

'Statehood Restoration At Appropriate Time'

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday promised the restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir "at an appropriate time" and assured a "good resolution" of demands raised by the people of Ladakh.

Speaking at a media conclave organized by ABP News and Hindustan, Shah said that since the abrogation of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir has "taken a U-turn" in terms of security, adding that "no local terrorist has been recruited in the last nine months." He described this as a "qualitative change" in a region where separatism had been festering since the 1990s.

"Earlier, Pakistan placed arms in the hands of our children. Now the situation has changed. The people of Jammu and Kashmir feel they belong to



the entire country, and the entire country belongs to them," Shah said.

Highlighting the restoration of democratic processes, he noted that panchayat, municipal, and legislative assembly elections have been successfully held, with Rajya Sabha polls expected in due course.

On Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's remarks about a lingering gulf between J-K and New Delhi over **More on P10**

Dabirah Hassan

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said he is considering becoming a party to the Supreme Court plea seeking the restoration of statehood to the Union Territory, asserting that his government will not ally with the BJP to hasten the process. **| More on P10**

Says It's Improper, Even Illegal, To Release Before LG Nod

Sameer Hussain

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said that no government works under pressure and termed it "improper, even illegal" to make the reservation policy report public before it reaches the Lieutenant Governor for approval.

Responding to demands from certain sections to reveal the contents of the Cabinet subcommittee's report, Omar said due process was being followed and that speculation over the matter was unwarranted.

"The only people who know what has been proposed in this



are the members of the Cabinet. And therefore, to speculate about what is being slashed or cut would not be correct at this point in time," he told reporters here.

The Chief Minister | **More on P10**

200 Free Power Units Contingent On Smart Meter Rollout: CM

» Says Cabinet Expansion Under Consideration; Budgam Candidate to Be Announced Soon

» 'Will Revoke PSA Through Ordinance Once Statehood Is Restored'

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday clarified that the government's promise of 200 free electricity units for households will be implemented only after the comprehensive roll-out of smart meters across Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that his party had never | **More on P10**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: J&K Bank on Saturday reported a net profit of Rs 494.11 crore for the July-September quarter (Q2) of the current financial year, with half-year (H1) net profit rising to Rs 978.95 crore, up from Rs 966.41 crore in H1 last year. The figures were approved by the Bank's Board of Directors at its Corporate Headquarters.



Moderated by the provisioning of Rs 92 Cr towards its investment in the Regional Rural Bank – Jammu and Kashmir Grameen Bank – following the amalgamation of EllaquaiDehati Bank with the erstwhile J&K Grameen Bank under Central Government's "One State. One

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Ahead of the deadline for filing nominations for the Budgam by-elections, National Conference (NC) Lok Sabha MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi on Saturday demanded that the Cabinet Subcommittee's report on reservation be made public and shared with stakeholders by Sunday.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Ruhullah's office said, "Before any call is taken on the Budgam bye-election, the Reservation

Sub-Committee Report
must be made public and
shared with stakeholders by
tomorrow.”

The MP stressed that future decisions regarding the by-poll will be guided by the contents of the report.

His office also noted that “all channels of communication shall remain open with our students’ representatives,” highlighting the importance of transparency and consultation with stakeholders. The demand came after a student delegation met Mehdi at his residence | **More on P10**


Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a solemn ceremony in the Russian town of Elista, the capital of

Kalmykia, Jammu & Kashmir
Lieutenant Governor Manoj
Sinha, along with members
of an Indian delegation, paid
obeisance | **More on P10**

During his visit, LG Sinha also met Batu Sergeevich Khasikov, Head of the Republic of Kalmykia, to discuss various issues related to cultural and spiritual cooperation between India and Kalmykia. Expressing gratitude for facilitating the grand visit of the

More on P10


J&K Bank
 Serving To Empower
YOUR BANK SINCE 1938

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
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Lighting the Pathways of Progress ...

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2025

(₹ in Lakh)

S. No.	PARTICULARS	STANDALONE						CONSOLIDATED					
		QUARTER ENDED			HALF YEAR ENDED		YEAR ENDED	QUARTER ENDED			HALF YEAR ENDED		YEAR ENDED
		30.09.2025	30.06.2025	30.09.2024	30.09.2025	30.09.2024	31.03.2025	30.09.2025	30.06.2025	30.09.2024	30.09.2025	30.09.2024	31.03.2025
		(REVIEWED)	(REVIEWED)	(REVIEWED)	(REVIEWED)	(REVIEWED)	(AUDITED)	(REVIEWED)	(REVIEWED)	(REVIEWED)	(REVIEWED)	(REVIEWED)	(AUDITED)
1	Total income from operations (net)	344,671	351,857	341,963	696,528	660,811	1,367,267	345,026	352,265	342,431	697,291	661,709	1,368,802
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	63,355	65,775	75,446	129,130	136,661	293,370	63,468	65,936	75,683	129,404	137,055	293,868
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	63,355	65,775	75,446	129,130	136,661	293,370	63,468	65,936	75,683	129,404	137,055	293,868
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	49,411	48,484	55,092	97,895	96,641	208,246	49,492	48,453	55,278	97,945	97,128	208,179
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	Refer Note No. 2						Refer Note No. 2					
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of previous year												
8	Securities Premium Account	291,950	291,950	291,950	291,950	291,950	291,950	291,950	291,950	291,950	291,950	291,950	291,950
9	Net Worth	1,395,624	1,354,962	1,209,036	1,395,624	1,209,036	1,301,326	1,371,248	1,330,506	1,205,227	1,371,248	1,205,227	1,296,962
10	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	238,100	238,100	288,100	238,100	288,100	238,100						
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-						
12	Debt Equity Ratio	0.17	0.18	0.24	0.17	0.24	0.18						
13	Total Debts to total assets	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01						
14	Operating Margin (%)	18.06%	19.12%	23.01%	18.60%	20.91%	21.43%						
15	Net Profit Margin (%)	14.34%	13.78%	16.11%	14.05%	14.62%	15.23%						
16	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (₹ 1/- each) for continuing and discontinued operations												
	Basic : (* not annualized)	4.49*	4.40*	5.00*	8.89*	8.78*	18.91	4.49*	4.40*	5.02*	8.89*	8.82*	18.91
	Diluted : (* not annualized)	4.49*	4.40*	5.00*	8.89*	8.78*	18.91	4.49*	4.40*	5.02*	8.89*	8.82*	18.91
17	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-						
18	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-						

Note:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarter and half year ended Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarter and half year ended Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com and on Bank's website <https://www.jkb.bank.in/Investor/financial-information/financial-results>.
- Information relating to Total comprehensive Income and Other Comprehensive Income is not furnished as Ind AS is not yet made applicable to Banks.

For and on behalf of the Board

AMITAVA CHATTERJEE
 Managing Director & CEO
 DIN : 07082989

Festive Glow Returns to Markets as Diwali Shopping Picks-Up

From Lal Chowk to small-town bazaars, shoppers rush for sweets, lights, firecrackers

Agencies

SRINAGAR: With Diwali just a few days away, the markets across Srinagar and other parts of the valley are buzzing with life, colour and festive cheer.

The festival of lights, which will be celebrated on Monday, has brought joy and excitement to both shopkeepers and shoppers as the valley prepares for the grand celebration.

According to the details, from the beautiful Lal Chowk to the lanes of Dal Gate, Polo View and Residency Road, shops have been decked with vibrant lights, candles, Diyas and decorative pieces.

Moreover, the aroma of freshly prepared sweets fills the air as people line up to buy traditional favourites like sweets.

"We started decorating our shop a week ago and since this morning, there has been a continuous rush of customers," said, owner of a bakery in Srinagar. He said this year; the response feels much better, with a sense of happiness among people.

Meanwhile, vendors selling firecrackers and decorative lights echoed similar senti-

ments. "After quiet years, Diwali sales have picked up. People are buying more sparklers, candles and colourful lights this time," said Rakesh Kumar, a stall owner from Lal Chowk Srinagar.

Similarly, the festive mood is also drawing admiration from locals. "Even though Diwali is not widely celebrated by everyone here, the festive lights and joy make the whole city look beautiful. It feels like a collective celebration," said a college student from Rajbagh.

Similar excitement has been reported from Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam and Jammu division, where families are seen doing last-minute shopping.

It is worth mentioning, Diwali, or Deepavali, is one of India's most significant festivals, symbolising the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Traditionally celebrated with lamps, sweets and fireworks, the festival also signifies new beginnings and family togetherness.

Meanwhile, the administration has urged citizens to celebrate safely and responsibly by avoiding loud firecrackers and encouraging eco-friendly celebrations—(KNO)

DEMAND FOR STATEHOOD

Congress Leaders Hold Hunger Strike in Srinagar

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Saturday intensified its campaign for the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir by organizing a district-wise chain hunger strike under the banner "Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq." The protest was held at the party's Srinagar headquarters and was led by JKPCC President Tariq Hameed Karra.

Karra was joined by senior Congress leaders, legislators, district presidents, and several party functionaries who observed the hunger strike as part of the party's ongoing agitation programme across the Union Territory. The participants reiterated the Congress Party's strong demand for the immediate restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and the revival of its democratic institutions.

Speaking during the protest Karra said that the Congress

Party remains committed to fighting for the dignity, rights, and political empowerment of the people.

"Restoration of full statehood is not just a political demand but a democratic necessity," Karra said, asserting that the delay in restoring statehood has deepened the sense of alienation among the people. He accused the central government of "diluting" Jammu and Kashmir's identity and demanded immediate measures to revive the democratic process.

The hunger strike was part of a larger series of district-level demonstrations being organized by the JKPCC under the Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq campaign, aimed at mobilizing public opinion for the reinstatement of statehood and the strengthening of civil institutions.

Party leaders at the event expressed solidarity with the people's aspirations and vowed to continue peaceful protests until Jammu and Kashmir's full statehood is restored. [KNT]

DC, SSP Review Anti-Drug Measures at District NCORD Meeting



Emphasis Laid on Intensified Action to Curb Drug Menace

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To assess the ongoing measures and devise a more robust strategy against drug abuse and trafficking, the District Level Committee of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) convened a meeting on Friday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, at the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was co-chaired by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Sandeep Chakravathy, and attended by senior officials from various departments.

At the outset, the DC was given a detailed briefing on

the key initiatives undertaken in Srinagar to curb the drug menace, including recent seizures, arrests, financial probes, and detentions under the NDPS Act. Officials also apprised the meeting of the steps being taken to ensure accurate revenue entries in NDPS cases, safeguard property records, and implement complete computerization and online billing systems at pharmaceutical outlets across the district.

Emphasizing the need for a multi-pronged approach, DC Labroo called for strengthening public awareness campaigns, enhancing the capacity of Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs), and improving inter-departmental coordination. He directed intensified surveillance and preventive measures at identified vulnerable hotspots to check the spread of narcotic activities.

KU, VMS Ink Pact to Promote Skill Development and Accessibility for PwDs

Varsity Hosts Training Workshop on Assistive Tools, Technologies for Inclusive Education

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Marking a major stride towards strengthening inclusivity and accessibility, the University of Kashmir (KU) convened the maiden meeting of its newly constituted Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The meeting also witnessed the signing of a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between KU and the Voluntary Medicare Society (VMS).

The meeting, chaired by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nilofer Khan, was attended by Registrar Prof. Naseer Iqbal; Dean Students' Welfare, Prof. Pervez Ahmed; Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Maqbool, President VMS; Prof. Masooda Yaseen, Vice President VMS; Prof. Shazia Manzoor, Head, Department of Social Work KU; Prof. Amina Parveen, Head, Department of Education KU; besides representatives of students and parents of PwDs.

A key highlight of the meeting was the formal signing of the MoU between the University and VMS, aimed at advancing skill-based workshops and training programmes for persons with disabilities. The collaboration will focus on enhancing human resources, improving accessibility infrastructure, extending technical support, and exploring the launch of a Bachelor's Programme in Special Education through the University's academic bodies.

On the sidelines of the meeting, a two-day training workshop titled "Beyond Barriers: Reading and Learning with Assistive Tools and Technologies" was inaugurated at the Allama Iqbal Library (AIl). The event was organised in collaboration with the University's Special Cell under the aegis of the Department of Students' Welfare (DSW), KU.

The workshop aimed to foster inclusive education by introducing participants to modern assistive technologies and AI-based learning tools that enhance reading, writing, and classroom participation for students with disabilities.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nilofer



ON THE OCCASION, the start of a pick-and-drop service for PwD students on the campus was also announced.

Khan reaffirmed the University's commitment to equitable access to education.

"We are trying our best to make sure that students with special needs are provided every possible facility and support to pursue their education with comfort and dignity," she said.

Registrar Prof. Naseer Iqbal emphasised that accessibility and inclusion are integral to the University's academic environment. "Such initiatives help bridge the gap between technology and inclusive learning," he remarked.

Dean Students' Welfare, Prof. Pervez Ahmed, underscored the importance of making the campus accessible to all. "This workshop will go a long way in creating awareness about assistive technologies and inclusive practices," he added.

Padma Shri awardee Javed Ahmad Tak, who also spoke on the occasion, stressed the need for continuous institutional engage-

ment to build barrier-free educational spaces for persons with disabilities.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr. Fayaz Lone, Librarian, Allama Iqbal Library, informed that several facilities have been set up within the library to ensure smooth and comfortable learning experiences for students with disabilities.

As part of the inclusivity measures, the University also announced the commencement of a pick-and-drop transport service for PwD students on campus.

The technical sessions were conducted by resource persons from SAKSHAM — Umar Sadiq and H.U. Hubby — who demonstrated various assistive and AI-based tools designed to facilitate effective learning.

The proceedings of the event were conducted by Dr. Shahid Ali Khan, Cultural Officer, DSW KU, while Shaheel Mohammad, DSW KU, delivered the vote of thanks.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION BARAMULLA

e-mail: id_xenmhd.bla@jk.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No:	M&HDB/TS/2025-26/44/2021-25
Date:	17-10-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on percentage wise basis from Authorized Service Providers of OEMs / Registered / Listed Contractors for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T./Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion
01.	Providing and fitting of Tube and Flaps required for various snow clearance machines pertaining to Snow Clearance Unit of M and H Sub Division 1 st Baramulla	0.3445	200.00	689/-	10 days

Note:-

- AAA- Administrative Approval accorded by Chief Engineer M&HD Kashmir vide No. M&HED/K/ Acctt/ of 2025-26/108 Dated: 30-08-2025.
- Technical Sanction:- Technical Sanction Accorded by Assistant Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Sub Division 1st vide No. AEE/M&HSD-1/04 of 2025-26; Dated 06-10-2025.
- Executing Agency:- Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	17-10-2025
2.	Period of downloading of the bidding document	From 17-10-2025 to 27-10-2025
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	From 17-10-2025 (18:15 HRS)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	27-10-2025 (18:55 HRS)
5.	Date of Opening of Cover 1 st	28-10-2025 (13:00 HRS)

The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

01.	Tender Fee	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement including m-Pay Delight+, to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. Tender ID to be written also on the voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKA0TEHSIL. Account No.: 0213010200000051.
02.	EMD	Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 02% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. EMD of successful bidder shall be released on receipt of 03% - 10% Performance Guarantee from (L1) and execution of agreement with the Department. EMD of un-successful bidders shall be also released as per rules provided in J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020.
03.	Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
04.	Tax Clearance	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
05.	GST	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
06.	Undertaking	Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt. / Semi Govt. Department.
07.	Contractor Registration	Scanned copy of valid Contractor Registration on JKPWDOMS of PWD J&K.
08.	Eligibility / Work Experience Certificate	The Bidder Shall submit documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of work amounting to 80% of the estimated cost in single contract or 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts each in last 07 years in any Govt. /Semi Govt./Autonomous institutions alongwith satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Assistant Executive Engineer.

Note:-

- The successful bidder has to furnish EMD document physically to the Divisional office alongwith fee receipt within three days from the date of opening price bid, without which his bid shall not be accepted for further processing of contract in his favour.
- No EMD exemption shall be given to bidders.
- Bidders / Firms shall refrain from uploading irrelevant documents.
- Contractor / Firm shall upload the contact / communication details separately on single page.

A. Cover-II shall contain:

- Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. In no case, financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for 180 days and the contract shall be valid for one complete year, starting from the date of allotment of the said contract.
- The complete bidding process will be online.
- The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla after evaluation of technical bid and decision thereof. Bidder shall be penalized as per tender conditions if they withdraw their bid during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ download should be used for filling the rate below %age inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
- Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The department reserves the right to debar/blacklist such firm(s).
- Conditional tenders shall not be entertained.
- Unbalanced Bid: In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR / FDR / Bank Guarantee within 07 days after opening of price bid as per the Circular directives of the J&K U.T Finance Department issued vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-22-158; Dated:- 08.08.2025 and relevant clauses of J&K (PWD) Engineering Manual 2020.
- The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla.

No:- M&HDB/TS/e-tender-44/2021-25

Dated:- 17-10-2025

DIPK-7301-25

DT: 18/10/2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Mechanical & Hospitals Division

Baramulla



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
25 Rabi-ul-Sani
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	5:17
ZUHR	12:16
ASR	4:15
Magrib	5:57
ISHA	7:16

This Day In History

- 1466 - The Thirteen Years' War ends with the Second Peace of Thorn, Germany
- 1512 - Martin Luther becomes a doctor of theology (Doctor in Biblia)
- 1739 - England declares war on Spain [OS=Oct 30]
- 1812 - Napoleon's forces begin their retreat from Moscow
- 1818 - US Government & Chickasaw Indians sign a treaty
- 1859 - Wilhelm Tempel discovers diffuse nebula around Pleid star Merope
- 1912 - Tripoli (Libya) passes from Turkish to Italian control
- 1913 - At a meeting of the Natal Indian Congress (NIC) in Durban, NIC secretaries, M. C. Anglia and Dada Osman, severely criticise Mahatma Gandhi and tender their resignations
- 1915 - Russia and Italy declare war on Bulgaria
- 1916 - France extends formal recognition of the Provisional Government in Crete proclaimed Eleftherios Venizelos
- 1925 - Italian army takes Somalia
- 1926 - Russian Politburo throws out Leon Trotsky and his followers
- 1932 - British government signs trade agreement with Soviet Union
- 1935 - Mao Zedong's army reaches Shanxi
- 1944 - British Prime Minister Winston Churchill flies back to London from Moscow
- 1950 - UN forces entered Pyongyang, capital of North Korea
- 1951 - US President Harry Truman formally ends state of war with Germany
- 1953 - 1st jet transcontinental nonstop scheduled service
- 1954 - Egypt & Great Britain sign treaty; British troops departs
- 1954 - First ascent of Cho Oyu, sixth highest mountain in the world at 8,201 metres
- 1960 - France grants Mauritania independence
- 1960 - Martin Luther King Jr. arrested in Atlanta sit-in
- 1960 - US imposes embargo on exports to Cuba
- 1967 - Mariner 5 makes fly-by of Venus
- 1973 - Saudi Arabia, Libya, and other Arab states proclaim an embargo on oil exports to the United States
- 1976 - US President Gerald Ford signs 1st major revision of copyright law since 1909
- 1976 - Battle of Aishiya, Lebanon during Lebanese Civil War.
- 1981 - Nicolaas Bloembergen & Arthur Schawlow win Nobel Prize for Physics (laser)
- 1986 - USSR expels five US diplomats
- 1987 - US warships destroy 2 Iranian oil platforms in Persian Gulf
- win Nobel in physics; 3 W Germans win chemistry Nobel
- 1991 - Longest NCAA football game (3:52) as RI beats Maine 52-30 (6 OTs)
- 1993 - UN authorizes arms, military & police supply embargo against Haiti
- 1994 - 160 killed in fighting in Tsjetsjenie (Chechnya)
- 2001 - SIEV-X, an Indonesian fishing boat en-route to Christmas Island, carrying over 400 asylum seekers, sinks killing 353
- 2003 - Mother Teresa of Calcutta is beatified by Pope John Paul II.
- 2004 - Myanmar prime minister Khin Nyunt is ousted and placed under house arrest by the SPDC on charges of corruption.
- 2005 - Saddam Hussein goes on trial in Baghdad for crimes against humanity
- 2005 - Hurricane Wilma becomes the most intense Atlantic hurricane on record with a minimum pressure of 882 mb
- 2014 - A working human intestine is generated in a laboratory from stem cells in the United States
- 2015 - US scientists from University of California find evidence life on earth may have begun 4.1 billion years ago, 300 million earlier than previously thought
- 2015 - Canadian federal elections: Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party win a majority with 184 seats

Pak-Afghan Delegations in Doha for Crisis Talks

Associated Press

Islamabad: Afghan and Pakistani delegations are heading to the Qatari capital, Doha, to defuse the deadliest crisis between them in several years, after more than a week of fighting killed dozens of people and injured hundreds on both sides.

The Taliban government said Saturday that the Afghan delegation included the defence minister and the head of the national intelligence agency. A Pakistani delegation was due to depart Saturday; the national broadcaster PTV had said a day earlier. It did not give further details.

Each country says it is responding to aggression from the other. Pakistan accuses Afghanistan of harbouring militants who carry out attacks in border areas, a charge rejected by the Taliban.

A 48-hour ceasefire intended to pause hostilities expired Friday evening. Hours later, Pakistan struck across the border.

Pakistani security officials confirmed to The Associated Press that there were

strikes on districts in Afghanistan's eastern Paktika province — Urgan and Barmal.

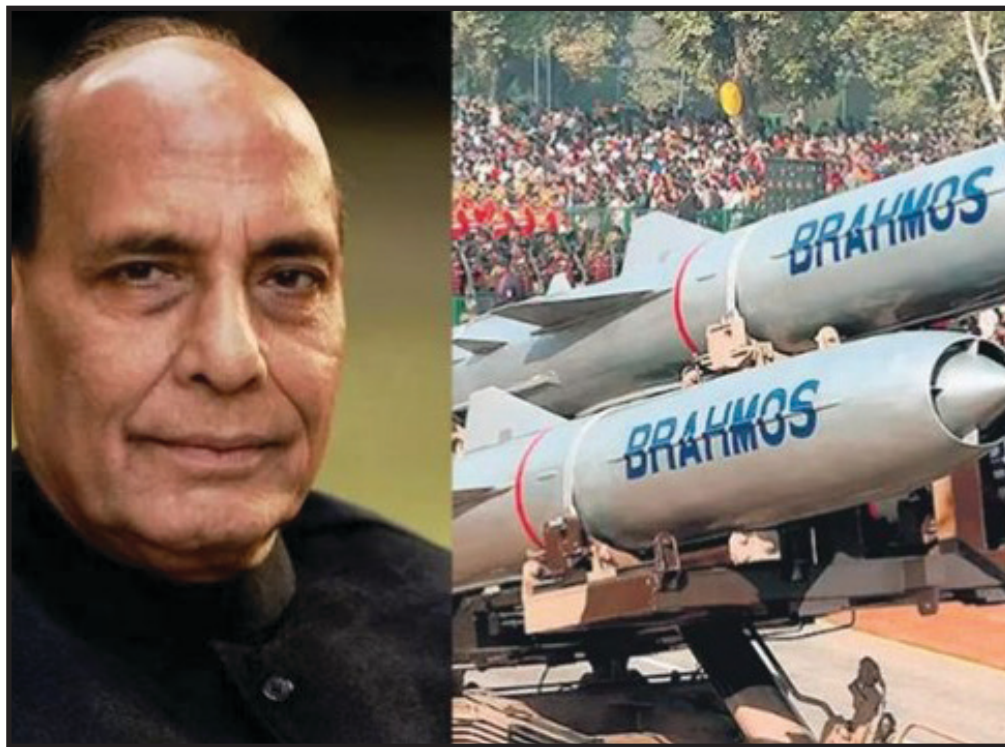
The targets were hideouts of the militant Hafiz Gul Bahadur group, according to the officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to talk to the media. Pakistani Air Force raids killed dozens of armed fighters, and there were no civilian deaths, they added.

One said the operation was a direct response to the suicide bombing of a security forces compound in Mir Ali, in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province a day earlier.

But Afghan officials said the aerial assaults killed at least 10 civilians, including women and children. The attacks prompted the national cricket board to boycott an upcoming series in Pakistan.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban government's chief spokesman, condemned the "repeated crimes of Pakistani forces and the violation of Afghanistan's sovereignty."

Such acts were deemed provocative and viewed as "deliberate attempts" to prolong the conflict, he added.



'Pak Under BrahMos Shadow'

Op Sindoor Was Only A Trailer: DM

Press Trust Of India

Lucknow: Every inch of Pakistan's territory lies within range of BrahMos and what happened during Operation Sindoor was just a trailer, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said here on Saturday, in a stern warning to Pakistan.

The operation proved that victory has become a habit for India, he said.

The Union minister, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, flagged off the first batch of BrahMos missiles manufactured at the BrahMos Aerospace unit in Sarojini Nagar here.

Singh described BrahMos as a symbol of India's rising strength.

"BrahMos is not just a missile, it is proof of India's strategic confidence. From the Army to the Navy and the Air Force, it has become a key pillar of our defence forces," he said.

Singh asserted that India's defence capabilities now serve as a powerful deterrent.

"Every inch of Pakistan's territory lies within range of BrahMos. What happened during Operation Sindoor was just a trailer. It made Pakistan realise that if India could create Pakistan, then if the time comes... I

need not say more, you all are wise enough," he said.

Operation Sindoor proved that "victory is not just a small incident for us but it has become a habit", he added.

Hailing Operation Sindoor, Singh said it instilled a new confidence among Indians and proved BrahMos' effectiveness to the world.

"Maintaining this confidence is now our collective responsibility," he said.

"The entire world now recognises India's capability. BrahMos has strengthened our belief that India can turn its dreams into reality," he said.

Under Operation Sindoor, Indian defence forces targeted terror infrastructure and defence installations in Pakistan in May, following an attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22 that claimed 26 lives.

Indigenously developed BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles were used by India to destroy Pakistan's air bases during the operation.

On the manufacturing of BrahMos at the Lucknow unit, Singh said the project symbolises India's growing confidence and capability in defence manufacturing.

"Lucknow is not just my parliamentary constituency,

it resides in my soul. Today, it has become a city of technology and industry, apart from culture and tradition.

"The successful production of BrahMos missiles here shows that what was once a dream has now become a reality. The project represents patience, hard work and determination," he said.

Assuring direct employment to hundreds of people, Singh said that it is estimated that around 100 missile systems will be provided annually to the Army, Air Force and Navy from here. In the next financial year, the turnover of this unit will reach Rs 3,000 crore, which will generate GST revenue of Rs 500 crore.

Highlighting the capabilities of BrahMos, he said that BrahMos is not just a missile, but a symbol of India's growing indigenous strength.

While appreciating Adityanath, he said that "We all know that Uttar Pradesh was once identified with gangsterism and broken law and order. People lived in an atmosphere of fear and investors were afraid to come here. But today, under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, this situation has changed. His firm leadership and policy decisions have restored confidence in the state."

Gaza Awaits Reopening of Rafah Crossing, Its Link to World

FATMA KHALED

Cairo- Palestinians and aid workers are eagerly awaiting the reopening of the Rafah border crossing, which is the Gaza Strip's lifeline for food and other aid and its only gateway to the outside world that wasn't controlled by Israel before the war.

The crossing between Gaza and Egypt will probably reopen Sunday, Israel's foreign minister said Thursday, though it wasn't clear if it will be opened for both aid deliveries and the flow of people into and out of the territory.

With much of Gaza turned to rubble and gripped by famine, it needs a massive

influx of fuel, food, medicine and tents. United Nations aid chief Tom Fletcher said Thursday that he was headed to the crossing and hoped to see the route "full of trucks, as part of a massive surge of aid following the peace deal."

Read Full Story on kashmirobserver.net

9 killed as Israeli Forces Fire at Gaza Bus

Associaed Press

GAZA CITY: Gaza's civil defence agency said that Israeli forces killed nine people in an attack on a bus Friday, while the military stated it had fired

able to recover nine bodies following the Israeli occupation's targeting of a bus carrying displaced persons east of the Zeitun neighborhood yesterday," Mahmud Bassal, a spokesman for the agen-



at a vehicle that crossed the so-called "yellow line."

"Civil defense crews were

cy, which operates under Hamas authority, told AFP on Saturday.

Fire Breaks Out at Dhaka Airport, Flights Suspended

Press Trust Of India

Dhaka: A massive fire broke out on Saturday at the cargo complex of the international airport in Bangladesh's capital, forcing authorities to suspend all flight operations as thick black smoke engulfed the area.

At least nine flights of different airlines scheduled to land in Dhaka were diverted to Shah Amanat International Airport in southeastern Chattogram and Osmani International Airport in northeastern Sylhet. Eight of them landed in Chattogram and one in Sylhet.



We received the information at 2:30 pm and immediately dispatched our units to join the ones deployed at the airport

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) said the blaze broke out in the afternoon at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, prompting the deployment of over two dozen firefighting units, with additional teams rushing to the scene.

"We received the information at 2:30 pm and immediately dispatched our units to join the ones deployed at the airport," Fire Service spokesman Talha Bin Zassim said.

Thirty-six firefighting units are engaged in the operation, he said.

CAAB officials said the Air Force's fire units also joined the rescue campaign.

"Landings and takeoffs of all aircraft have been suspended until further notice. All our aircraft are confirmed safe," a CAAB spokesperson said.

According to local media reports, chemicals stored in the cargo zone posed a major challenge for firefighters.

Eyewitnesses said personnel from the army, air force, navy, and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) joined the firefighting and rescue efforts.

They described the fire as a major one, with thick smoke covering a large part of the airport and surrounding areas.

This is the third major incident of fire in Bangladesh within a span of five days.

An eight-storey factory building at the Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) was completely destroyed in a massive fire on Thursday. There were no casualties.

On Tuesday, 16 workers were killed and several others were injured in a fire that broke out at a four-storey garment factory and a chemical warehouse in Dhaka.

Punjab DIG Arrested by CBI in Bribery Case

Chandigarh, Oct 18 (PTI) Punjab Deputy Inspector General of Police (Ropar Range) Harcharan Singh Bhullar, who was arrested by the CBI in a bribery case, has been suspended, according to a state government order.

Bhullar, along with another person, was arrested on Thursday in connection with a corruption case involving bribery of Rs 8 lakh.

Bhullar was held from his Mohali office following a complaint lodged by a Fatehgarh Sahib-based scrap dealer, who accused the senior IPS officer of demanding recurring monthly payment for "settling" a 2023 FIR against him.

Bhullar was sent to judicial custody by a CBI court here on Friday.

An order of the Punjab Home Affairs department issued on Saturday said, as per Rule 3(2) of the All India Services (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, "a member of the service who is detained in official custody whether on a criminal charge or otherwise for a period longer than forty-eight hours, shall be deemed to have been suspended by the Government concerned under this rule."

"In pursuance of the said Rule, Harcharan Singh Bhullar, IPS is hereby deemed to be suspended with effect from 16.10.2025, as 48 hours have lapsed since his arrest," stated the order.

Bhullar has been booked under relevant Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

During searches at his



residence, the CBI seized Rs 7.50 crore in cash and 2.50 kg of gold jewellery.

It also recovered 26 luxury watches, including brands such as Rolex and Rado, documents pertaining to more than 50 immovable properties held in the names of family members and suspected benami entities, locker keys and details of multiple bank accounts, four firearms along with 100 live cartridges.

From Bhullar's farmhouse in Samrala, the CBI sleuths found 108 bottles of

liquor, Rs 15.70 lakh cash and 17 live cartridges.

A middleman identified as Kirshanu was also arrested, and the CBI sleuths recovered Rs 21 lakh from him.

According to the FIR lodged by the CBI, complainant Akash Batta alleged that DIG Bhullar had demanded illegal gratification through his middleman for settling the 2023 FIR registered in Sirhind against him and for ensuring that no further coercive or adverse police action was taken against his scrap business.

The complainant further alleged that Bhullar had been demanding recurring monthly payments, referred to as "sewapaani", and had threatened to falsely implicate him in business-related criminal cases in case of non-compliance.

Sri Lanka to Seek Interpol Alerts for Athletes Who Fled 2022 CWG

Colombo, Oct 18 (PTI) Sri Lanka will seek Interpol red notices for the arrest of athletes who fled the 2022 Commonwealth Games village in Birmingham and failed to return home, a court was informed.

The Colombo Chief Magistrate's Court on Friday imposed travel bans on 10 athletes believed to be residing illegally in the United Kingdom.

According to the Sports Ministry's Offences Prevention Unit, the absconding athletes caused a financial loss of about 50 million Sri Lankan rupees to the government by not returning to

the country after the games.

Police Inspector Supun Vidanage from the unit told the court Friday that the Sri Lankan contingent for the 2022 Games comprised 116 athletes, 28 training officials, 11 medical officers and 23 others representing Boxing, Wrestling, Judo and Volleyball.

Nine athletes, a manager and a sports photographer did not return to the country after the event, he said.

The official said the ministry will soon seek Interpol red notices for them.

Vidanage later told reporters that the court action marked the first step in the investigation, noting that lo-

cal arrest warrants must be issued before Interpol can be approached to seek international arrest notices.

Sri Lanka won one silver and one bronze medal at the 2022 Birmingham Games, ranking 31st in the overall medal tally.

The Games were held from late July to mid-August 2022, at the time when Sri Lanka's was facing unprecedented economic crisis and had declared bankruptcy after defaulting on its external debt.

A special police investigation unit was established in 2019 under the Prevention of Offences Relating to Sports Act.

NEWS MAKERS

CM Omar Urges Concrete Reforms to Enhance Patient Care in J&K

National experts deliberate on healthcare management, risk mitigation at SKIMS conference

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday inaugurated the National Conference on Patient Safety at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), urging the healthcare fraternity to translate academic deliberations into tangible reforms that enhance patient care across Jammu and Kashmir.

Organised by the Department of Hospital Administration, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), the two-day conference—held under the theme “Every Error a Lesson, Every Lesson a Safer Care”—brought together leading policymakers, medical administrators, and experts from across the country to discuss actionable strategies for building robust patient safety frameworks.

In his inaugural address, the Chief Minister emphasised that patient safety, effective hospital management, and patient satisfaction are interlinked elements of a sound healthcare delivery system. “Conferences such as this must not end with discussions



and presentations alone,” Omar said. “They must generate actionable recommendations that SKIMS and other hospitals can adopt to ensure safer and more efficient healthcare for all.”

He called upon SKIMS to set an example for other hospitals in the Union Territory by framing concrete guidelines and implementing best practices emerging from the conference deliberations.

Minister for Health & Medi-

cal Education, Sakina Itoo, reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure in the region. She detailed several recent upgrades at SKIMS, including the commissioning of a new CT Scan facility, a LINAC machine, 20 anaesthesia workstations, and five mobile X-ray units.

“SKIMS represents the vision-ary legacy of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, whose foresight laid

the foundation for quality healthcare in Jammu and Kashmir. The government remains dedicated to further enhancing this premier institution to meet modern healthcare needs,” she said.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, commended SKIMS for maintaining its stature among the leading medical institutions in the country. He noted that the institute's highly qualified workforce has earned national and international recognition for J&K's healthcare system. “The professionalism and expertise of SKIMS doctors and staff have set a benchmark in both healthcare and medical education,” he remarked.

Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, underlined the importance of communication skills in preventing medical errors. “Effective communication between healthcare providers and patients is the cornerstone of patient safety. Many medical errors are preventable through improved dialogue and coordination,” he said, adding that the conference should focus on measurable outcomes that translate

into safer clinical practices.

Founder Director SKIMS, Prof A.K. Nagpal, lauded the organisers for hosting the event and highlighted the role of academic engagement in continuous improvement of healthcare systems. “Such academic platforms are vital for promoting a culture of learning, introspection, and excellence in patient safety,” he said.

Director SKIMS and EOSG, Prof M. Ashraf Ganie, in his welcome address, elaborated on the institute's ongoing efforts to strengthen patient care, research, and education. He pointed to the judicious utilisation of budgetary allocations and the upgradation of institutional infrastructure under his leadership.

Organising Chairman, Prof G.H. Yatoo, Head of the Department of Hospital Administration, said the primary objective of the conference was to foster collaboration and dialogue for improving hospital safety protocols and patient-centred care practices. Organising Secretary, Dr Shah Nawaz Hamid, extended a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the Chief Minister, dignitaries, and participants for their active engagement.

JKRLM Employees Appeal for ‘Timely Salaries’

Employees working under the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) have expressed serious concern over the non-payment of their salaries for several months, urging the authorities to release their pending dues at the earliest.

One of the employees said the prolonged delay has caused immense hardship. “We have been working without pay for months now. Many of us are the only earning members in our families. It is becoming impossible to manage rent, school fees and daily expenses,” the employee said.

Another employee said the delay has demoralized the entire staff. “Despite putting in our best efforts on the ground to empower rural women and promote livelihoods, we are left uncertain about our own financial security. It is heartbreaking that we have to beg for our salaries every few months,” he shared.

Moreover, several other employees said they had raised the issue multiple times before higher officials, but no concrete step has been taken so far. “We keep hearing assurances, but nothing changes. Every month passes with new promises and we continue to suffer silently,” they said.

Lastly, the employees urged the Lieutenant Governor-led administration and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's government to take serious note of their plight.

“We appeal to the administration to intervene and ensure regular and timely salary disbursement. We are performing our duties sincerely even under tough conditions; the least we expect is timely payment,” they added—(KNO)

Poshak Bandi Observed with Devotion at Charar-i-Sharief

The annual ritual of Poshak Bandi—the ceremonial changing of the sacred cloth over the revered grave of Hazrat Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA)—was observed with profound religious fervour at the shrine of Charar-i-Sharief in Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday.

The time-honoured ritual heralds the commencement of the annual Urs celebrations of the revered Sufi saint. This year, the Poshak Bandi will be followed by Shab Khwani (night-long prayers) on the intervening night of October 19 and 20, while the main Urs will be observed on Monday, October 20, for which a public holiday has been declared.

The ceremony was conducted by the shrine caretakers in the presence of senior Waqf Board officials, including its CEO and members, Waqf Board Administrator Charar-i-Sharief Mohammad Ashraf, Mutawali Ziyarat Younis Haji, and Mirwaiz Ameer-ud-Din Shah. The event drew thousands of devotees from across the Valley, who thronged the shrine to seek divine blessings and offer prayers for peace, harmony, and collective well-being.

“Attending the Poshak Bandi is a spiritual experience. We pray for lasting peace and prosperity in Kashmir,” said Maqbool Ahmad, a devotee from Chadoora.

Officials said elaborate arrangements had been made to facilitate the smooth conduct of the Urs. Key departments have been directed to ensure uninterrupted power, water supply, and transport services for the devotees, while special security deployments have been made to regulate the massive gatherings at the shrine. (Observer News Service)

Ghanta Ghar Blossoms with Autumn Flower Festival

Div Com hails collaborative efforts of SKUAST-K, SMC, SSCL for promoting urban greening

The historic Clock Tower (Ghanta Ghar) at Lal Chowk turned into a vibrant mosaic of colours on Saturday as the 3rd Gul-e-Dawood (Chrysanthemum) Show–2025, themed “Autumn Flower Festival”, was inaugurated amid a display of hundreds of floral varieties.

Organised jointly by SKUAST-Kashmir, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), and Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), the event transformed the city centre into a breathtaking floral showcase celebrating Srinagar's heritage, aesthetics, and environmental consciousness.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg (IAS), who inaugurated the festival, praised the organisers for their collective efforts in fostering civic engagement and ecological awareness. “Such initiatives breathe life into Srinagar's public spaces and encourage citizens to connect with nature through sustainable practices,” Garg said.

He added that the Gul-e-Dawood show underscores Srinagar's growing focus on floriculture and urban beautification. The event drew crowds of residents, tourists, students, and flower enthusiasts who admired the artistic floral installations and themed gardens encircling the iconic Clock Tower.

Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad, highlighted the scientific and educational relevance of the event. “Floriculture plays a vital role in urban ecosystems and livelihood generation. Through such platforms, we aim to connect science with society and promote sustainable urban development,” he remarked.

Police Arrest 17 Long-Time Absconders Across Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a major breakthrough to track down fugitives, Jammu and Kashmir Police have apprehended Seventeen (17) long-time absconders from Srinagar, Pulwama, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Shopian districts & PD Sopore.

These individuals had been evading arrest for years, some for over three decades, a police spokesman said.

In Srinagar, J&K Police have successfully apprehended 06 absconders who had been evading arrest for years.

The arrested absconders have been identified as Mehraj-ud-Din Marazi, son of Mohd Abdullah Marazi, resident of Sonwar, Srinagar, absconding for 11 years in Case FIR No. 21/2015 under Sections 8/21, 22, 29 NDPS Act of PS Lalbazar. Arshid Ahmad Shoor, son of Ab Rashid Shoor, resident of Bota Kadal, Lalbazar (presently at Hamchi Saidpora, Hazratbal, Srinagar) evading arrest for 8 years in a case registered under the NI Act of PS Lalbazar. Habibulla Bhat, son of Ab Samad, resident of Kralpora Kupwara, A/P Lalbazar evading arrest for 27 years in Case FIR No. 39/1998 U/S 294 RPC of PS Shergarhi. Gowhar Ahmad Wani, son of Wali Mohammad Wani, resident of Arigam, Budgam evading arrest for 4 years in Case FIR No. 52/2021 U/S 379, 511 IPC of PS Shergarhi. Mashooq Ahmad Sheikh, son of Gulam Mohammad Sheikh, resident of Ramnagri Shopian, A/P Gulshan Nagar, Nowgam, Srinagar evading arrest for 4 years in Case FIR No. 119/2009 U/S 379 RPC of PS Shergarhi. Uneeb Mukhtiyar Nathkhan, son of Mukhtiyar Nathkhan, resident of 90 Feet Road, Soura absconded for 16 years in Case FIR No. 119/2009 U/S 379 RPC of PS Shergarhi, the statement reads.

“Acting on specific intelligence inputs, Srinagar Police formed a special team which carried out targeted operations leading to the successful apprehension of these long-time absconders. After completing all legal formalities, the accused were produced before the

Court at Srinagar,” it reads.

In Pulwama, J&K Police arrested two long-term absconders who had been evading arrest for decades.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Ab. Salam Dar, son of Gh. Qadir Dar, resident of Chowan Keller involved in FIR No. 113/1998 under Section 7/25 I.A. Act of PS Rajpora. The accused had been absconding for the last 25 years. Mohd. Ayoub Tedwa, son of Mohd. Ramzan Khanday, resident of Thairnoo Keller involved in FIR No. 39/2003 under Sections 457, 380 RPC of Police Station Rajpora, the spokesman said.

“The accused had been absconding for the past 10 years. Acting on specific information, a special team from Police Station Rajpora was constituted which successfully traced and apprehended both absconders from different locations. After completion of legal formalities, the arrested persons were produced before the Hon'ble Court of Law,” it added.

Moreover, J&K Police arrested a wanted individual who had been evading arrest for a long period of time. The arrested person has been identified as Mehraj Ud Din Rather son of Abdul Rahim Rather resident of Arigam Chirath. “A complaint under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act was filed against him before the Hon'ble Court of CJM Pulwama. However, the said individual continuously evaded the legal process, due to which the Hon'ble Court declared him an absconder. Acting on specific input, a police team from Pulwama Police apprehended the absconder and completed all legal formalities. The arrested individual was produced before the Hon'ble Court of Law,” he added.

In Ganderbal, J&K Police has arrested an absconder who was evading arrest for 27 years. The arrested individual has been identified as Lateef Ahmad Khuroo son of Habibullah Khuroo resident of Bemina Srinagar, wanted in case FIR No. 69/1998 U/S 457, 380 RPC. The accused person was apprehended by J&K Police during a special

operation and was produced before the Hon'ble Court JMJC Ganderbal for further legal proceedings, police said.

In Shopian, J&K Police have apprehended three long term absconders who had been evading arrest for several decades. They have been identified as Mushtaq Ahmad Doobi, son of Ab. Salam Doobi, resident of Chotigam Shopian wanted in FIR No. 369/1988 under sections 436A, 379 RPC of Police Station Shopian.

Ab. Rashid Khan, son of Mangta Khan, resident of Manloo Shopian wanted in FIR No. 162/1987 under sections 353, 422 RPC of Police Station Shopian. Mohd. Yousuf Mir, son of Mohd. Abdullah Mir, resident of Wangam Achabal Anantnag wanted in FIR No. 360/2000 under sections 454, 380 RPC of Police Station Shopian. These individuals were involved in various criminal cases and had been deliberately evading the due process of law for over three decades. The arrested accused have been produced before the Hon'ble Court, Shopian, for further legal proceedings, he said.

In Kulgam, J&K Police have apprehended 02 long-time absconders in Kulgam. The arrested individuals have been identified as Mohd Ismail Bhat, son of Mohd Ramzan Bhat, resident of Alamgunj, Shopian and Showkat Ahmad Dar son of Mohd Yaqoob Dar resident of Khanaywapora Qaimoh. Mohd Ismail Dar was wanted in connection with FIR No. 48/1984 registered under sections 148, 149, 323, and 452 RPC and Showkat Ahmad Dar was wanted in connection of case FIR No 183/2016 U/S 151, 153 RPC, 7/25 A act at Police Station Kulgam. A warrant under sections 299/512 CrPC, issued by the Hon'ble Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Kulgam, had been pending against the accused persons. Acting on credible inputs, a special police team from Police Station Kulgam successfully traced and arrested the absconders. They were subsequently produced before the Court of Law for further legal proceedings, the spokesman said.

Leh Apex Body Backs Judicial Probe, Demands Ladakh Representation



Press Trust of India

LEH: Leh Apex Body (LAB) on Saturday welcomed the centre's decision to conduct a judicial probe into the September 14 violence but demanded inclusion of a representative from Ladakh in the team.

The group criticized the Lt Governor-led administration for foiling the silent march earlier during the day and said “such actions can never prove fruitful or convince us to resume talks with the centre”.

The Centre on Friday moved to address a key demand of the protesting Ladakh groups by announcing a judicial inquiry headed by a retired Supreme Court judge into the violent clashes of September 24 in Leh, which claimed the lives of four people, including a 1999 Kargil war veteran.

According to a notification issued by the Union Home Ministry, the judicial probe, to be headed by Justice B S Chauhan, a former judge of the Supreme Court, is mandated to investigate the circumstances leading to the serious law and order

situation, the police action and the resultant unfortunate deaths of four people .

Retired district and sessions judge Mohan Singh Parihar will function as judicial secretary, while IAS officer Tushar Anand will be the administrative secretary of the inquiry commission.

“We welcome the MHA's notification for a judicial inquiry. But we saw some shortcomings like the reference which is FIR No:144. It looks that the inquiry is against our boys and secondly, none of the threeis from Ladakh.

“We want this inquiry to be completely transparent and no attempt should be made to hide anything. We want someone from Ladakh to be made part of the team,” LAB Co-chairman and Ladakh Buddhist Association chief Chering Dorje Lakruk told reporters here.

He replied in affirmative when asked whether he would like MHA to change the composition of the team and said “it is necessary to include a Ladakhi in the team so that the people have confidence in this commission.”

Govt to Introduce Law to Ban Artificial Colouring on Fruits: Minister Javid Dar Says practice damaging fruit industry, health, market

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar on Saturday said the government will soon introduce a law to prohibit the use of artificial colouring on fruits, saying the practice is damaging Kashmir's fruit industry, consumer health and market credibility.

Speaking to reporters in Baramulla, Minister Dar said artificial colouring has become a serious concern. “Colouring is affecting our fruit business across markets. Buyers in Delhi, Jammu and Kolkata have complained about it. We will be soon drafting a law to stop its use completely,” he said.

Minister said the government is also finalizing the creation of a dedicated Enforcement Wing to regulate fertilizers and pesticides. “Many fertilizers and pesticides in use are of poor quality. We are strengthening enforcement to identify and act against violators,” he said.



He warned that penalties will be imposed on traders and growers who bring coloured fruit to markets ahead of the season. “If a September apple arrives in August and shows colouring, it is malpractice. This must stop,” he said.

On pest control, Minister Dar said the illegal import of rootstocks without quarantine checks has worsened the “leaf miner” pest problem. “Some people bring rootstocks through black marketing. We have identified them and strict action will follow,” he said.

The Minister said the government will ensure safety standards in trade. “We are a progressive state. We will not ban licenses arbitrarily, but misuse will not be allowed,” he said.

Daily Hassles for Commuters as Uri-Bla Road Widening Drags On

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The widening of the Uri-Baramulla road into two lanes has turned into a daily ordeal for residents and commuters, who have faced persistent traffic jams, dust pollution, and rising environmental concerns for the past year.

Locals blame poor planning and mismanagement for the ongoing issues. Despite the road being a key route in north Kashmir, residents say the project suffers from a lack of manpower and oversight, leading to frequent delays and traffic snarls. “Every day, we're stuck in traffic for hours. There's no proper traffic regulation,” Ali Mohammad, a resident of Uri said. He added that irregular work zones and a lack of staff during rush hours slow down vehicles to a crawl.

Dust pollution is another major issue. Constant digging and the absence of dust control measures have made travel difficult, especially for children and the elderly. “There's no water sprinkling at all. The dust is unbearable,” said local resident Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir.

Environmental concerns are also mounting, with residents accusing the construction agency of cutting down hundreds of trees near the NS Bridge and Boniyar area without replanting. This, they say, has led to landslides during the rainy season and made the slopes near the bridge hazardous.

Fed up with the situation, residents are urging authorities to conduct heavy construction work at night to ease daytime congestion. “Why can't they do the heavy work at night when traffic is less?” asked Imtiyaz, a local bus driver.

Some locals have also alleged the use of substandard materials in the project. However, officials said the overall traffic situation has improved compared to previous months. “Traffic disruptions persist in a few stretches, but the rest of the road is in much better condition,” said a senior official, adding that the remaining problem areas are expected to improve within a month or two. He also stated that the issue of dust control has been raised with Beacon officials.—(KNO)

ELECTRICITY INSTALLATION TRANSFER

The electricity Consumer ID: 0202050018781 is to be transferred from M/s MINAR CEMENT PRODUCTS, Wawoosa Rangreth Srinagar (Prop. Aijaz Ahmad Wani) to M/s SPOTLESS CLEAN SOLUTIONS (Prop. Aijaz Ahmad Wani) Rangreth Old Airport Road Srinagar (Sub Division Baghat Barzulla Srinagar). If anybody has any objection he may file the same within 7 days at Baghat Barzulla division after that no objection will be entertained. 18/9

NOTICE

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

Ab

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer/J&K acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the works/services listed below. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make online payments against these tenders. Document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Closing Date/Time	Date and Time of opening E-Tender
Open	Single Packet System	17.10.2025	10.11.2025 at 15:00 Hrs.	10.11.2025 at 15:30 Hrs.

SN	Tender Number	Details of Tender
1	02-2025-Laundry-JAT-R	Setting up of infrastructure for linen management facilities at JAT Coaching Depot.
	Advertised Value	Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion
	Rs. 2,29,98,167.27/-	Rs 2,65,000/- 45 Days 180 days

For more details, please log on to www.ireps.gov.in.

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Case in Point

Delhi’s Litigious
Love Story

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THE latest to join the city’s long list of emotional dramas is Shelly Mahajan v. Ms. Bhanushree Bahl & Anr. — where a wife has sued her husband’s “special friend” for 4 crores, accusing her of alienation of affection. No one’s been found guilty, and no final verdict has been passed — the Delhi High Court merely pressed the doorbell: “Ding-dong, summons.”

It’s a plotline that would make even Indian TV serials blush — a 2012 marriage, twin children, a business venture, a new colleague in 2021, and by 2023, a digital discovery that turned love into litigation.

This isn’t about criminal adultery. That chapter ended in Joseph Shine v. Union of India (2018), when the Supreme Court struck down Section 497 IPC and politely asked the State to stay out of people’s bedrooms. But Delhi has now added a footnote to that freedom: adultery may no longer land you behind bars, but it can still make your bank account lighter. Love, it seems, has gone from passion to payment gateway.

So yes, no handcuffs — just consequences. You can follow your heart, but someone else might follow you to court.

When Love Meets Law

The Court didn’t preach or pass verdict; it simply said the claim deserves to be heard. But that one line was enough to stir quiet curiosity across the country. Over steaming cups of Chai and late-evening gossip, people are debating this new idea of “damages for affection.”

The reactions are half amusement, half disbelief — “Four crores for love lost? In Delhi, even heartbreak comes with a valuation!” Somewhere between sips and sarcasm, someone adds, “At this rate, even a harmless Chai invitation could end up in court.

Even the shikaras on Dal Lake seem to glide a little more cautiously now — too many reflections, too much evidence, and far too many stories waiting to float.

The New Morality Clause

The Delhi High Court’s observation isn’t moral policing; it’s a mirror held up to modern relationships. Love is free — but freedom doesn’t mean forgetfulness. The law, in its calm way, isn’t judging affection; it’s recognising injury. Personal liberty, after all, does not mean emotional anarchy. Choices have ripples; affection, like property, cannot be trespassed without consequence.

Imagine the scene in court: screenshots, WhatsApp chats, perhaps a selfie captioned “meeting at work.” Love has officially entered the document section, and every cup of Chai now looks like Exhibit B waiting to happen.

The cultural tremor is undeniable. That harmless heart emoji at midnight? Potential liability. That “innocent” Chai invitation? Suspicious. Sharing a table at a cafe may now have civil consequences.

Cupid’s New Disclaimer

And somewhere beneath the laughter sits a quiet truth: the law won’t jail you for falling in love, but it might make you pay for falling carelessly.

So perhaps that’s the modern moral of the story — love may be private, but the hurt it causes rarely stays indoors. In Delhi, the court has gently reminded everyone that while love is no longer a crime, it’s definitely not tax-free either.

So if the doorbell rings at an odd hour, pause before you smile. It might not be love waiting outside — it might just be litigation in formal shoes.

And somewhere on Dal Lake, the breeze laughs softly:

“Love freely, yes... but maybe keep your banker on speed dial.”

The author is a Commercial
Advocate & Corporate Advisor.

“
Noise pollution, though often underestimated, poses a serious threat to public health, productivity, and mental peace. The misuse of sirens is not merely an act of indiscipline — it reflects a broader failure of governance and civic responsibility.

Advocate Aqib-ul-Ahad

A Growing Menace in Kashmir

Sirens, Status, and Silence

Noise may seem trivial, but its impact is real. The sirens that once signalled emergencies now scream indifference

THE unchecked and unnecessary use of sirens by government convoys, official vehicles, and even ambulances without patients has become a widespread menace — one that contributes significantly to noise pollution and public inconvenience.

What was once intended to alert citizens during genuine emergencies has now transformed into a symbol of status and authority, often misused without restraint or accountability.

For example, Ganderbal, already notorious for traffic jams, is now grappling with yet another disturbance—the shrill and unregulated blare of sirens from government vehicles. The problem is particularly severe near the Court Complex Ganderbal, located along a busy main road. Constant siren blasts make it extremely difficult for judges, lawyers, and litigants to concentrate, disrupting daily judicial proceedings.

The sanctity of the court — which demands peace, order, and decorum — is under continuous assault. This reckless practice not only disturbs the public but also undermines the credibility and urgency associated with genuine emergencies.

Such misuse clearly breaches the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, and violates citizens’ fundamental right to a peaceful environment under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

Legal Framework and Responsibility

Noise pollution in India is regulated under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000.

Rule 5A specifically empowers authorities to restrict the use of horns, pressure horns, and sirens — allowing them only for genuine emergencies such as police, fire, or ambulance services. Even in these

cases, the use of sirens is permitted only during actual emergencies, not for routine movement or convenience.

Under Article 21, every citizen has the right to life, which includes the right to a peaceful and pollution-free environment. The Supreme Court, in In Re: Noise Pollution (V), (2005) 5 SCC 733, held that noise beyond permissible limits violates fundamental rights.

Therefore, the misuse of si-



rens by non-emergency vehicles falls squarely within the ambit of actionable noise pollution.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has repeatedly cautioned against urban noise hazards, noting that continuous exposure to high decibel levels causes psychological distress, hearing impairment, and reduced workplace efficiency. When such disturbance extends to judicial institutions and residential areas, it becomes not only a public nuisance under Section 278 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (corresponding to the old Section 268 IPC), but also a breach of statutory and constitutional duties by public authorities.

Need for Strict Regulation and Enforcement

There is an urgent need for uniform guidelines restricting the use of sirens strictly to genuine emergencies. Installation of sirens in government or official vehicles — except those legally authorised for emergency use — should be

completely banned.

The Transport Department and Traffic Police must carry out regular inspections and impose penalties under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, along with relevant state rules.

Courts, hospitals, educational institutions, and residential areas should be declared “No Siren Zones”, similar to existing Silence Zones under noise control laws. In addition, awareness campaigns must be launched to sensitise government drivers and ambulance operators about the legal and ethical responsibilities attached to siren use.

Respect for Silence, Respect for Law

Noise pollution, though often underestimated, poses a serious threat to public health, productivity, and mental peace. The misuse of sirens is not merely an act of indiscipline — it reflects a broader failure of governance and civic responsibility.

It is time the local administration and the Hon’ble High Court take suo motu cognisance of this growing menace and direct strict implementation of noise control regulations.

Respect for the environment begins with respect for silence — and it is the duty of every citizen, especially those in positions of authority, to lead by example.

Noise may seem trivial, but its impact is real. The sirens that once signalled emergencies now scream indifference. It’s time to restore silence, order, and public trust in Kashmir.

The author is a regular columnist
and environmental activist,
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expressed are personal.
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Choosing Values Over Vanity

A Parent’s Dilemma in Kashmir’s Changing Educational Landscape

Mir Tariq Maqbool

THE past week witnessed an uproar that began in South Kashmir and soon echoed across the Valley. The cause was neither a political statement nor a social protest, but the grand opening of a national coaching brand — unveiled in full Bollywood splendour, far removed from the quiet grace that once defined Kashmir’s social, cultural, and spiritual temperament.

An event meant to celebrate learning saw spectacle take centre stage. The promise of nurturing intellect was dimmed by the dazzle of performance. What should have been an invocation of knowledge — a sacred pursuit in every tradition — turned into a carnival of glamour and applause. The words “bright future” echoed often, but the light seemed to come from spotlights rather than the flame of wisdom that true education kindles.

Hundreds of eager students and anxious parents gathered, their hearts filled with hope. For every Kashmiri parent, the dream of seeing their child succeed in examinations like NEET or JEE is deeply cherished. Yet amid this hope lies a question that demands quiet reflection: are we bartering our cultural soul and moral compass for a borrowed vision of success?

The Cultural Disconnect

In recent years, national-level coaching institutions have spread into smaller towns and valleys, bringing polished branding, digital platforms, and the language of “results.” While these advances have created opportunities, they have also subtly shifted collective consciousness. The teacher, once revered as a guide of the spirit, is now marketed as “faculty.” The path of learning, once walked with humility and discipline, is now paved with

slogans of speed and competition.

Kashmir has a rich legacy of valuing education that goes hand in hand with cultural and ethical grounding. Yet videos from some educational institutes — both national and local — occasionally surface online, showing practices that clash with these values. Loud music, entertainment-based activities, or spectacle in classrooms may be seen as “motivational” by some, but many parents perceive it as distracting and culturally misaligned.

It is important to clarify that

“Hundreds of eager students and anxious parents gathered, their hearts filled with hope. For every Kashmiri parent, the dream of seeing their child succeed in examinations like NEET or JEE is deeply cherished

no specific institute is being accused of misconduct. The concern is broader: the increasing commercialisation of education and the dilution of its foundational values in some settings.

Education Beyond Academics

Education, especially in Kashmir, must serve more than just academic ends. Parents entrust not only the intellectual growth of their children to schools and coaching centres but also expect them to uphold values of discipline, integrity, and respect. When institutions focus primarily on flashy success stories and aggressive marketing, these deeper, more enduring goals risk being sidelined.

Institutes often highlight the success of a select few students, showcasing top ranks and admissions into elite colleges. Little is said about the thousands who don’t make the cut. For many students, the pressure to perform in hyper-competitive environments — sometimes lacking mentorship or emo-

tional support — can lead to stress, burnout, or disillusionment.

The Celebrity Culture in Classrooms

Today’s youth are deeply influenced by social media, where validation often comes through visibility. When classrooms start resembling stages, and when students are encouraged to mirror celebrity-like behaviours, education risks losing its solemn purpose. Instead of fostering learning and growth, institutes may inadvertently create platforms for

superficial attention, where discipline, humility, and hard work take a back seat.

This is not to say that modern tools are harmful — they are not. Digital smart boards, video lectures, and motivational activities can greatly enhance learning. But their use must be guided by responsibility, cultural sensitivity, and an understanding of the community they serve.

Where Local Systems Failed — and Why Hope Still Remains

Many parents turned to national brands because local coaching institutes failed to provide consistent, high-quality, value-based education. Frequent faculty changes, poor planning, and commercial interests overshadowing academics eroded trust. Rebranding of failed institutes and frequent name changes further weakened credibility.

However, this failure is not of any single individual or institute — it reflects a collective gap in building a reliable, sustainable educational

model rooted in Kashmiri ethos.

A Ray of Hope: School-Integrated Coaching

Amid these challenges, a promising model is emerging: school-integrated coaching. Unlike stand-alone coaching centres, these setups function within established school environments, maintaining discipline, structure, and accountability. Schools are accountable to parents, management boards, and regulatory authorities — unlike private coaching centres, which may operate with more flexibility.

Such institutions are better positioned to deliver holistic education, balancing academic rigour with moral and emotional development. They cannot afford to fail — the reputation of the entire school is at stake, not just an annual batch or a marketing campaign.

Conclusion: Time to Choose Values Over Vanity

Kashmir needs education that builds not just doctors and engineers, but responsible, value-driven individuals. As parents, teachers, and citizens, we must reflect before we choose.

It is not about demonising any institute — national or local — but about demanding better: better standards, better ethics, and better alignment with who we are. Let us strive to create and support institutions that reflect our identity, uphold our values, and serve not just the minds, but also the hearts and souls of our children.

Let’s preserve what makes us unique.

Let’s safeguard our Kashmiri-
yat — even in our classrooms.

The author is currently working as
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In the Age of AI, Students Must Learn to See, Not Just Write

Literacy today extends beyond reading and writing

T.J. Thomson

From the earliest year of school, children begin learning how to express ideas in different ways. Lines across a page, a wobbly letter, or a simple drawing form the foundation for how we share meaning beyond spoken language.

Over time, those first marks evolve into complex ideas. Children learn to combine words with visuals, express abstract concepts, and recognise how images, symbols and design carry meaning in different situations.

But generative artificial intelligence (AI), software that creates content based on user prompts, is reshaping these fundamental skills. AI is changing how people create, edit and present both text and images. In other words, it changes how we see – and how we decide what's real.

Take photos, for example. They were once seen as a "mirror" of reality. Now, more people recognise their constructed nature.

Similarly, generative AI is disrupting long-held assumptions about the authenticity of images. These can appear photorealistic but can depict things or events that never existed.

Our latest research, published in the Journal of Visual Literacy, identifies key literacies at each stage of the AI image generation process, from selecting an AI image generator to creating and refining content.

As the way people make images changes, knowing how generative AI works will let you better understand and critically assess its outputs.



Generative AI is disrupting long-held assumptions about the authenticity of images. These can appear photorealistic but can depict things or events that never existed.



Photo Credit: Vikas Anand Dev

Textual and visual literacy

Literacy today extends beyond reading and writing. The Australian Curriculum defines literacy as the ability to "use language confidently for learning and communicating in and out of school". The European Union broadens this to include navigating visual, audio and digital materials. These are essential skills not only in school but also for active citizenship.

These abilities span making meaning, communicating and creating through words, visuals and other forms. These abilities also require adapting expression to different audiences. You might text a friend informally but email a public official with more care, for example. Computers, too, demand different forms of literacy.

In the 1960s, users interacted with computers through written commands. By the 1970s, graphical elements like icons and menus emerged, making interaction more visual.

Generative AI is often a mix between these two approaches. Some technologies, like ChatGPT, rely on text prompts. Others, like

Adobe's Firefly, use both text commands and button controls.

Software often interprets or guesses user intent. This is especially true for minimalistic prompts, such as a single word or even an emoji. When these are used for prompts, the AI system often returns a stereotypical representation based on its training data or the way it's been programmed.

Being more specific in your prompt helps to arrive at a result more aligned with what you envisioned. This highlights that we need "multimodal" literacies: knowledge and skills that cut across writing and visual modes.

What are some key literacies in AI generation?

One of the first generative AI literacies is knowing which system to use.

Some are free. Others are paid. Some might be free but built on unethical datasets. Some have been trained on particular datasets that make the outputs more representative or less risky from a copyright infringement perspective. Some support a wider range of inputs, including images, documents, spreadsheets and other files. Others might support text-

only inputs.

After selecting an image generator, you need to be able to work with it productively.

If you're trying to make a square image for an Instagram post, you're in luck. This is because many AI systems produce images with a square orientation by default. But what if you need a horizontal or vertical image? You'll have to ask for that or know how to modify that setting.

What if you want text included in your image? AI still struggles with rendering text, similarly to how early AI systems struggled with accurately representing human fingers and ears. In these cases, you might be better off adding text in different software, such as Canva or Adobe InDesign.

Many AI systems also create images that lack specific cultural context. This lets them be easily used in wider contexts. Yet it might decrease the emotional appeal or engagement among audiences who perceive these images as inauthentic.

Working with AI is a moving target

Learning AI means keeping pace with constant change. New generative AI products



Earlier this year, OpenAI integrated image generation into ChatGPT and TikTok launched its AI Alive tool to animate photos. Meanwhile, Google's Veo 3 made cinematic video with sound accessible to Canva users, and Midjourney introduced video outputs.

appear regularly, while existing platforms rapidly evolve.

Earlier this year, OpenAI integrated image generation into ChatGPT and TikTok launched its AI Alive tool to animate photos. Meanwhile, Google's Veo 3 made cinematic video with sound accessible to Canva users, and Midjourney introduced video outputs.

These examples show where things are headed. Users will be able to create and edit text, images, sound and video in one place rather than having to use separate tools for each.

Building multimodal literacies means developing the skills to adapt, evaluate and co-create as technology evolves.

If you want to start building those literacies now, begin with a few simple questions.

What do I want my audience to see or understand? Should I use AI for creating this content? What is the AI tool producing, and how can I shape the outcome?

Approaching visual generative AI with curiosity but also critical thinking is the first step toward having the skills to use these technologies intentionally and effectively. Doing so can help us tell visual stories that carry human rather than machine values.

T.J. Thomson, Senior Lecturer in Visual Communication & Digital Media, RMIT University.
- By arrangement with The Conversation

Vision Beyond Sight

The Inspiring Journey of Khushboo and Mehvish

Mohammad Iqbal Khandy

In many societies, disability has long been perceived negatively. People with differing abilities were often seen as objects of pity or charity rather than individuals with equal rights. In traditional or less educated communities, disabilities were associated with misfortune, sin, or fate. As a result, people with disabilities were often excluded from mainstream social, educational, and economic activities. Such perceptions fostered stigma and discrimination, undermining self-esteem and opportunities for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Over time, growing awareness, education, and advocacy have begun to change these views. Disability is increasingly understood through the social model, which emphasises that societal barriers—not impairments—



My advice to other disabled people would be, concentrate on things your disability doesn't prevent you doing well, and don't regret the things it interferes with. Don't be disabled in spirit as well as physically." – Stephen Hawking.



create disability. People are recognising that disability is a part of human diversity, not an abnormality. Media representation, inclusive education, and disability rights movements have gradually improved respect, inclusion, and acceptance.

Khushboo and Mehvish, sisters from the remote village of Mathindoo, Larnoo in Anantnag, exemplify this change. Blind from birth, they have shown that disability is not a misfortune, sin, or fate. Both sisters recently passed their HSE-II exams with flying colours, bringing immense pride to their parents, teachers, and community.

Their journey began in May 2016. On my way to work at Govt. Middle School Badray,

I noticed an elderly lady guiding two young girls, wearing goggles and walking with bowed heads, to a nearby school. Astonished, I asked the grandmother about them. With tears in her eyes, she explained that they were blind sisters and she feared leaving them alone. Having recently attended a workshop on Inclusive Education for visually impaired children, I was deeply inspired. I realised this was an opportunity to make a real difference in their lives.

I immediately decided to teach and guide them at their home. The next day, I met their family and held a counselling session. The parents expressed concern for their daughters' safety and shared how the girls were

struggling. I reassured them that I would teach the girls daily after 4 pm. Overjoyed, the family expressed heartfelt gratitude.

From that day onward, I began teaching them life skills, Braille, and Braille typing at their home. Over time, they progressed steadily. By the 8th standard, they were able to use a smartphone, which became a pivotal tool for learning as it allowed them to listen to lessons repeatedly. In classes 9th and 10th, I personally taught them Music and Home Science at home. Their participation in curricular and co-curricular activities continued unabated, reaching zonal, district, and even state-level programs.

Passing their 10th board exams with distinction, the sisters demonstrated that true vision is not in the eyes but in determination and the pursuit of knowledge. I continued to support them, and in 2024, both excelled in their 12th board exams, proving that no obstacle is insurmountable when determination and desire to succeed are unwavering. Their achievements stand as a testament to resilience, hard work, and an indomitable spirit.

The journey of Khushboo and Mehvish is not just a personal success story—it is a lesson for society. It underscores that disability does not define a person; attitude does. Their courage has changed perceptions and continues to inspire everyone who believes in the power of education, empathy, and hope.

This journey also highlights the vital role of dedicated educators who go beyond the classroom to make inclusion a lived reality. Teachers who guided them exemplified the essence of education: patience, empathy, and commitment. Their consistent support not only helped the sisters excel academically but also strengthened the community's



Blind from birth, Khushboo and Mehvish, sisters from the remote village of Mathindoo, Larnoo in Anantnag, have shown that disability is not a misfortune, sin, or fate. Both sisters recently passed their HSE-II exams with flying colours, bringing immense pride to their parents, teachers, and community.

faith in inclusive learning. These educators remind us that a single act of compassion can transform countless lives.

Khushboo and Mehvish's story teaches us that with support, determination, and the right guidance, limitations can be transcended. They illuminate the path of courage and perseverance for all, proving that every challenge can be an opportunity for growth and every person, regardless of ability, can shine brightly.

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Boost Your Immunity with These 12 Foods

KO News Desk

When you're under the weather, a bowl of chicken soup or a steaming cup of tea might be your go-to remedy. But can the foods you eat actually make a difference in how fast you recover — or even help you avoid getting sick in the first place?

"While no single food is a magic cure when you're sick, eating a nutrient-rich diet full of vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants that support your immune system can make a real difference," says registered dietitian Julia Zumpano, RD, LD. "A balanced, wholesome diet helps your body prevent illness—and when you do get sick, it helps you bounce back faster."

Zumpano shares several foods that can help strengthen your immune system — especially within a non-vegetarian diet, which can naturally include many sources of immune-supportive nutrients like zinc, omega-3s, and high-quality protein.

1. Fatty Fish
Fatty fish are packed with omega-3 fatty acids, which help reduce inflammation and support healthy immune

cell function. Chronic inflammation can weaken immunity, so adding more omega-3s to your diet can help protect against disease.

Try including fish such as:
§ Salmon
§ Mackerel
§ Herring
§ Sardines
§ Trout
§ Albacore tuna
"These essential fats support immune cell function and overall inflammation balance," explains Zumpano.

2. Citrus Fruits
Citrus fruits are rich in vitamin C, which helps promote immune cell function and may shorten infections.

Good sources include:
§ Oranges
§ Lemons
§ Limes
§ Grapefruits
"Instead of reaching for sugary orange juice, add fresh citrus slices to your

water or use lemon in dressings or marinades," suggests Zumpano.

3. Berries
Berries are full of vitamin C and polyphenols that have antiviral and antimicrobial effects.

Enjoy:
§ Strawberries
§ Blueberries
§ Raspberries
"Berries are low in sugar yet packed with nutrients — a great year-round choice for immune health," says Zumpano.

4. Broccoli
This cruciferous vegetable is loaded with vitamins A, C, and E, and contains sulphur compounds that help produce glutathione, an antioxidant that protects immune cells from damage.
5. Bell Peppers
Bell peppers — especially red and yellow varieties — have nearly three times more vitamin C than oranges. Snack on them raw or toss them into stir-fries, salads, or soups.

6. Spinach
Spinach provides vitamin A, folate, and antioxidants that enhance immune defence. Add it to smoothies, salads, or warm dishes like soups and pasta.

7. Yogurt
Yogurt contains probiotics, or beneficial bacteria that support gut health — and since much of your immune system resides in your gut, this connection is crucial.
Choose Greek yoghurt with live and active cultures, and avoid added sugars when possible.

8. Almonds
Almonds are rich in vitamin E, a key antioxidant, and healthy fats that help your body absorb it effectively. Just a handful (about 40 almonds) meets your daily vitamin E needs.

9. Sunflower Seeds
Sunflower seeds provide both vitamin E and selenium, which helps regulate immune activity — triggering

defence when needed and calming inflammation when it's not.

10. Garlic
Garlic's active compound, allicin, supports white blood cells that fight off viruses such as the cold and flu. Adding garlic to savory dishes not only boosts flavour but also helps strengthen immune response.

11. Ginger
Rich in vitamin C, magnesium, and potassium, ginger has natural anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. It can help soothe nausea and add a warm, spicy kick to teas, soups, and stir-fries.

12. Turmeric
Turmeric's active compound, curcumin, is known for its anti-inflammatory and antiviral effects. Add it to curries, soups, or golden milk for a nutritious immune boost.

*Read Full Story On
Kashmirobserver.net*

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 766889643759, from Ghulam Hassan Reshi S/o Ghulam Ahmad Reshi to Gh Hassan Reshi S/o Gh Ahmad Reshi. Now, the same is to be corrected. If anybody is having any objection, he/she may contact the concerned authority within a period of seven days, after that no objection will be entertained.

Gh Hassan Reshi
S/o Gh Ahmad Reshi
R/o Srandoo, Tehsil & District Kulgam

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Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: Colgate Keep India Smiling Scholarship 2025-26

Description: An initiative of Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited to provide financial assistance and support to individuals who are deserving and meritorious but may lack the resources to pursue their dreams.

Eligibility: Indian students who are currently enrolled in Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) (any year) or Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) courses in a recognised government or private institute. Applicants must have scored at least 65% marks in Class 12. Students must have an overall score of above 60% in their BDS to apply for the MDS scholarship. The annual family income of the applicants from all sources must not exceed INR 8 lakh.

Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship of INR 75,000

- Last Date to Apply: 09-11-2025
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/CKISSP7
- QR Code: <https://d1e9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/colgate-keep-india-smiling-scholarship-2025-261760354406.png>

Scholarship Name 2: Mahindra EmpowerHer Scholarship Program 2025-26

Description: The Mahindra EmpowerHer Scholarship Program 2025-26 is an initiative of Mahindra & Mahindra Limited, created to support meritorious students from Classes 9 to 12, as well as undergraduate or post-graduate courses in general disciplines with a fixed scholarship of INR 5,500.

Eligibility: Girl students currently in Classes 9-12 or under-

graduate and postgraduate courses in general disciplines are eligible.

At least 50% marks in the previous academic year/semester.*
Annual family income ≤ 4,00,000.

Students across India, with a preference for marginalised communities (PwD/SC/ST/OBC) are eligible. Children of Mahindra & Mahindra or Buddy4Study employees are ineligible.

Note: Students awaiting results may apply using their previous semester/year marks.

- Prizes & Rewards: Selected students will get a fixed scholarship award of INR 5,500
- Last Date to Apply: 15-11-2025
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/MNM2

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE)
Mechanical Division (North) Sopore

Extension Corrigendum

Sub: Extension of e-tender.

Ref:

1. This office E-NIT No. 11 of 2025-26, S. No. 03.

2. This office E-NIT No. 18 of 2025-26, S. No. 03, 04, 05, 06 and 09.

3. This office E-NIT No. 19 of 2025-26, S. No. 03.

4. This office E-NIT No. 21 of 2025-26, S. No. 06 and 07.

Due to poor response the above referred works are hereby extended as hereunder:

S. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.		Last date for online submission of bids	23-10-2025 (06:55 pm)
2.		Date of online opening of bids	24-10-2025 (02:00 pm)

All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

No.: PHE/MDNS/DB/3962-65
DIPK-7334/25

Dated: 18-10-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North)
Sopore

The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

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GST Rate Cut

30 Of 54 Daily-Use Items See More-Than-Expected Price Reduction



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- As many as 30 of the 54 daily-use items monitored by the government over the past almost a month has seen more-than-expected price cuts post reduction in GST rates, while for others the government will work with the industry to ensure further reduction in retail prices.

Government data showed that while prices of all 54 items have come down since September 22, the actual price cut in case of 24 items was less than the initial estimate of the government.

The government had asked its Central GST field offices to monitor price changes of 54 commonly used items like butter, ghee, cheese, powder, soap and others after lower Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates were implemented from September 22.

As per information received from 21 different CGST zones across the country, 30 items including AC machine, TV set, tomato ketchup, cheese, cement, have seen more-than-expected price reduction.

However, 24 items, including notebooks, chocolates, hair

oil, tooth paste, pencil, thermometer, and bicycle, have not seen expected decrease in price based on reduction of GST rate, assuming that all other cost and profit remain constant.

Effective September 22, Goods and Services Tax (GST) have become a two-tier tax structure of 5 and 18 per cent, and a special 40 per cent rate for ultra-luxury items. Prior to this, GST was taxed at rates of 5, 12, 18, and 28 per cent, plus a compensation cess on luxury items.

This has resulted in slashing of prices of as many as 375 items ranging from toothpaste and shampoo to cars and television sets.

As per the government data on monitoring of GST rate on sensitive commodities before and after GST rate reduction, in case of food items more than expected decrease in price based on average price reported by various zones was seen in dried fruits, cheese, condensed milk, jam, tomato ketchup, soya milk drink and drinking water bottle (20L). GST on all these items were slashed to 5 per cent effective September 22, from 12 per cent.

In case of butter, however, there is scope for more decrease in prices. Butter, which was taxes at 12-18 per cent depending on the type, was reduced to 5 per cent. The expected decrease, as per government estimates is between 6.25-11.02 per cent, while the actual decrease has been 6.47 per cent.

Ladakh LG launches REWA 2.0, Says Scheme Removes Financial Barriers For UPSC Aspirants



Press Trust Of India

LEH- Ladakh Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta on Saturday launched REWA 2.0 scheme here, saying this marks a significant milestone in the Union Territory's journey towards youth empowerment and equitable opportunity.

He said the scheme reflects his administration's commitment to enabling 80 meritorious yet economically disadvantaged candidates from Leh and Kargil to access quality coaching for the UPSC examination.

The Lt Governor stressed the need to make UPSC coaching more accessible for economically disadvantaged students from Ladakh, emphasising the importance of providing merit-based scholarships to attract talented candidates from the region who can crack the examination, secure top govern-

ment jobs, and serve the nation.

"The REWA (reaching educated and well-informed aspirants) 2.0 will provide a level playing field to deserving candidates by covering coaching and accommodation expenses of Rs 1.18 lakh each for a period of six months, enabling them to pursue training at reputed institutions of their choice across the country," he said.

The Lt Governor said the scheme underscores the administration's resolve to ensure that financial hardship does not hinder the aspirations of talented youth from Ladakh who wish to serve the nation through civil services.

Emphasising the need for greater access to high-quality coaching and mentorship for Ladakhi students, he said the initiative reflects the government's broader vision of inclusive development through education and opportunity.

Tourists Spots Closed After Pahalgam Attack Need To Be Reopened: CM Omar



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said his government's efforts to bring back tourists to the Union territory can work only after the tourist spots closed in the wake of Pahalgam terror attack are reopened.

"First, we have to reopen those places which have been shut. We did not shut these places in 35 years. When the militancy was at its peak, Drang or Doodhpathri were not closed, the upper areas of Gulmarg were not shut, Aru valley was not closed," he told reporters here.

Abdullah said some courage is needed to be shown and open tourist spots and pro-

mote them effectively.

Addressing criticism that his government was focusing too much on tourism, the chief minister said, "We are trying at our own level despite the fact that we are subjected to taunts that why are we doing so much tourism promotion?"

"We know that homes of lakhs of people depend on it and we want tourism to be restored to the level that was there before the Pahalgam attack."

The chief minister said his government has sent teams outside the country to promote tourism, pointing out that a big delegation is in Singapore to restore tourism from Southeast Asia. They will also go to Berlin and London next month for tourism promotion, he added.

"If we talk about within the country, Nasir (Aslam Wani) had recently gone to Udaipur for promotions. We are not leaving any stone unturned. I cannot say that the Centre has not supported us, but, the reality is that unfortunately, we are talking in two voices from within J-K."

"On one hand, the elected government talks about tourism promotion, but on the other, the unelected government has kept a large part of Kashmir closed for tourism," he said.

Abdullah said if they are afraid to reopen famous resorts like Doodhpathri, Drang and some parts of Gulmarg, "it means there is danger. That is the reason the tourists are not coming."

WE KNOW THAT HOMES OF LAKHS OF PEOPLE depend on it and we want tourism to be restored to the level that was there before the Pahalgam attack."

Ghanta Ghar To Tick Craft Bells On Oct 25 In 2nd Edition Of 'Know Your Artisan' Series

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Riding high on the resounding success of its inaugural outing, the Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, is all set to host the second chapter of the "Know Your Artisan" initiative under the vibrant Soulful Kashmir campaign.

Following the overwhelming response at the Jhelum River Front, where crowds flocked to witness live craft demonstrations, forge direct connections with master artisans, and snag authentic GI-tagged treasures, the spotlight now shifts to Ghanta Ghar (Clock Tower Arena), here in the city centre, on October 25.

In a press statement issued here today, a spokesman of the department, urged the people to come in large numbers to support the renowned artisans from Kashmir, whose exquisite handmade products have set the highest standards in global markets.

"Expect an afternoon brimming with immersive experiences, hands-on interactions with a fresh lineup of renowned artisans showcasing specialties



like intricate woodwork, exquisite embroidery, and timeless weaving techniques; interactive storytelling sessions revealing the soul-stirring journeys behind each creation; and vibrant display-cum-sale stalls offering exclusive deals on Soulful Kashmir-branded masterpieces," he added.

Giving details, the spokesman stated that as many as 10 stalls will be installed in various GI crafts during the 'Know Your Artisan' campaign from

10.00 am to 9.00 pm. "The campaign will also have separate 'Try Your Hands' corner where visitors can have first-hand experience on pottery wheels, handlooms and spinning of Pashmina.

Issuing a fervent appeal to the visitors to become 'Vocal for Local, the spokesman hoped that the event will rekindle our shared pride in Kashmir's artisanal legacy while opening doors to sustainable livelihoods.

GST Reforms PM Modi's 'Diwali Gift', Says Govt; Cites Record Sales Across Sectors

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI- The government on Saturday hailed the GST reforms as a "Diwali gift" to consumers, pointing to a surge in festive sales across sectors including automobiles, electronics, and daily essentials.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and information and broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, said the lower GST rates introduced on September 22 are already boosting household consumption.

The revamped GST structure, which came into effect on September 22, 2025 has led to price reductions in 375 items, ranging from toothpaste and shampoo to cars and televisions.

The GST Council had approved the overhaul on September 3, introducing a simplified two-rate system of 5 and 18 per cent in place of the earlier four-rate structure of 5, 12, 18, and 28 per cent.

The finance minister said 99 per cent of daily-use items are now cheaper under the new regime.

Sitharaman said the government has been monitoring 54 essential items to ensure that the benefits of the tax cuts are passed on to consumers.

"We found that in every one of them, the tax benefit due to the GST reforms has been passed to the end consumer. The Prime Minister's Diwali gift has been delivered," she said.

She added that in some cas-



es, businesses had passed on higher-than-expected benefits to consumers.

"GST rate reduction has resulted in an increase in purchases. The consumption drive will continue," Sitharaman said, noting that the lower rates have already boosted sales in automobiles, electronics, and FMCG sectors.

The GST reforms, while hailed by the government as a "Diwali gift", have also drawn heavy criticism from some quarters. Consumers on social media pointed out that the prices of several essential items, including cooking oils and grocery staples, have in fact risen since the reforms.

The finance minister informed that the consumer affairs department has received 3,169 complaints regarding non-reduction in prices commensurate with GST cuts, of which 3,075 have been forwarded to nodal officers in the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

94 complaints have been resolved so far. To streamline the process, the department will soon enable a new functionality on the grievance reporting portal to forward complaints directly to chief commissioners of respective zones.

Apple's iPhone Air Sold Out In China Minutes After Its Launch

Press Trust of India

BEIJING- Apple's iPhone Air sold out within minutes of its launch in China on Friday, notwithstanding the current tariff war between Washington and Beijing.

The new iPhone instant sale also underscores its popularity among Chinese consumers despite competition from Android devices.

The strong sales followed Apple CEO Tim Cook's visit this week to promote the product in the world's largest smartphone market amid ongoing geopolitical tensions between China and the US.

Cook is the chairman of an advisory body at China's Tsinghua University's management school.

During his visit, he also met Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng, who heads China's trade delegation, which is currently holding trade talks with the US to resolve tariffs on Chinese exports.

Pre-sales for the iPhone Air, which supports only e-SIM, began at 9 am local time on Friday, more than a month later than most of the world.

Minutes after bookings opened, the model was sold out at all bricks-and-mortar stores in Beijing and Shanghai, as well as in cities like Tianjin, according to Apple's website. Online shipments were delayed by one



to two weeks, according to the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post.

The robust demand reflects the positive reception of Apple's newest and thinnest model in the Chinese market despite heightened competition from local brands such as Huawei Technologies and Xiaomi, which are striving to expand in the higher-end market in a challenging economy, the report said.

The Chinese smartphone market contracted 3 per cent year on year in the third quarter, with Vivo capturing an 18 per cent share to claim the top spot.

Huawei and Apple followed in second and third place with 16 per cent and 15 per cent shares, respectively, trailed by Xiaomi and Oppo.

Cook has emerged as one of the most prominent US business leaders actively engaging with Chinese consumers and government officials.

Maruti Hits Record Sales On Dhanteras, Expects To Cross 50k Units; Hyundai Sees 20% Growth

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Car market leader Maruti Suzuki India on Saturday said it expects to have record sales on Dhanteras clocking over 50,000 units, while rival Hyundai Motor India also posted over 20 per cent growth over last year at about 14,000 units.

This year Dhanteras is spread over two days as it was in the last year between Saturday and Sunday. Although many customers hesitate to buy the metal on Saturday, Maruti Suzuki India is expecting to reach around 41,000 deliveries today, company Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Partho Banerjee told reporters in an interaction.

"This is going to be the all-time high deliveries, which we have done during the period of any time.



Moreover, we are expecting that there will be another 10,000 customers who have hesitated to take the delivery today, due to Saturday, they will be taking the delivery tomorrow," he noted. He further said, "We are expecting to cross even the 50,000 mark."

The company's production team is also working even on holiday to meet Dhanteras demand, Banerjee said.

The company's previous highest Dhanteras sales was last year when

it clocked around 41,500 units, he added.

Due to the "GST 2.0 magic" many of the customers are flocking to the showrooms, he said, adding in many of the places the company may not be in a position to give vehicles unless bookings and deliveries are not taken on time.

Expressing similar views, Hyundai Motor India Ltd MD & CEO Designate Tarun Garg said, "We are witnessing strong customer demand, with deliveries expected to be around 14,000 units approximately, 20 per cent higher than last year. The positive momentum is driven by the festive spirit, a buoyant market environment and the encouraging impact of GST 2.0 reforms."

He also noted that this year, Dhanteras deliveries are spread across multiple days because of it being a Saturday.

State Taxes Dept Supports Rural Women Entrepreneurs On Diwali

Observer News Service

JAMMU- In true spirit of Diwali, a team from J&K State Taxes department, led by Additional Commissioner Enforcement and Administration Jammu, Namrita Dogra visited stalls set up by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the J&K Rural Livelihood Mission (Umeed) at Excise and Taxation Complex here.

The officers enthusiastically interacted with the women entrepreneurs and purchased 'diyas, decorative items, candles, and other festive products, showcasing their solidarity and encouragement towards local talent and self-reliance.

Speaking on the occasion, Namrita Dogra expressed heartfelt appreciation for the creativity and determination of the SHG members. "These women are not just crafting beautiful products; they are shaping brighter futures for their families and communities," the Additional Commissioner said. "This Diwali, I personally pledge to continue supporting Self-Help Groups by buying from them and encouraging others to do the same. Every small purchase from a local artisan lights up many homes."

The initiative, under the supervision of Additional Commissioner, highlighted the department's commitment towards promoting local entrepreneurship and women empowerment. The event reflected how collective efforts and conscious choices can bring festive cheer and sustainable growth to the grassroots level.

Dhanteras Buying Goes On; High Gold Prices Drive 40% Surge In Silver Sales

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI- Despite high prices, consumer demand for silver outpaced gold on the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras, with silver coin sales surging 35-40 per cent year-on-year and overall value more than doubling, even as the jewellery industry expects a 15 per cent volume drop for gold.

Dhanteras, the most auspicious day in the Hindu calendar for buying precious metals, is being celebrated over two days until 1:45 pm on Sunday. Jewellery stores remain open through midnight and on Sunday.

While gold prices surged 63 per cent to Rs 1,32,000 per 10 grams of 24-carat (inclusive of taxes) in the national capital -- up from Rs 81,400 last Dhanteras on October 29, 2024 -- silver prices went up by 40 per cent, yet demand held firm.



In major markets, gold and silver prices saw a modest correction on Dhanteras. In Mumbai, 24-carat gold eased to Rs 1,28,000 per 10 grams on Saturday from Rs 1,30,000 on Friday, while silver fell to Rs 1,70,000 per kg from Rs 1,77,000. In Delhi, gold dropped to Rs 1,32,000 per 10 grams (from Rs 1,34,800) and silver to Rs 1,70,000 per kg (from Rs 1,77,000).

The overnight Rs 2,000 dip in gold further fuelled purchases. Buying momentum picked up post-lunch, with consumers shifting to coins and bullion in 1-50 gram denominations for investment, early weddings, and light-

weight jewellery.

According to All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) Chairman Rajesh Rokde, "Dhanteras 2025 has seen a 10-15 per cent dip in overall volume compared to last year, but value is up sharply... we expect festive sales to cross Rs 50,000 crore."

"Despite high prices, sentiment remains upbeat, driven by strategic purchases. Silver coins and puja items surged 40 per cent year-on-year, marking silver's rise as a smart, value-focused investment," he told PTI.

GJC Vice Chairman Avinash Gupta highlighted consumer maturity: "Average transaction value rose 20-25 per cent despite volume dips from high prices. Most encouraging is the 35-40 per cent surge in silver coin sales, especially in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, where buyers opted for budget-friendly investments and ceremonial gifting."



J&K LG Manoj Sinha, leading the Indian delegation, has arrived in Russia to bring back India's sacred Buddha relics. Sinha on Saturday met Batu Sergeyevich Khasikov, Head of the Republic of Kalmykia, Russia, and held discussions on strengthening cultural and spiritual cooperation between the two regions.



Speaker Forms Business Advisory Panel

Agencies

Srinagar: Ahead of the Assembly Season, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather has formed a Business Advisory Committee. According to a communique, the panel has been formed by the speaker under Rule 317 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir legislative Assembly. Sunil Kumar Sharma, Leader of Opposition, Ali Mohammad



Sagar, Mubarik Gul, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, Gulam Ahmad Mir, Sajad Gani Lone, Mohammad Fayaz, and Choudhary Mohammad Akram are its members.(KNO)

All Options Open for By-Polls: Tariq Karra



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Pradesh Congress Committee Tariq Hamid Karra on Saturday said that all options are open for the party regarding the Budgam and Nagrota by-polls. In response to a question on whether the Congress will field candidates from both the Budgam and Nagrota seats, Karra said, "All options are open. I have submitted my report to the central leadership, and they are reviewing it." He admitted that the National Conference has

offered them the Nagrota seat. "They have offered it to us. We have presented our case before the central high command, and we are waiting for their response," he said. When asked whether Omar Abdullah's statement on smart meters would be a problem for the party, Karra said it was for the National Conference to explain. "We don't have any issue with it. That was not in our manifesto. It is for them to explain what they had said earlier and what they are saying now," he said.

Tobacco Sale, Storage Banned Within 100-Meter Radius Of Schools, Colleges In Ajas

Agencies

Srinagar: In a move aimed at protecting students' health, Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Ajas, has imposed a complete ban on the sale, storage, and offering of tobacco products within a 100-meter radius of all educational institutions under his jurisdiction. The order has been issued under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production,

Supply, and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA), and came into immediate effect. The directive prohibits individuals and shopkeepers from selling or storing tobacco products near schools, colleges, and other educational establishments. All vendors operating within the restricted zones have been instructed to cease sales immediately. The magistrate has directed the D.O. Ajas to enforce the order strictly and initiate legal proceedings against violators under the

relevant provisions of the COTPA Act. Locals and educational institutions have been urged to report any breaches of the order to the nearest police station or the office of the Executive Magistrate. Authorities have warned that violations will attract strict penal action under the law. Copies of the order have been circulated to the District Magistrate Bandipora, Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora, SDPO Sumbal, and the D.O. Ajas for necessary action and compliance.

Travelling Without Ticket In Jammu Division

Over 600 Rail Passengers Fined Rs 5 Lakh

Press Trust Of India

Jammu:The Jammu Division of Northern Railway has conducted an extensive ticket checking and collected fines worth Rs 5 lakh from 673 passengers, an official said on Saturday. The drive was conducted by

a team headed by senior divisional commercial manager Uchit Singhal at all the important stations of the division, including Jammu, Pathankot Cantonment, Pathankot City, Katra, Srinagar and Budgam, the official said in a statement. As many as 673 passengers were charged for travelling without ticket, leading to the collection of fines amounting to about Rs 5 lakh, the official said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Has Taken

statehood, Shah said. "He may be speaking out of political compulsions. But statehood would be restored at an appropriate time, following discussions with him."

Regarding recent agitations in Ladakh, Shah said the Union government is "in talks with the committees of Leh and Kargil" and urged the people to remain patient, assuring that "there will be a good resolution of all their just demands."

Asked about activist Sonam Wangchuk, currently in jail for allegedly inciting protests in Leh, Shah said, "I can speak of the demands of the people, not about any individual. The matter is before the court, which will decide based on evidence."

Shah also addressed Maoist insurgency, asserting that the government has undertaken a "ruthless campaign" against the ideology, claiming that over 600 Maoist camps have been dismantled in the past 11 years. "Maoism will be completely wiped out by December 31, 2026," he declared.

Will Omar Move

Omar said he is consulting senior lawyers in Jammu and Kashmir as well as in Delhi to explore the legal option, given his unique position as someone who has served both as the chief minister of a state and of a Union Territory.

"I don't think anybody else understands the disadvantages that we are put to by being a UT than I do. I am the only person in the entire country with the experience of being both the chief minister of a state and the chief minister of a UT. I can put it on paper and share with the honourable Supreme Court when they have to decide about the statehood to J&K," he said.

He added that the decision will depend on legal advice. "This is something that is actively being discussed with a legal team and based on their opinion, there is a possibility that as chief minister, I will make myself a party to this case," he said.

The Supreme Court is currently hearing a batch of petitions seeking restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and has given the Centre four weeks to respond.

On the political front, Omar made it clear that his party has no plans to join hands with the BJP to speed up the statehood process. "Tying up with the BJP or an alliance with the BJP is out of the question," he said.

He added that Jammu and Kashmir is still paying the price for the PDP-BJP alliance formed in 2015. "We have already seen how much that destroyed J&K. We are still suffering the after-effects of that. I have no intention of repeating mistakes that other people have made," the chief minister said.

Omar said if the restoration of statehood depends on the BJP forming a government in the region, the national party should be honest about it. "If that is the case, the BJP should tell us that so long as there is a non-BJP government in J&K, you will not get statehood. Then we will decide what we want to do," he remarked.

He also highlighted the confusion arising from dual governance in the Union Territory setup, revealing that his government's appointed advocate general has not been allowed to function. "We appointed an advocate general within days of coming to power. Technically, we have an AG but he has not been allowed to work," he said, adding that the authority to appoint the AG rests with the elected government.

On the situation in Ladakh, Omar said the Centre had failed to keep promises made to the region's people. "The crisis in Ladakh is extremely unfortunate. Promises were made which have not been kept. Ladakhis were promised the Sixth Schedule but not granted. Do you want to push the people of Jammu and Kashmir to the wall as well?" he asked.

He said both Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh deserve the promises made to them after the revocation of Article 370. "Two Union Territories were born out of one state, yet J&K has been treated differently. The main promises made to the people should be kept," Omar said.

Govt Won't Bow

said the Cabinet had accepted the sub-committee's report on the reservation policy and directed the concerned department to prepare a memo for formal approval before it is sent to the Lieutenant Governor.

"The Cabinet sub-committee's report has been accepted by the Cabinet. The department has been asked to prepare a memo for the Cabinet's approval. This will then go to the LG (for approval) as all Cabinet decisions go," he said.

Omar was replying to criticism from opposition parties who alleged that the government had reduced the quota for the Resident of Backward Area (RBA) category in the revised reservation policy.

He maintained that it would be "incorrect" to discuss the contents of the report before it reaches Raj Bhawan. "For me now, before the memo has reached the LG, to start discussing the contents of that memo would be incorrect," he said.

"There is no attempt to delay or hide anything," he added.

Reiterating that the report will be announced only after the Lieutenant Governor's approval, Omar added, "There is a procedure, and that is being followed. It is not only improper, it is bordering on illegal to release the information that has not even reached the LG."

200 Free Power

pledged to abolish their installation.

"Without smart meters, it is impossible to precisely quantify power consumption and thereby fulfil the commitment of free units," Omar said.

The Chief Minister maintained that the roll-out of smart meters has already led to a qualitative enhancement in electricity management and a marked improvement in power stability, even during exigent circumstances such as floods.

"Our objective is to ensure consistent supply, curtail losses, and rationalize billing. In fact, in numerous cases, accurate load assessment through smart metering has actually diminished the financial burden on economically weaker households," he added.

Omar emphasized that the government is endeavouring to fortify the energy infrastructure to guarantee uninterrupted power supply, particularly during the harsh winter months.

"We are upgrading systems, modernizing distribution networks, and mitigating long-standing inefficiencies to ensure reliability and transparency in power delivery," he remarked.

On cabinet expansion Omar revealed that the much-speculated cabinet expansion is being "actively contemplated" and will be executed following the conclusion of the forthcoming by-elections.

He further disclosed that the candidate for the Budgam bypoll will be unveiled within the next 48 hours.

"The constraints inherent in the Union Territory structure—particularly the artificially curtailed number of ministers—have limited regional representation. Nonetheless, the notion that one must hold a ministerial portfolio to serve the people is misconceived. Each member of the cabinet is mandated to work for the collective welfare of the Union Territory," Omar said.

Omar also said that his government will revoke the Public Safety Act (PSA) immediately after statehood is restored, without waiting for an assembly session.

"We said in the manifesto that we would remove the Public Safety and Security Act (PSA) from Jammu and Kashmir. To remove it, we must have statehood. Security, law and order, all these things should be under the control of the elected government. The day these things are ours, I won't even wait for the assembly session. We will remove the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA) through an ordinance," Omar said.

Responding to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement in Patna that statehood would be restored at an "appropriate time" after discussions, Omar rejected any linkage between statehood and incidents like the Pahalgam attack, noting that those involved were not from J&K. He also dismissed suggestions that statehood restoration depends on the BJP's return to power, firmly ruling out any alliance with them, citing the "devastating" PDP-BJP alliance of 2015.

J&K Bank H1

RRB' direction, the Bank today recorded a net profit of Rs 494.11 Cr for the Q2 and Rs 978.95 Cr for H1 of the CFY.

Reflecting steady core operations, the Bank's Net Interest Income (NII) for the half-year (H1) is marginally up by 3.4% Year-on-Year at Rs 2899.43 Cr, while for Q2 NII stood at Rs 1433.99 Cr. In line with its market guidance, the Bank has maintained its NIM at 3.64% for the half-year (H1). The Bank's other income for H1 was at Rs 405.19 Cr while the Cost to Income Ratio for the half-year stood at 60.80%.

Commenting on the Bank's Q2H1 numbers, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "In spite of widespread disruptions during the first quarter following the Pahalgam incident and the extensive damage caused by floods in the second quarter, the overall growth we have recorded is both encouraging and reassuring."

"Even though profitability for Q2 was moderated due to an additional impairment provision of Rs 92 Cr made during the quarter in compliance with regulatory requirements, the performance is better than what was anticipated under the challenging circumstances," he added. Notably, the Bank has made a total provisioning of Rs 180 Cr towards Jammu and Kashmir Grameen Bank during the first two quarters of the current financial year. Excluding the impact, the Bank's H1 profitability would be upwards of 15% YoY.

Asset-Quality Despite difficult situation arising out of Pahalgam attack in Q1 and floods, landslides thereafter in Q2, the Bank has gained further stability in asset quality. During the quarter, the Bank's Gross NPA Ratio has declined 18 basis-points QoQ to 3.32% and decreased by 63 bps YoY from 3.95% recorded in September, 2024. The Net NPA ratio has also moderated by 9

bps YoY to 0.76% from 0.85%, while declining 6 bps from 0.82% recorded for the June quarter of current financial year. Meanwhile, Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of the Bank continued at above 90% level, while the Return on Assets (RoA) stood at 1.17% for the half-year.

On the Bank's asset-quality, MD & CEO expressed optimism, saying, "With GNPA around 3.30% half-way through the year, I think on asset quality front, our progress is steady. And with our robust and focused risk-management practices in place, I remain optimistic about meeting our annual guidance of below 3% GNPA by the financial year-end. Besides, our PCR is also healthy at 90.39%."

Business Growth

During the quarter, the Bank's deposits witnessed growth of 10.23% Year-on-Year basis reaching Rs 152030 Cr, while as the net advances increased by 9.38% YoY to Rs 105153 Cr from Rs 96139 Cr recorded last year. Up by 18 bps in sequential terms from 45.71% recorded in Q1, the Bank's CASA stood at 45.89% for the Q2 and continues to be one of the highest in the industry.

Regarding business growth, MD & CEO said, "Marking a nearly 10% year-on-year growth in business numbers reaching Rs 2.57 Lac Cr, our Q2 performance demonstrates the Bank's operational discipline."

"Our deposit growth is at par with the industry average, while advances primarily driven by Agri/corporate segments have shown good credit growth both in sequential and YoY terms. Our CASA ratio also exhibited a slight uptick to 45.89% on sequential basis, underscoring our commitment to sustained, quality growth," he added.

He further said, "Despite tough challenges, this steady performance in the first half of the financial year affirms my confidence that we are very much on track to achieve our annual guidance growth numbers."

Capital Adequacy

The Bank's Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) for the July-September quarter stood at 15.27% as against 14.99% recorded last FY. In his remarks on capital position, the MD & CEO said, "With a CRAR of over 15 %, we remain well-capitalized and positioned to support future growth opportunities while maintaining financial discipline. Significantly, the CAR is exclusive of half-yearly profit of Rs 978.95 Cr, which would otherwise result in taking the ratio to above 16%."

Building Business Momentum

Commenting upon the Bank's growing operational focus in rest of the country, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee asserted, "We continue to execute our policy of expanding operations beyond J&K, strategically partnering with top-tier corporates across India. Simultaneously, through increased engagement of the Bank's leadership with the clientele across these geographies, we are in the process of sharpening our focus on building a gainful niche in the retail landscape outside J&K, particularly in the personal banking/finance segment."

Concluding his remarks, he said, "All these initiatives are tangible markers of the transformation currently underway at our Bank. However, the foundation of our progress rests on a firm triad: our people, our processes and our technology. And we are steadily strengthening all these pillars, ensuring that efficiency, resilience and excellence remain at the core of every facet of our operations."

J&K LG In Russia

to the sacred relics of Mahatma Buddha. The relics, recognised as a National Treasure of India, had been brought from India and enshrined at the Geden Sheddup Choikorfing Monastery, the main Buddhist monastery in Kalmykia.

The event was marked by traditional rituals and prayers attended by monks, devotees, and officials, reflecting the deep-rooted spiritual and cultural ties between India and the Buddhist community in Russia. The Republic of Kalmykia, located in the Volga region of European Russia, is the only region in Europe where Buddhism is the predominant religion.

LG Sinha, who has arrived to bring the relics back to India, expressed heartfelt reverence during the ceremony, saying, "I pray to Lord Buddha to bless us all and strengthen the spiritual bond between our peoples." He further added, "The sacred relics' enshrinement in Elista represents not only a moment of devotion but also a reaffirmation of India's enduring commitment to sharing the universal message of peace, compassion, and harmony taught by Lord Buddha."

The relics were originally brought to Kalmykia by a high-level Indian delegation led by UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, along with senior Indian monks, to allow the local population to pay their respects.

LG Discusses

holy relics, the Lieutenant Governor emphasised the long-standing India-Russia relations, stating, "The holy relics visit to this land is also testimony of the decades-long relations that India and Russia have shared. India and Russia will complete 80 years of diplomatic relations in 2027, and we in India look forward to marking this important milestone by organising a range of bilateral events and activities."

LG Sinha also announced plans for an India Festival in Kalmykia in April 2026 and assured that India would make every effort to ensure the event is a grand success, reflecting the strong cultural connections between the two regions.

Upon his arrival, Sinha was warmly received by First Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Republic of Kalmykia, Tserenov Erdni Nikolayevich; Deputy Chairman Dzhambinov Ochir Vladimirovich; and Deputy Chief of the Indian Mission, Nikhilesh Giri.

The visit underscores India's commitment to strengthening spiritual and cultural ties with Kalmykia while fostering the enduring friendship between India and Russia as the two nations approach their 80th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

Release Reservation

in Budgam.

The sub-committee has already submitted its report, and the concerned department has been asked to draft a memo, which will be approved by the cabinet before being sent to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for final approval.

However, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah clarified on Saturday that the report will be released only after LG approval. "No government works under pressure, and I am the last person who you can pressurise to do something. There is a procedure, and that is being followed. It is not only improper, it is bordering on illegal to release information that has not even reached the LG," he said at a press conference in Srinagar.

Mumbai Beat J&K By 35 Runs In Srinagar

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Left-arm spinner Shams Mulani spun a web around Jammu and Kashmir to grab a seven-wicket haul as Mumbai beat the hosts by 35 runs in an exciting opening round group D encounter in the Ranji Trophy, here on Saturday.

Jammu and Kashmir needed 222 runs to reach the winning target of 243 on the final day but courtesy Mulani, who also scored 91 in Mumbai's first essay, the home team were all out for 207 in 64.4 overs.

With the pitch assisting slow bowlers, Mulani returned with 7/46, his 17th five-wicket haul in first-class cricket, as the portly left-arm orthodox spinner once again became his team's 'go-to' man with his all-round skills.

For the hosts, opener Qamran Iqbal (56) and his 53-run stand with skipper Paras Dogra (29) did raise hopes at one point with the scoreboard reading 84/2.

But once Mulani breached Dogra's defence and off-spinner Tanush Kotian induced a return catch from IPL specialist Abdul Samad (15), things went downhill for Jammu and Kashmir.

Once Iqbal became Mulani's third victim and J&K were reduced to 131/6, there was no turning back for Mumbai as he got wickets at regular intervals to get six points for his team.

Brief Scores:
Mumbai 386 and 181. J&K 325 and 207 (Qamran Iqbal 56, Shams Mulani 7/46). Points: Mumbai 6. J&K 0.



Abid Bhat/NO

District Police Srinagar U-20 Football Tournament Kicks Off



The District Police Srinagar U-20 Football Tournament, organised under the Civic Action Programme by Zonal Police East Srinagar, commenced Saturday at Polo Ground Synthetic Turf in Srinagar. The tournament is being held under the leadership of City Police Chief Dr. G.V. Sundeeep Chakravathy, IPS.

Former JKFA member Wasim Aslam lauded the outstanding leadership of Dr. G.V. Sundeeep Chakravathy, IPS, and commended the dedicated efforts of the officials of Zonal Police East Srinagar — Raja Zuhaib (JKPS), SP East; Yaseer Ahmad (JKPS), SDPO Kothibagh; and Adil Ahmad, SHO Kothibagh — for organising such a meaningful and well-coordinated sporting event.

Organised by J&K Police, District Srinagar, in collaboration with the Football Fraternity of J&K (UT), the tournament features eight U-20 teams representing both Downtown and Uptown Srinagar:

- Polo Ground FC
- Dynamo FC Alochi Bagh
- Nowgam Youth
- Towheed Tigers Anchor
- KFC Bemina FC
- JKFC Eidgah
- City Club Dalgate
- Upper Town FC

The inaugural match was played between Dynamo FC Alochi Bagh and Polo Ground FC, with Polo Ground FC emerging victorious by 1-0. (Observer News Service)

SA Seal Semi Berth After Rain Washes Out NZ-Pak Clash

Rain had the final say as the Women's ODI World Cup group match between New Zealand and Pakistan was abandoned, a result that confirmed South Africa's qualification as the second team to make it to the semifinals, here on Saturday.

After several interruptions, play was finally called off at 9pm local time with Pakistan 92 for 5 in 25 overs after New Zealand had opted to field.

Both teams shared a point each.

New Zealand remained fifth with four points from five matches, while Pakistan, yet to register a win, stayed rooted to the bottom of the eight-team table with two points. (PTI)

Zimbabwe To Replace Afghan In Pakistan Tri-Series

Zimbabwe will replace Afghanistan in the three-nation T20I tournament to be played in Pakistan from November 17 to 29, the PCB said on Saturday.

Afghanistan announced earlier in the day that it would not be sending its team to Pakistan for the tournament, citing the tragic death of three of its cricketers which it claimed occurred in Pakistan's air strikes in Paktika province.

Sri Lanka are the third side in the tournament beginning in Rawalpindi.

In a statement announcing Zimbabwe's participation, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) merely said that "Afghanistan expressed their inability to participate in the tournament."

The tri-series will commence on November 17, with hosts Pakistan taking on Zimbabwe at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. The second fixture will also be played at the same venue on November 19, when Sri Lanka take on Zimbabwe.

Following the two matches in Rawalpindi, the action will shift to Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, which will stage the remaining five matches, including the final on November 29. (PTI)

Barcelona Beats Girona In Stoppage Time; Flick To Miss Clasico



Substitute Ronald Araújo snatched Barcelona a 2-1 victory over Girona in stoppage time in La Liga on Saturday and ended a mini losing streak before the clasico at Real Madrid next week.

The central defender made the move of a striker when he slid in front of his marker as they raced to the near post and skilfully redirected a low pass from Frenkie de Jong and ignited the home crowd.

Araújo's last-gasp goal came moments after Barcelona coach Hansi Flick was sent off with two quick yellow cards apparently for complaining that the referee had not added more than four minutes of injury time.

The sending off means Flick won't be on the sideline for the first clasico of the season.

With his team stymied in attack and scorers Robert Lewandowski, Raphinha and Ferran Torres unavailable because of injury, Flick sent on Araújo in the 82nd and ordered him to join the attack in their desperate search for a winner. (AP)

Afghanistan Pull Out Of Pakistan Tri-Series After Killing Of Players In Paktika



Press Trust of India

KABUL: Afghanistan on Saturday withdrew from the upcoming tri-nation T20I series in Pakistan, following the death of three Afghan cricketers in what it claimed was a "cowardly attack carried out by the Pakistani regime."

According to reports, Pakistan conducted airstrikes in the Argun and Barmal districts of Paktika province,

also halting the ceasefire between the two nations.

The series involving Pakistan, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka was scheduled to be played between November 17-29.

In a strongly worded statement, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) said it was "deeply saddened" by the "tragic martyrdom" of the players — Kabeer, Sibghatullah and Haroon — who, along with five others from

Urgun District in Paktika Province, were killed when they were attacked after returning from a friendly match in Sharana, the provincial capital.

Several others were injured in the incident.

"The Afghanistan Cricket Board expresses its deepest sorrow and grief over the tragic martyrdom of the brave cricketers from Urgun District in Paktika Province, who were targeted this evening in a cowardly attack carried out by the Pakistani regime," ACB said in a statement.

"The ACB considers this a great loss for Afghanistan's sports community, its athletes, and the cricketing family," the board said, while extending condolences to the bereaved families and the people of Paktika Province.

The ACB said its decision to pull out of the series was taken as a gesture of respect to the victims.

"In response of this tragic incident and as a gesture of respect to the victims, the Afghanistan Cricket Board has decided to withdraw from participating in the upcoming Tri-Nation T20I Series involving Pakistan, scheduled to be played in late November."

"May Allah grant the martyrs the highest ranks in Jannah and bless the injured with a speedy recovery," the statement added.

Loss Of Afghan Talent A Tragedy: Jay Shah



International Cricket Council chairman Jay Shah on Saturday expressed his condolences at the death of three promising Afghanistan cricketers, who lost their lives in an air-strike conducted in the Argun and Barmal districts of Paktika province.

According to reports, it is believed that Pakistan conducted airstrikes which have also halted the ceasefire between the two nations.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of three young Afghan cricketers, Kabeer Agha, Sibghatullah, and Haroon, whose dreams were cut short by a senseless act of violence," Shah wrote on X.

"The loss of such promising talent is a tragedy not just for Afghanistan but for the entire cricketing world. We stand in solidarity with the Afghanistan Cricket Board and all those mourning this heartbreaking loss," he added.

Inter-College Volleyball & Weightlifting Tournaments Conclude At KU



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The University of Kashmir concluded its Inter-College Volleyball and Weightlifting Tournaments, organised by the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports.

More than 320 athletes from various colleges participated across men's and women's categories.

Held under the University's Annual Sports Calendar, the tournaments showcased outstanding talent, sportsmanship, and competitive spirit, providing a platform for students to qualify for All India and North Zone Inter-University Championships under the Association of Indian Uni-

versities (AIU), New Delhi.

Women's Volleyball
In the women's volleyball event, 23 teams from across the Kashmir competed over 10 days. The final featured a thrilling five-set battle between the Post Graduate team and Government College of Physical Education, Ganderbal. After a strong comeback by the Post Graduate team, GCOPE, Ganderbal, clinched the championship in the decisive final set.

Weightlifting Championship
The University hosted the Inter-College Weightlifting Championship for

the first time, promoting Olympic and Commonwealth disciplines. Over 10 colleges participated, with GDC Shopian, Srinagar Women's College, and the Post Graduate contingent securing the top three positions in the overall medal tally.

A prize distribution ceremony held at Ground A saw medals and certificates presented by Prof. Showkat Ahmad Shah (Department of Psychology) and Dr. Surjeet Singh (Coordinator, Directorate of Physical Education and Sports).

The event proceedings were conducted by Mr. Tausif Bhat (Assistant Director) and Mr. Muneer Alam (Volleyball Coach).

Day 2 Protests By La Liga Players Against Game In Miami Still Censored On TV

AP

BARCELONA: For a second straight day, protests by La Liga players against the league's decision to stage a game in the United States were not broadcast for television audiences.

Neither of the television feeds for Saturday's Sevilla-Mallorca and Barcelona-Girona contests started with a normal wide shot of the field, which would have shown the players remaining still for the first 15 seconds after kickoff in opposition to a regular season game between Barcelona and Villarreal in Miami in December.

The TV broadcast at Sevilla focused closely on the center circle for the first seconds, while at Barcelona the feed was from outside

the stadium.

The players' union announced the protest plans on Friday, saying all the captains of the top flight teams supported it for games in the ninth round from Friday through Monday.

For the first protest on Friday night, the TV feed showed the outside of Oviedo's stadium while its players and Espanyol's held the protest. The feed went back to normal after 25 seconds when the players had started play.

The union said the symbolic action was to protest the "lack of transparency, dialogue and coherence of La Liga regarding the possibility of playing a game in the United States."

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick and veteran midfielder Frenkie de Jong have

criticized the Miami game, saying it adds unnecessary extra travel to their already packed schedules.

The Dec. 20 match will be at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, home of the NFL's Miami Dolphins.

La Liga president Javier Tebas has defended the game as a key to boosting "revenues in the mid- to long-term" and increasing the value of his competition's television rights, which lag behind those of England's Premier League.

Barcelona president Joan Laporta backs the move by saying it represents an opportunity to further push into the American sports market.

Tebas said the league plans to make an international match an annual event.









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