenic, culturally immersive, and adventurous experience for all participants.

Security officials said preparations for the marathon are proceeding as planned, with enhanced security measures, crowd management, and coordination to ensure the safety of all participants and spectators.

Tourism and sports experts said that the marathon is expected to boost local businesses, hospitality, and the wider tourism sector, encouraging both domestic and international visitors to explore the Valley during the event.

Organisers remain assured that the marathon will proceed successfully and contribute to reviving tourism, fostering public participation, and highlighting Kashmir as a safe, vibrant, and culturally rich destination. (KDC)

FULL MARATHON PRIZE MONEY (MEN & WOMEN)

- 1st Place: ₹25,00,000
- 2nd Place: ₹20,00,000
- 3rd Place: ₹18,00,000

HALF-MARATHON PRIZE MONEY (MEN & WOMEN)

- 1st Place: ₹15,00,000
- 2nd Place: ₹12,00,000
- 3rd Place: ₹9,00,000.

REGISTRATION FEE

- Full Marathon: ₹2,200
- Half-Marathon: ₹1,800.

REGISTER AT

<https://kashmirmarathon.jk.gov.in/>



Atiq Mir Overcomes Injury For Top-10 Finish In UAE C'ship

Indian racing prodigy Atiq Mir put behind a stroke of bad luck to gain as many as 18 places for an impressive top-10 finish in round one of the IAME UAE Karting Championship here.

On her debut for the AKCEL GP Academy Team, the 10-year-old had a mixed weekend following a podium finish in the RMC Invitational the previous Sunday.

The Formula 1 Academy-backed driver topped the official practice and qualified in seventh place out of 32 drivers in a male dominated and highly-competitive field.

In heat 1, Atiq gained three places to finish fourth. In the pre-final, she was forced out of the race due to a crash while attempting an overtake for third place, leaving her with a broken kart and injury to her hand and elbow.

For the final, the accident put her on the back of the grid but that did not deter Atiq's ever fighting spirit.

Despite the injury, Atiq vowed to put on a show and her determination saw her climb to 10th from 28th place in the final.

It was not a surprise that she was the highest mover in the field, overtaking her opponents one by one in a clinical and aggressive drive.

"I was on pace and a win was possible but for the crash in the pre-final. These things happen and are a part of racing. But it left me too much to do from 28th place. I drove my heart out and had a great time overtaking 18 drivers," that was how Atiq summed up the weekend. (PTI)

District Bandipora Cycle Polo C'ship 2025-26 Concludes



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The District Bandipora Cycle Polo Championship 2025-26 successfully wrapped up on Tuesday at Ganastan Play Field in Bandipora. Over two days, more than 140 male and female athletes from various private and government institutions and clubs showcased their talent and sportsmanship under the AAG Boys and Girls categories.

The championship was inaugurated by Nasir Ali (President, DBCPA) and was graced by distinguished guests, including the Nazir Ahmad Malik (HM,

Middle School Checkpora Ganastan) who attended as a special guest. Mohammad Rafiq, the Organising Secretary, played a pivotal role in ensuring the event's smooth execution.

Nusrat Jan, the Guest of Honour, presided over the concluding ceremony, presenting medals and certificates to all winners and participants, celebrating their remarkable achievements.

The event was organised by the District Bandipora Cycle Polo Association, under the aegis of the J&K Cycle Polo Association and in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council.

Manipur, MP Post Commanding Wins On Day 2 Of National School Games

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 69th National School Games 2025, inaugurated by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at TRC Stadium on Monday, witnessed an exciting second day of football matches across various venues in Srinagar on Tuesday.

The football fixtures delivered a mix of high-scoring victories and closely fought contests. At TRC Synthetic Turf, Manipur secured a decisive 4-1 victory over Gujarat, with goals contributed by David, L. Seitam, Puni, and Borish. In a stunning display of offensive power at the Polo Ground, Madhya Pradesh registered an emphatic 10-0 win

over Andhra Pradesh.

Other matches saw competitive spirit across the city. IBSSO emerged victorious against Telangana with a 2-1 scoreline at the Green Valley Football Field, while Punjab secured a 2-0 win in their match held at the Kashmir University Field.

The day was also marked by two intensely competitive matches that ended in draws. The encounter between Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra at the Polo Ground concluded with a 1-1 scoreline, with both teams being awarded one point each. In an electrifying fixture, the teams from J&K and Haryana battled to a tie, with each team also earning a point.



Deputy CM Attends NPC Body Building Competition At Tagore Hall



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Tuesday attended one day Body Building and Physique competition organised by National Physique Committee at Tagore Hall here.

The event was organised in 55 kg to 95 kg weight category in which Salim was declared as overall champion where as Riyan won in classic physique category. Zaid Abdullah was adjudged the winner in men's physique competition.

While speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said that he felt delighted to see the strength of motivated participants in NPC Body

Building and Physique Competition. He added that energy and dedication of participants reflect the positive direction our youth can take.

The Deputy CM further maintained that government is channelling energy of youth in right direction to curb the menace of drug abuse in them.

The Deputy CM extended best wishes to participants for future competition and said that government is committed to work in promoting the sport and nurturing new talent in J&K by providing them top notch infrastructure, facility and mentorship so that they can be prepared for national/international events.

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