



EKTA DIWAS

31 October



The **grateful Nation**
fondly remembers
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
on his **150th** Birth Anniversary

Prime Minister
SHRI NARENDRA MODI
will offer floral tributes to the Iron Man of India
and address the Nation in his remembrance

On this Ekta Diwas, let us participate in large numbers in the
'Run for Unity' being organized in our district and strengthen
the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'

EKTA DIWAS EVENTS

- ❖ Ekta Parade
- ❖ Brass band performances
- ❖ Horse, dog, and camel contingents
- ❖ Martial arts showcase by women performers
- ❖ BSF Dog show (Indigenous Breed)
- ❖ Daredevil riders' performance
- ❖ School band presentation
- ❖ AIR show by the Indian Air Force
- ❖ "Loh-Purush" – A Theatrical Presentation Based on the Life of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- ❖ Celebration of Ekta Light Festival
- ❖ State exhibitions from 1st to 15th November under Bharat Parv



CBC 19101/13/0022/2526



“Rashtriya Ekta Diwas honours Sardar Patel's invaluable contribution towards unifying the nation. May this day strengthen the bonds of unity in our society.”
-Narendra Modi

Date: **Friday, 31 October 2025**

Venue: **Parade Ground, Statue of Unity, Ekta Nagar, Gujarat**

Time: **7.00 AM onwards**

♦ The event will be broadcast live on **DD News** ♦



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KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Friday | 31-10-2025

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, HADI IRFAN RESHI, S/O IRFAN HUSSAIN RESHI, R/O GOOM AHMADPORA, hereby inform the general public that I have lost my Class XII Provisional-cum-Character Certificate issued by Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School, Magam. Details of the Certificate:
Name of Certificate Holder: Hadi Irfan Reshi
Parentage: Irfan Hussain Reshi
Residential Address: Goom Ahmadpora
Passing Year: Regular 2024
Class Roll No.: 113/Sci.
Board Roll No.: 321002097
"Now I applied for Duplicate Certificate; if anybody has any objection or has found the said certificate, he or she may kindly contact the Admission Department/Principal Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School, Magam, within 7 days of this notice."

Sd/-
fko Hadi Irfan Reshi

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Mohammad Shafi Bhat to (New Name) Mohammad Shakir Bhat. In future I will be known by (new name) Mohammad Shakir Bhat. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Sub District Court Pattan within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Mohammad Shakir Bhat
S/O Mohammad Maqbool Bhat FKO
R/O Allaporra Wagoora District Baramulla

University of Kashmir, Srinagar

Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:
Name: Sahil Saleem Rather
S/o Ab Hamid Rather
R/o Langate District Kupwara
Registration No : 13276-HD-2014
Certificate/s lost:- 1st year Marks Certificate, 2nd year Marks Certificate and Degree Certificate
Session/ Year May- June 2017
Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled
Assistant Controller
of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof
FKO



PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/her adhaar card as Imad Yousuf while his correct name is Imad Yaqoob. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Wazeera Akhter
M/O Imad Yaqoob fko
R/o Audoora Dist. Shopian

NOTICE

I Mushtaq Ahmad Khanday ,F/o Saliha Khanday,do hereby certify that I am applying for correction of mother's name in the school records of my child,who is studying in Noorani Pacific School,Bakura Alesteng,Correct Mother's Name: Funcy Akhter Incorrect Mother's Name: Mehmooda. If anybody having any objection to the said correction he/she may inform the school authorities within 7 days of this notice .After that no objection will be entertained.
Name of parent: Mushtaq Ahmad Khanday(father of Saliha Khanday)
Address: Wahbor colony Bakura Ganderbal

Media Line advt

NOTICE

I Mushtaq Ahmad Khanday ,F/o Rabia Jan ,do hereby certify that I am applying for correction of mother's name in the school records of my child,who is studying in Noorani Pacific School,Bakura Alesteng,Correct Mother's Name: Funcy Akhter Incorrect Mother's Name: Mehmooda. If anybody having any objection to the said correction he/she may inform the school authorities within 7 days of this notice .After that no objection will be entertained.
Name of parent: Mushtaq Ahmad Khanday(father of Rabia Jan)
Address: Wahbor colony Bakura Ganderbal

Media Line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my bank records maintained at J&K Bank Safa Kadal from Qazi Umar to Qazi Umer Shah as per my Adhaar details. If anybody has any objection to the same, he may represent before the Branch Head, J&K Bank Safa Kadal, within a period of 07 days.
Qazi Umer Shah
S/o Qazi Abdul Rashid Shah
R/o Patlipora Bala, Chattabal, Srinagar info

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abrar Altaf S/o Mohd Altaf Beigh Resident Of Wangipora, Sumbal, Bandipora, have applied for an EWS Certificate bearing Application No. JK-REV-EWS/2025/07210). If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may report to the Tehsildar, Sumbal Sonawari, Bandipora within 7 days of this notice. PD

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is informed through the medium of this public notice that in the Matric certificate of CBSE S.No. SSE/2009/0152968 my name and my father's name is wrongly mentioned as Furqan Iqbal S/o Iqbal Ahmad while my true and correct name and father's ame is Furqan Iqbal Shah S/o Iqbal Ahmad Shah. If anybody has an objection, he has to make his objection within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice, after seven days no objection shall be entertained.
Furqan Iqbal Shah
S/o Iqbal Ahmad Shah
R/o Alfaroq colony, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar
Cell No:7889432941 FKO

CAR SOLD

I, M/s Comtech Info Solution Pvt. Ltd., Prop. Sheikh Imtiyaz Ahmad, R/o 14 Abi Guzar, Ghat Kothi Bagh, Srinagar, hereby inform that I have sold my vehicle Scorpio bearing Registration No. JK01T-0023, Model 2012, Chassis No. 31122, and Engine No. 94930 to Mohd Maqsood S/o Mohd Latief, R/o Ward No. 03, Kosalian, Tehsil Haveli, District Poonch (Aadhaar Card No. 4629 2011 2207) on 24-05-2015. Henceforth, the purchaser shall be solely responsible for any consequences, claims, or liabilities arising in connection with the said vehicle from the above-mentioned date.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Mohammad Suhail to (new name) Mohammad Suhail Baba. In future I will be known as my (new name) Mohammad Suhail Baba. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office Srinagar, within & 7 days. After that no objection will be accepted.

Media Line advt

Government Unani Medical College & Hospital, Nawabagh, Ganderbal, Kashmir

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Short Term tenders affixed with revenue stamp worth Rs.5/- ,are invited from the registered dealers for supply of following books to the GUMC Ganderbal for their use in the Central Library of the college:-

S.No.	Name of the book	Authors	Publishers	Qty
		Modern Medicine		
01	Parsons disease of eye	Ramanjit sihota/ Radhikha Tandon	Elsevier	05
02	Essentials of Ear, Nose and Throat	Mohan Bansal	Jay-pee brothers	05
03	Colour Atlas of Clinical Dermatology	Atif Hussain Kazmi	Jay- pee publishers	01
04	Practice of Dermatology	P.N Bhel	CBS Publishers	10
05	Dermatology & sexually transmitted diseases	Neena Khanna	Elsevier	05
06	Manipal Manual of Surgery	K. Rajgopal shenoy	CRC press	05
07	Textbook of Surgery	S. Das	Jaypee brothers	02
08	Essentials of obstetrics	Aruikumar S, Sivasesaratnam	Jaypee brothers	02
09	Gynecology by Ten Authors 18th Ed.	Monga A	Jaypee brothers	08
10	Cecils Essential of Medicine 10th edition	Edward J Wing	Elsevier	02
11	Essentials of Pediatrics	OP Ghai	CBS Publishers	10
		Unani Books		
12	Jild Wa Tazeeniyat	Dr. Arshad jamal	Zia Book Dept. New Delhi	10
13	Uzn. Anaf Wa Halq	Hakeem Mohd Yousuf Ansari	Idara Kitab us shifa	10
14	Sharah Asbab (02 volumes)	Gh Hassan Kantoori	Idara kitab us shifa	10
15	Amraze Niswan	Hkm. Waseem Azmi	Idara Kitab us shifa	05
16	Kitabul Qabala	Hkm. Yousuf Ansari	Idara Kitab us shifa	05
17	Tariekh Tibt wa Akhlaqiyat	Prof Ashar Qadeer	Idara Kitab-ush Shifa	10
18	Mufradate Asri	Javied Ahmad Khan	Mohammadia Tibia College Melegaon	10
19	Qadeem Ilmul Amraz	Prof. Syed Zillur Rehman	Idarakitab us Shifa	100
20	Ilaj Bit Tadbeer	Javid Ahmad Khan	Mohammadia Tibia College Melegaon	20
21	Kuliyat e-Asr Amoore Tibiya (English)	Prop Ishtiyaaq	Idara Kitab Us Shifa	10

The tenders should be pledged to the Principal Government Unani Medical College Cum Hospital Nawabagh Ganderbal Kashmir, and should reach to the office of Accounts Officer GUMC, Nawabagh, Ganderbal Kashmir within a period of seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Terms and Conditions:

- The tenderer should possess Tax Clearance Certificate from the concerned Tax Department.
- The tenders must be submitted in sealed envelope.
- The rates should be quoted inclusive of all taxes, services charges, freight etc.
- The rates must be mentioned without any cutting, overwriting, erasers etc and in case only of these is found, the tender shall not be entertained.
- The total amount for supply of aforesaid books may not exceed to Rs. 1.50 lakhs (Rupees one lakh fifty thousand only).
- The tenders will be opened in the Office of the Accounts Officer GUMC Nawabagh Ganderbal on, 13.11.2025 in presence of the bidders which wish to be present.

GQ.Wani
Accounts Officer

GUMC/Admn/231/2024
DIPK-7608/25 Dated: 30-10-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.

Fax No: 0194-2497093 website: www.medkashmir.org

Corrigendum 13 For Date Extension

Name of work:- Restoring functionality through repairs / maintenance of Bore Well No. 102 of department of Agriculture in District Pulwama under implementation of National Mission of Saffron (under Culuster-1).

Reference: This office e-NIT No: - MDSK/TS /2025-26/11' Date:27-06-2025.
(Tender Id: - 2025_PWDJK_279966_1)

Due to no response, the critical dates of the above referred e-NIT are extended as under: -

S.No.	Description	Previous Dates	New Dates.
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	30-10-2025 upto 06:55 PM	12-11-2025 upto 09:00 AM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	31-10-2025 at 02:00 PM	12-11-2025 at 02:00 PM

All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Machinery Division, Kashmir.

DIPK-7635/25
dtated: 30-10-2025

No: MDSK/TS/3440-43

Date: 30-10-2025.

EXCEPTIONAL ACADEMY
FOR IAS/JKAS/12TH/NEET/JEE

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LG Sacks Two Teachers Over Terror Links

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday dismissed two government teachers for their alleged links with the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror outfit.

The teachers, identified as Ghulam Hussain and Majid Iqbal Dar, were terminated under Article 311 of the Constitution, which allows dismissal without a departmental inquiry. Officials claimed both were working as overground workers (OGWs) for LeT, involved in radicalisation and terror funding.

The LG-led administration said the move is a part of its "zero tolerance" policy against terrorism and a broader crackdown on the "terror ecosystem" operating within the Union Territory.

With the latest action, the administration has now terminated the services of approximately 80 government employees over the past five years by invoking the special constitutional provision.



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Giving details of the terminated employees, the officials said Hussain, appointed as Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teacher in 2004, was regularised in 2009 and posted at the government Primary School, Kalwa, Mahore in Reasi.

According to the officials, Hussain was covertly working for LeT to carry out terrorist activity. As an overground worker (OGW), he was tasked to strengthen the terror network in Reasi and [More on P10](#)

WITH THE LATEST ACTION, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS now terminated the services of approximately 80 government employees over the past five years by invoking the special constitutional provision.

Reservation Report Submitted To Cabinet: Govt Says Policy In Line With Constitutional, Judicial Principles: Govt

Agencies

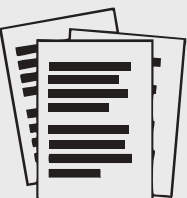
Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday disclosed that the cabinet sub-committee on reservation has submitted its report to the council of ministers and it shall be finalized in due course after obtaining requisite approval from the competent authority.

In its reply to a question submitted by Peoples Conference President Sajad Gani Lone and Independent MLA Shabir

Kulley, the Minister in charge of the General Administration Department informed the Assembly that the cabinet

sub-committee, after due deliberations and consultations with stakeholders, has submitted its report to the Council of Ministers. The report shall be finalized in due course of time after obtaining the requisite approval of the competent authority, the minister said.

The Minister said that the existing reservation policy broadly aligns with constitutional [More on P10](#)



J&K ASSEMBLY

Flood Row: House Erupts After Speaker Blocks Motion

MLAs' Disqualification Rules, GST Amendment Bill Listed For Today

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Thursday witnessed uproarious scenes after Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather disallowed an adjournment motion moved by BJP legislators seeking an immediate discussion on the plight of flood victims.

As soon as the House commenced proceedings, BJP MLAs stood up demanding suspension of the Question Hour to take up the issue, calling it the "most pressing concern" for people affected by recent floods. The Speaker, however, turned down the request, clarifying that the matter could be discussed during



the Zero Hour.

Unhappy with the decision, BJP members trooped into the well of the House, shouting slogans against the government and accusing it of insensitivity towards flood victims.

Their protest disrupted the Question Hour, forcing the Speaker to issue repeated warnings.

Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma slammed the government for [More on P10](#)

Four Key Amendment Bills Passed

Observer News Service

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Thursday passed four important Bills — including amendments to the Panchayati Raj, Cooperative Societies,

and Shops and Establishments Acts, besides approving the J&K Tenancy Bill, 2025. All four Bills were passed through voice vote. The Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2025, aimed at strengthening grassroots governance, [More on P10](#)

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas LG Pays Tribute To Sardar Patel

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha paid tributes to the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 150th birth anniversary.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said, "On the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, which commemorates the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, I extend warm greetings to the people and hope the celebration will further strengthen the spirit of oneness and peace. Sardar Patel was the 'Architect of National Unity' and epitome of patriotism and integrity. His unwavering commitment laid the foundation of a modern India. Let us pledge to follow his ideals and [More on P10](#)

Domestic Violence Cases Spike 121% In J&K

2,872 Complaints Registered In Two Years

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a sharp rise in domestic violence cases, with over 2,800 complaints registered in the last two financial years, the government informed the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

Responding to a question by National Conference (NC) MLA from Habbakadal, Shamim Firdous, Minister for Social Welfare Sakina Itoo said that a total of 2,872 domestic violence cases were registered during 2023-24 and 2024-25 through the One Stop Centres for Women (Sakhi Centres) and the Mission Shakti dashboard.

According to official data,



893 cases were recorded in 2023-24, while 1,979 cases were lodged in 2024-25 — marking a 121 per cent increase in just one year.

The minister said that the Sakhi Centres, operating under the Directorate of Mission Shakti since 2018, offer comprehensive support to women in distress, including

medical assistance, psycho-social counselling, legal aid, temporary shelter, and police support.

"These centres are also integrated with toll-free helpline numbers — 181 (Women Helpline Service) and 112 (Emergency Response Support System) — to ensure swift coordination and response to survivors of violence," Itoo said.

She added that the centres are mandated to ensure the safety and rehabilitation of women affected by domestic violence, cyber harassment, eve-teasing, sexual harassment, and rape.

Officials said the rise in reported cases reflects both increased [More on P10](#)

Justice Surya Kant Appointed New CJ

Art 370, OROP among his key verdicts

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Justice Surya Kant, who was on Thursday appointed as the 53rd Chief Justice of India, has been part of several landmark verdicts and orders on abrogation of Article 370, removing Jammu and Kashmir's special status, the Bihar electoral rolls revision, the Pegasus spyware case, corruption and gender equality.

Justice Kant, the second senior-most judge of the apex court, will take the oath of office on November 24 and remain CJ for nearly 15 months. He will demit office on February 9, 2027, on attaining the age of 65 years.

The Department of Justice in the Union Law Ministry issued a notification announcing Justice Kant's appointment.

The process to appoint Justice Kant as successor of incumbent CJ B R Gavai was set in motion last week by the Law Ministry. He was elevated to the top court on May 24, 2019.

On October 27, Justice Gavai recommended to the Centre the name of Justice Kant as the next CJ.

Born on February 10, 1962, in the Hisar district of Haryana to a middle-class family, Justice Kant went from being a small-town lawyer to the country's highest judicial office, [More on P10](#)

152 Lives Lost In Recent J&K Floods

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government informed the Legislative Assembly that 152 lives were lost and over 69,707 hectares of crops were damaged due to recent flash floods, cloudbursts and incessant rainfall across the Union Territory.

In a written reply to an unstarred question tabled by MLA Dr. Bashir Ahmad Veeri, the Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Department shared division-wise details of the damages and relief provided so far.

According to the official figures, Jammu Division recorded the highest loss with 151 deaths and 4,534 livestock deaths. A total of 1,591 houses were fully damaged, 4,326 severely [More on P10](#)

9 Lakh Apple Boxes Sent Out by Train: J&K Govt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday said around 14,000 metric tonnes of apples — nearly nine lakh boxes — have been transported from the Valley to outside markets this season via railways.

The Minister in charge of Agriculture Production and allied departments said the use of train services has reduced transport costs and ensured smooth movement of fruit, especially during highway blockades.

During the recent road closure, over 1.25 lakh apple boxes worth 10.03 crore were dispatched from Budgam and Anantnag to Jammu and Delhi.

The government said additional vehicles through JKSTRTC were also arranged to address truck shortages, while the Mughal Road was kept functional as an alternate route.

Pahalgam Terror Attack Trial MHA Appoints Special Public Prosecutor

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has appointed Advocate Shri Singh as the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) to represent the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack case, which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead, and 16 others wounded.

A MHA notification states that Shri Singh will handle the trial and related proceedings before the NIA Special Court in Jammu and the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"The central government hereby appoints Mr Shri Singh, advocate, as Special Public Prosecutor for conducting trial and other matters related to NIA case No. RC-02/2025/NIA/JMU, on behalf of the NIA, before the NIA special court, Jammu and High Court



of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh for a period of three years from the date of publication of this notification or till the completion of trial of the said case, whichever is earlier," the notification reads.

His appointment will remain valid for three years from the date of notification or until the completion of the trial, whichever comes earlier.

The order was issued under

sub-section (1) of Section 15 of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008, read with sub-section (8) of Section 18 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.

It authorises the SPP to represent the NIA in case number RC-02/2025/NIA/JMU. Officials said the appointment is intended to ensure that the trial progresses efficiently and that the prosecution's [More on P10](#)

Govt Seeks PIB Nod For Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel

Peerzada Mohsin Shafi

Srinagar: After months of uncertainty, the long-pending Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel Project on the NH-244 corridor has received a renewed push from the government. Officials informed the Legislative Assembly on Monday that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the strategically important tunnel is being revised by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) to incorporate essential technical changes.

The clarification came in response to a query by MLA Payare Lal, who sought an update on the project's status. Once the revised DPR is finalised, it will be submitted to the Public Investment Board (PIB) for appraisal, likely next month, officials

said.

Reinforcing the momentum, newly elected Rajya Sabha member Sajad Kichloo expressed confidence that the long-awaited tunnel would soon see tangible progress. He underscored the project's significance for the people of Chenab Valley and Kashmir, who have long demanded an all-weather link to overcome recurring disruptions on the Srinagar-Jammu Highway during winters.

Initially approved on July 18, 2022, under Bharatmata Pariyojna Phase-I and entrusted to NHIDCL, the project faced delays after the tendering process was cancelled in 2024 due to pending security clearances.

Once completed, the tunnel is expected to drastically improve travel efficiency, boost trade [More on P10](#)

WINTER MOVE

Home Dept To Work From Both Srinagar, Jammu

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: In view of the upcoming winter season 2025-26, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has ordered that key offices under the Home Department will function simultaneously from both Srinagar and Jammu.

As per Government Order No. 522-Home of 2025, the arrangement includes Police Headquarters, Prisons Headquarters, Directorate of Prosecution, Police Housing Corporation, Homeguards, Civil Defence & SDRF, Fire & Emergency Services, Forensic Science Laboratory, Sainik Welfare, and Defence Labour Procurement offices.

The Heads of Departments have been directed to ensure equitable [More on P10](#)

Mumbai Hostage Taker Shot Dead: 17 Children Rescued

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai: Mumbai Police on Thursday rescued 19 persons including 17 children from a studio in Powai area while the man who had held them hostage succumbed to bullet injuries sustained during the operation, officials said.

Rohit Arya (50), who released a video statement during the hostage drama that

15 years old -- for an audition for a web series. The auditions were going on for the last two days, police officials said.

Besides an air gun, he was carrying some chemicals, they added.

Initially, police did not mention that there had been a firing during the operation. Arya was declared dead at 5.15 pm, officials said.

After receiving a call about a man holding children



went on for about an hour, saying he wanted to "ask questions to some people", was shot by police when he tried to harm the children with an air gun and later died at hospital, officials said.

"At about 1.30 pm, Powai police station received information that a person had taken 17 children hostage at Mahavir Classic building. The Mumbai Police team conducted a rescue operation and safely freed all the children. During the operation, while rescuing the children, the person got injured, was immediately rushed to the hospital and later declared dead," said Deputy Commissioner of Police Datta Nalawade.

"All the children are safe," said Satyanarayanan, Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order).

Arya had called the children -- boys and girls around

hostage inside R A Studio in Mahavir Classic building, Powai police officials along with a Quick Response Team (QRT), Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad and a fire brigade team reached the spot, said DCP Nalawade.

Before the police entered the studio, Arya released a video which went viral on social media.

"I am Rohit Arya. Instead of (committing) suicide, I made a plan and have taken a few children hostage...I have very simple demands. Very moral, ethical demands. I have some questions. I want to speak to some people and on their answers, if there are any counter-questions, I want to ask them. But I want these answers. I do not want anything else. I am not a terrorist, nor do I have any demand of money. Want to make simple conversations," he said.

SC to Deliver Verdict in Lawyers' Summons Case Today

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to deliver on Friday its verdict in a suo motu matter concerning the summoning of advocates who give legal opinion or represent parties during the probe of cases.

A bench headed by Chief Justice B R Gavai had on August 12 reserved its judgment in the suo motu case titled In Re: Summoning advocates who give legal opinion or represent parties during investigation of cases and related issues.

While hearing the matter on July 29, the top court said if a person was merely acting as a lawyer, then he should not be summoned by probe agencies for rendering legal opinion to a client who was under investigation.

The apex court, however, said if a lawyer was assisting the client in the crime, then he could be summoned.

Earlier, the apex court had observed that the En-

forcement Directorate (ED) was "crossing all limits" and expressed serious concern over the agency summoning lawyers for offering legal advice or representing clients during investigations.

It had also called for guidelines on the matter.

The suo motu case came in the wake of the ED summoning senior lawyers Arvind Datar and Pratap Venugopal.

On June 20, the ED said it directed its investigating officers not to issue summons to any advocate in money laundering investigations being carried out against their clients. An exception to this rule can only be made after "approval" by the agency's director, it added.

The ED, tasked with combating money laundering crimes, had issued a circular for guidance of its field formations, stating that "no summons" should be issued to any advocate in violation of Section 132 of the Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023.



US Ends Automatic Extension of Work Permits for Foreigners

Press Trust Of India

Washington ~ Weeks after raising H1B visa fees to USD 100,000, the US authorities announced the end of automatic extension of work permits for foreigners, in a move likely to impact a large number of Indian immigrants and workers.

In its latest efforts to crack down on immigration, the US Department of Homeland Security made the announcement on Wednesday while prioritising "the proper screening and vetting of aliens (foreigners)" before extending the validity of their Employment Authorisation Documents (EAD).

As per the new rule, foreigners who file to renew their EAD on or after October 30, 2025, will no longer receive an automatic extension, the DHS said in a news release.

"It's a commonsense measure to ensure appropriate vetting and screening has been completed before an alien's employment authorisation or documentation is extended. All aliens must remember that working in the United States is a privilege, not a right," USCIS Director Joseph Edlow was quoted as saying in the release.

The move results in more frequent vetting of foreigners who apply for employment authorisation to work in the United States.

Those impacted by the decision include spouses of certain H-1B principal non-immigrants, spouses of an L nonimmigrants, spouses of an E nonimmigrants, and foreigners with refugee or asylee status.

The DHS asked foreigners to "seek a timely renew-

al of their EAD by properly filing a renewal application up to 180 days before their EAD expires."

"The interim final rule does not affect EADs automatically extended before October 30," the DHS said.

As per the old rule under the Biden administration, foreigners who used to timely file a Form I-765 to renew their EAD used to get 540-day automatic extension.

US President Donald Trump, on September 19, signed a proclamation raising the fee for H1-B visas to a staggering USD 100,000 annually.

The United States was home to about 4.8 million Indian Americans as of 2022, according to data from the US Census Bureau. Out of this, 66 per cent of Indian Americans are immigrants, while 34 per cent are US-born.

What Are Rare Earths And Why Are They So Important?

Reuters

London/Beijing, : US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping have wrapped up a summit in South Korea with a deal to keep Chinese rare earth exports flowing.

Here are some basic facts about these obscure elements making headlines around the world:

What are they?

Rare earths are a group of 17 elements, including 15 silvery-white metals called lanthanides, or lanthanoids, plus scandium and yttrium.

What are they used for?

Rare earths or the magnets which they are sometimes made into can be found in small but important quantities in everything from iPhones and washing machines to the F35 fighter jet.

They are also used in electric vehicles (EVs), medical equipment, oil refining, and other military applications such as missiles and radar systems.

Without them, supply

chains quickly grind to a halt.

Automakers were forced to paused some production earlier this year after Chinese export controls caused shortages.

Are they rare?

They are not rare in the sense that they are uncommon; some are more common than lead, for example. But they tend to be spread thin around the Earth's crust in small quantities and mixed together or with other minerals, so larger deposits are difficult to find and costly to extract.

What country is the biggest producer?

While US scientists helped developed a process to separate and refine rare earths in the 1950s, China since the 1980s has come to dominate the industry thanks to lower costs, laxer environmental standards and decades of government support.

China accounts for about 60% of global mine production and 90% or more of refined production and rare

earth magnet output.

Projects are under way across the U.S., Europe, and Australia to build an alternative supply chain but it will take years to produce meaningful quantities.

In the meantime, China is restricting exports of an increasing number of the elements and the equipment needed to mine and refine them.

What are their names?

In their periodic table order, they are: scandium, yttrium, lanthanum, cerium, praseodymium, neodymium, promethium, samarium, europium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, and lutetium.

What environmental impact do they have?

Processing rare earths often involves the use of solvents, which can produce toxic waste that pollutes the soil, water, and atmosphere. More environmentally friendly technologies are being developed, but they are not yet widely used.

CBSE Sets Up IIT Led Panel to Develop AI Curriculum

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education has constituted an expert committee chaired by an IIT Madras professor to develop the curriculum for Artificial Intelligence and Computational Thinking (AI & CT), officials said.

The move comes following the plan to roll out AI curriculum in all schools from class 3 onwards from 2026-27.

"A stakeholder consultation was held on Wednesday bringing together expert bodies including CBSE, NCERT, KVS, NVS, and external experts. The CBSE has constituted an expert committee chaired by Karthik Raman, Professor, Department of Data Science and AI, IIT Madras, to develop the AI & CT curriculum," said School Education Secretary Sanjay Kumar.

"Artificial Intelligence and Computational Thinking will reinforce the concept of learning, thinking, and teaching, and will gradually expand towards the idea of AI for public good.

for public good.

"This initiative marks a nascent yet significant step towards the ethical use of AI to solve complex challenges, as the technology will be organically embedded from the foundational stage, beginning in Grade 3," he added.

He noted that the curriculum must be broad-based, inclusive, and aligned with the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE), 2023, adding that "every child's distinct potential is our priority".

Earlier, Kumar had emphasised that education in AI should be treated as a basic universal skill linked to The World Around Us (TWAU).

"Our job as policymakers is to define the minimum threshold and re-evaluate it based on the changing needs," he had said.

At present, over 18,000 CBSE schools offer AI as a skill subject from class 6 onwards through a 15-hour module, while classes 9-12 have it as an optional subject.

Smog Chokes Delhi, Air Quality Nears 'Severe'

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi : The national capital's air quality is inching towards the "severe" category with an AQI reading of 375, bringing it into the red zone on Thursday.

The thick haze and smog enveloping the city have reduced visibility, with PM2.5 levels standing at 184.4 and PM10 at 301.9, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Several areas in the city recorded alarming AQI levels, with Vivek Vihar (426), Anand Vihar (415), Ashok Vihar (414), Bawana (411), Wazirpur (419) and Sonia Vihar (406) standing in the "severe" category. As many as 37 out of 38 monitoring stations reported "very poor" air quality with readings above 300, CPCB data showed.

A blanket of haze and smog covered Delhi on Thursday morning, trapping pollutants and worsening air quality, which had remained in the "poor" category for the past few days. The city's AQI rose sharply from 279 a day earlier to 375, CPCB data showed.

As per CPCB, PM10 -- which includes inhalable particles such as dust, pollen, and smoke was recorded at 301.9, while PM2.5, a fine particulate matter that penetrates deep into the lungs and poses severe health risks, stood at 184.4, both considered "hazardous".

Environmentalist Vimlendu Jha said the yellowish smoky layer seen in the morning was smog -- a mixture of fog and air pollution is smog which reduces visibility and poses serious health risks, especially for vulnerable groups.

The Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi stated that the city's ventilation index -- which reflects

A blanket of haze and smog covered Delhi on Thursday morning, trapping pollutants and worsening air quality, which had remained in the "poor" category for the past few days

the atmosphere's capacity to disperse pollutants, remained below the favourable level of 6,000 m²/s.

Weak winds under 10 kmph and high humidity have prevented pollutants from dispersing, leading to a hazy sky.

At 7.30 am, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported visibility of 1,000 metres in Palam and 800 metres in Safdarjung, both witnessing calm wind conditions.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 to 100 'satisfactory', 101 to 200 'moderate', 201 to 300 'poor', 301 to 400 'very poor' and 401 to 500 'severe', according to the CPCB classification.

The minimum temperature settled at 20.1 degrees Celsius, four notches above normal, while the humidity stood at 90 per cent at 8.30 am. The maximum temperature is likely to hover around 30 degrees Celsius.

The weather department has also predicted cloudy sky with light rain or drizzle for later today.

NEWS MAKERS

95-Year-Old Dies by Suicide; Family Cites Voter List Stress

Press Trust Of India

Kolkata: A 95-year-old man from West Bengal's Paschim Medinipur district allegedly died by suicide in Birbhum after being reportedly distressed over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, his family claimed on Thursday.

This is the second such death reported in West Bengal in the past 72 hours, following a similar incident at Panihati near Kolkata. A farmer in Cooch Behar, who tried to end his life, is currently admitted to the hospital.

According to police, the deceased, identified as Kshitish Majumdar, was found hanging at his daughter's residence in Ilambazar area of Birbhum district on

Wednesday night. "The man was found hanging from the ceiling of one of the rooms of his daughter's residence here in Ilambazar. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination. His family alleged that the person was under severe stress, fearing exclusion following the voter list verification process," a police officer claimed.

Family members said Majumdar had been anxious after learning that his name was missing from the 2002 electoral rolls.

"He would often say that since his name was not there in the 2002 voter list, he would have to go back to Bangladesh," a family member said, adding that he had been mentally disturbed over the matter. Police have registered an unnatural death case and begun an investigation.

Police sources said Majumdar's family moved to West Bengal from Bangladesh in 1995 and settled in Paschim Medinipur district.

Initial probe revealed that Majumdar was listed on the voter rolls and had exercised his franchise multiple times over the years, the source said.

"Majumdar was repeatedly told by his neighbours that anyone whose name did not appear on the 2002 voter list would have to return to Bangladesh. The warnings reportedly left him deeply anxious," he said.

No official statement has yet been issued by the Election Commission (EC) regarding the incident.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee condemned the deaths and the suicide bid allegedly linked to distress over the

proposed SIR in the state.

Banerjee said the incidents reflected the "tragic consequences of the BJP's politics of fear, division and hate". "We are witnessing the tragic consequences of the BJP's politics of fear, division and hate. Within 72 hours of the Election Commission's announcement of the SIR exercise in Bengal - An exercise bulldozed through at the BJP's behest. One avoidable tragedy after another has occurred," Banerjee posted on X.

Referring to the recent cases, she said, "And today, 95-year-old Kshitish Majumdar from Kotwali, Paschim Medinipur living with his daughter in Ilambazar, Birbhum ended his life, gripped by the fear that he and his family might be dispossessed of their land."

Elderly Man Dies After Losing ₹1.2 Crore in 'Digital Arrest' Scam

Press Trust Of India

An 83-year-old Pune resident died of heart attack a month after being duped of Rs 1.2 crore in a "digital arrest" scam, where fraudsters posing as police and CBI personnel targeted him and his wife, officials said on Thursday.

The fraudsters threatened the man, a retired government official, claiming his name had surfaced in a money-laundering case involving a prominent person, they said.

"The man's wife filed a complaint on Tuesday, a week after he died of heart attack," a Cyber Police Station official said.

"Digital arrest" is a fraud aimed at extorting money from

victims using fear, deceit and intimidation. Fraudsters impersonate law-enforcement officials, using threats of arrest and freezing of bank accounts, among others, to force the victims into paying money as "fine" or sort of "security deposit" to avoid legal action.

The Pune-based man received a call in August from a person claiming to be an officer from Colaba police station.

"The caller cited the 'Nareish Goyal money laundering case' and told the man that his involvement had come to light, but he denied. During another video call, two fraudsters posing as IPS officer Vijay Khanna and CBI officer Daya Nayak threatened that he and his wife would be arrested," the cyber

police official said.

The couple was then forced to remain on a video call for hours, during which they were told that they were under "digital arrest", the police said.

Under the pretext of verifying their bank accounts, the fraudsters allegedly coerced them into transferring Rs 1.19 crore into multiple accounts between August 16 and September 17, assuring that the amount would be returned once their names are cleared, as per the police.

"After learning about the fraud, we asked the couple to come and file an FIR, but they said they would do so only after their daughter arrives from abroad," the official said.

Govt Frames SOP For Jhelum Flood Management

Rules Out Alternate Channel

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday informed the Legislative Assembly that a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been established to manage flood situations along the River Jhelum, particularly at the Kandizal Breach Point in Pulwama.

Responding to a question by MLA Ali Mohammad Dar, the Minister in charge of the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) said the SOP was formalised on June 10, 2024, by the Chairman of the Central Flood Committee (Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir).

perintending Engineer of the Hydraulic Circle (I&FC Department) will carry out the controlled breach using excavators, while Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Srinagar, and Budgam will simultaneously oversee rescue, relief, and public information measures.

The Minister also said that a Rehabilitation Committee has been constituted under the 2017 Government Order to coordinate assistance for families living near the breach point. Multiple committees at divisional, district, and zonal levels have been formed to ensure coordinated flood management.

A Central Flood Control Room will function round the clock in Srinagar, supported by zonal teams comprising officials from SMC,



The SOP specifies that any deliberate breach of the Jhelum embankment at Kandizal—meant to divert excess floodwaters into low-lying areas—will be executed only after thorough assessment of water discharge and gauge levels at Sangam and Pampore, and with the approval of both Central and Divisional Flood Committees.

Once approved, the Su-

R&B, MED, SDRF, Police, and Civil Defence. Vulnerable areas will be mapped into zones, each supervised by a Zonal Magistrate responsible for evacuation and relief operations.

However, the government clarified that “no proposal for an alternate flood channel from Kandizal onwards is under consideration at present.”



A potter shaping clay on his wheel during an exhibition in Srinagar. KO Photo by Abid Bhat

₹700 Cr Lal Chowk–Parimpora 4-Lane Flyover Project Approved

Topographical Survey & Geotechnical Investigation In Progress: Govt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday informed the Legislative Assembly that a four-lane flyover from Lal Chowk to Parimpora Junction — spanning 7 kilometers and estimated to cost 700 crore — has been approved among 19 major infrastructure projects for the Union Territory.

Responding to an un-starred question by MLA Tariq Hameed Karra, the Minister in-charge of Public Works (R&B) Department said that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), in its meeting held on June 19, 2025, approved the Action Plan for 2025–26, which includes 19 national highway proj-

The draft alignment, plan, and profile of the flyover are under preparation. Once finalized, the draft will be submitted to the Ministry for approval so that the structural design is sanctioned and the work can be tendered and executed

ects across J&K.

Among them is the ambitious “4-lane flyover from Lal Chowk to Parimpora Junction on NH-1 in Srinagar City,” aimed at easing traffic congestion and improving connectivity across the summer capital.

Officials said that survey and design work is currently underway, while the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and related technical investigations are in progress.

The department informed that topographical surveys, geotechnical investigations, and Automatic Traffic Counter and Classifier (ATCC) studies are being conducted at key intersections along the proposed route.

“The draft alignment, plan, and profile of the flyover are under preparation. Once finalized, the draft will be submitted to the Ministry for approval so that the structural design is sanctioned and the work can be tendered and executed,” the department’s reply stated. (inputs from KNS)

World Stroke Day

Dept Of Neurology Organizes Stroke Awareness Walkathon

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the eve of World Stroke Day, the Department of Neurology, Government Superspeciality Hospital, Shireenbagh, Srinagar, organized a Stroke Awareness Walkathon at the picturesque River Front, Rajbagh, aimed at educating the public about stroke prevention and timely management.

Around 200 people from various walks of life, including Senior Citizen Groups, Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC), Central Government Pensioners' Welfare Association, Department of Education Kashmir, B.Sc. and MBBS students, and doctors from different hospitals across the Valley participated in the event, officials said.

The Walkathon was flagged off by Principal & Dean, Government Medical College Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah, accompanied by Prof. (Dr.) Bashir Ahmad Sanaie, Head, Department of Neurology, and Dr. Rubina, Medical Superintendent, Government Superspeciality Hospital, Shireenbagh.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Bashir Ahmad Sanaie, Dr. Atif Rasool Kawoosa (Assistant Professor, Neurology, and Organizing Secretary of the event) along with Dr. Tanvir Hassan Baba Consultant Neurologist and Co organising secretary of the event and Dr. Sheikh Hilal Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Neurology, emphasized the importance of preventive measures in reducing the rising burden of stroke in society.

No Data On Houseboat Damage During 2014 Floods

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday said that there is no information available about whether any houseboats were damaged or destroyed during the 2014 floods.

In a reply to a question about house boats tabled by MLA Sheikh Ahsan Ahmad, the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) replied: “No specific information is available regarding any houseboats in Srinagar’s Chinar Bagh area being damaged or destroyed during the 2014 floods, nor is there any

proposal for the rehabilitation of houseboat owners.”

The reply stated that no confirmation was available regarding whether the houseboat owners were living in miserable conditions or are deprived of basic amenities.

In its supplementary information, the DMRRR said, “As per the report received from the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, no specific information is available regarding the queries raised... consequently, the matter may be treated as Nil.”

The government also shared there is no plan under consideration to provide land or other forms of rehabilitation for the said houseboat owners.(KNO)

No specific information is available regarding any houseboats in Srinagar’s Chinar Bagh area being damaged or destroyed during the 2014 floods, nor is there any proposal for the rehabilitation of houseboat owners

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Driving License bearing DL No. JK0120050056472 as RIDWAN HABIB WANI, instead of my correct name RIZWAN HABIB.

Now I have applied for the correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the ARTO Office Sopore within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Name: RIZWAN HABIB
S/O: HABIB ULLAH WANI R/O: NOOR BAGH SOPORE, BLA, District: BARAMULLA, Jammu & Kashmir
Pincode: 193201

ab

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Registration Certificate (RC) of my Motorcycle bearing Registration No: JK01AT 4556 while traveling from Kralapora to Dalgate. Now, I have applied for a duplicate of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of RTO Srinagar within seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Marouf Mushtaq
S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Hajam
R/o Kralapora

iko

Form No 3 [See Regulation -13(1)(a)] DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT I)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35

Sector-17 A, Chandigarh

Case No. TA/123/2023

Summons under Sub Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

Exh. No: 29960

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
VS
M/S A A AGENCIES**

To.

(1) ZAMEER AHMED SHEIKH
S/O: GHULAM NABI SHEIKH
R/O: GULSHAN NAGAR, NOWGAM
SUMMONS

Whereas , TA/123/2023 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on 06.08.2025

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 2186681.13 (application along with copies of documents etc, annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3 A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 10.11.2025 at 10:30 A.M, failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 01.08.205

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited

IAPMDepartment,Zonal Office Srinagar,
M. A. Road, (Opposite Women's College),
Srinagar-190001, Kashmir.

0194-2452658, Ext.:132;iapmd.kmr@jkbmail.com

E-AUCTION NOTICE

(Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules)

IN THE NPA ACCOUNT OF M/S AZAD ENTERPRISES

The undersigned in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 notify the sale of the secured assets detailed herein-below for realization of the dues, on “as is where is”, “as is what is”, “whatsoever there is” and “no complaint” basis.

Description of the mortgaged properties (put on sale)	1) Residential house with land underneath and appurtenant thereto measuring 15 marlas bearing Khasra No.125 (8 Marlas) and Khasra No. 2152/126 min (07 Marlas) of Khata No.863 and 879 and Khewat No. 306 and 309 situated at Mouza Saderbal, Srinagar (North) standing in the name of Mohammad Ayaz Azad S/O Shams-ud-din Azad R/O Saderbal, Srinagar. 2) Leasehold rights of commercial space with a carpet area of 616 sq. ft. Room No. 302 in 3 rd Floor of Ali Jan Complex, M.A. Road, Srinagar leased out by Sheri Kashmir Medical Institute Trust vide Lease Deed dated 19.1.2000 in favour of Fayaz Ahmad Azad S/O Shams-ud-Din Azad R/O Professor colony, Naseem Bagh, Srinagar.
Amount of secured debt for the recovery of which the property is sold, as on 30.09.2025	Rs. 2,83,78,526.07 (Rupees Two Crore Eighty Three Lac Seventy Eight Thousand Five Hundred Twenty six and Paise Seven only)
Reserve Price	1. Rs.282.17 lacs (Rupees Two Crores Eighty Two Lacs and Seventeen Thousand only). 2. Rs.80.94 lacs (Rupees Eighty Lacs Ninety Four Thousand only)
Names of the Borrowers/Guarantors	M/s Azad Enterprises, Prop. Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Azad (Borrower) Mr. Mohammad Ayaz Azad (Mortager/Guarantor) Mr. Irfan Ahmad Mir (Guarantor)
EMD	10% of reserve price by way of Demand Draft/Payment Order favoring the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited drawn on any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank payable at Srinagar
Name of the Branch	Zonal Impaired Assets Recovery Branch, Srinagar
Last Date & Time of submission of Bid	05.12.2025 (5 PM)
Date and Time of e-Auction	06.12.2025 (3 PM) to (4 PM)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Other Remittance/s details by RTGS to Account Number	THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED Business Unit: ZIARB, Srinagar, IFSC CODE: JAKA02IARB Account No. 0187070700000001 in the name of SUNDRY DEPOSITS ACCOUNT.

The interested bidders shall submit their offer along with EMD details through website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> and can obtain user ID and password free of cost by registering on the website. The detailed notice containing all the terms and conditions are available at Bank’s website <https://www.jkbank.com/pdfs/eauction>. For any query related to the said auction, the interested bidders may contact Branch ZIARB, Srinagar (Phone No.: 9622632968).

(Authorized Officer)

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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

Srinagar on World Cities Day

Every World Cities Day reminds us to think about what makes a city truly alive. Beyond roads or buildings, it's the soul that holds them together. In Srinagar, the capital of Jammu and Kashmir and one of South Asia's oldest living cities, this thought feels especially close. Founded nearly two thousand years ago by King Pravarasena, Srinagar has witnessed empires rise and fade, from the Kushans and Mughals to the Dogras and modern India. Its lanes have felt the footsteps of Sufi saints, Persian poets, and Central Asian traders. Their influence still lives in its wooden homes, carved balconies, and gold-painted paper-mâché ceilings. The Jhelum River, curving through the city, once carried silk, spices, and stories to the rest of Asia.

Today, Srinagar is changing fast. The government's Smart City Mission is giving it a fresh look. Riverfronts are being cleaned, new cycle tracks built, and old markets redesigned. Lal Chowk now glows with lights at night, and Polo View has become a space for evening strolls again. For many residents, it feels like the city is finally getting the care it long deserved.

But progress brings its own challenges. The old city, once full of craftsmen and storytellers, is losing its artisans to high rents and lack of space. The wooden bridges that once linked neighbourhoods are wearing away. Dal Lake, Srinagar's jewel, struggles with pollution and encroachment. And as traffic grows, the charm of its narrow alleys begins to fade.

Still, Srinagar holds on to its pulse. At dawn, the floating vegetable market wakes on Dal Lake. At dusk, the call to prayer travels from the hilltop shrines to the riverbanks. Even in change, the city breathes poetry, in its gardens, murals, and in the resilience of its people.

World Cities Day reminds us that cities are living memories, rather than maps or monuments. Srinagar's story is about endurance, a city learning to grow without losing itself.

To celebrate such cities, we must first listen to them. Srinagar needs respect than reinvention. True progress means balance, where the old and new live together, sharing the same sky, river, and light.

That is how we can truly honour the spirit of World Cities Day, by letting cities like Srinagar speak in their own timeless voice.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Skill Is The New Capital

Skill and mindset are the real tools for building Kashmir's new economy.

Irshad Mushtaq

Many young Kashmiris are today dreaming of building their own ventures, investing in new ideas, or finding careers that feel meaningful. To turn those dreams into reality, they need skill.

In today's fast-changing world, success belongs to those who can think clearly and act with purpose. Whether someone wants to start a tech company in Srinagar or invest in the fruit trade in Sopore, skill is what makes the difference. A degree opens doors, but practical skills, like reading markets, managing people, handling accounts, or spotting trends, help keep them open.

Kashmir economy still depends heavily on government jobs and seasonal trade. Unemployment among youth remains high, even as new skill-based opportunities rise elsewhere in India.

The region doesn't lack ambition or ideas, it lacks structured training and mentorship. Creating spaces where young people can learn, experiment, and adapt can shift this reality.

Kashmir's new generation has energy, creativity, and courage. What it needs now is direction. Skill and mindset together can build a self-reliant economy, one where opportunity grows from within.

In a world full of change, the best investment any young Kashmiri can make is in their own mind and ability to learn.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

The Long Road to Healing

A Kashmiri therapist reflects on how decades of discord have reshaped the region's emotional landscape, and why caring for minds is now as vital as rebuilding roads.

Dr. Musawir Mohsin Parsa

I have spent years watching patients in Kashmir walk into clinics with pain that has no clear name.

Some come complaining of backaches, dizziness, or breathlessness. Others describe sleepless nights or a strange heaviness that never leaves them.

When you listen longer, their stories unfold into something deeper: a life shaped by fear, uncertainty, and loss.

For over three decades, our valley has lived through cycles of unrest that have left marks far beyond the physical. The broken bones and shattered structures are visible. But the anxiety, trauma, and despair are not.

Yet it is these invisible wounds that have silently changed how people here think, feel, and relate to one another.

Studies over the years have shown alarming trends. At least one in five Kashmiris shows symptoms of depression, anxiety, or post-traumatic stress.

At the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences in Srinagar, the number of patients seeking psychiatric care has multiplied several times since the early 2000s.

Behind every figure lies a story of someone who struggles to make sense of a life interrupted.

Young people carry much of this burden. They have grown up in an atmosphere where plans can collapse overnight.

In classrooms, I have seen students who cannot focus, and flare up in anger or drift into silence. Many feel that their future is always on hold, their choices always



uncertain.

The problem grows harder when help is scarce. There are barely a few dozen psychiatrists serving a population of more than seven million. Rural areas often have none. Even in cities, hospital queues stretch long, and counseling is treated like a costly choice.

For many, therapy is either too expensive or too far away.

Stigma makes the situation worse. In our culture, people rarely say they are depressed. They say they have "tension" or "nerves." Families hesitate to seek help, fearing judgment.

Men, in particular, see emotional struggle as weakness. So they swallow their pain until it spills out in sleeplessness, rage, or withdrawal.

In all this, women often become the silent carriers of stress. I have met mothers who absorb the worries of an entire household, caretakers who collapse under invisible

loads. Their suffering rarely enters medical charts, but it shapes the emotional pulse of our homes.

There are ways forward if we choose to see mental health as part of community well-being. Schools need counsellors as much as teachers. Hospitals must treat trauma alongside injury. Local health workers can be trained to recognize early signs of distress. Technology can bridge distance, through phone counselling, tele-sessions, and support networks for caregivers.

Healing minds is slow work, but it is also hopeful work. Every conversation and act of listening, chips away at years of silence. Kashmir has shown immense character through conflict, but resilience should never mean enduring pain without help.

We cannot build a peaceful society while its people carry invisible wounds. It is time to make mental health a shared responsibility: spoken of openly, treated early, and



We cannot build a peaceful society while its people carry invisible wounds. It is time to make mental health a shared responsibility: spoken of openly, treated early, and cared for with the same urgency as any other form of recovery. Only then can the valley begin to heal, both inside and out.

cared for with the same urgency as any other form of recovery.

Only then can the valley begin to heal, both inside and out.

The author is a physical therapist and educator based in Kashmir. He can be reached at parsamusawir@gmail.com.

The Theatre of Promises

How emotional politics and public passivity have turned Kashmir's democracy into a theatre of manipulation and decay.

Syed Rizwan Bukhari

Involve around personalities than policies. Even young people, who should demand better, are drawn into emotional loyalty rather than critical thought.

More than half a century since independence, our political landscape still smells of stagnation. Before Article 370 was revoked, we lost lives in clashes and curfews that could have been avoided. And while people bled, our leaders chose silence. They could have taught the young about the values of democracy, unity, and dignity. Instead, they allowed anger and alienation to define our identity.

Today, politics has turned into



The truth is, Kashmir deserves better. It deserves leaders who serve, citizens who think, and a politics that smells of progress.

an endless blame game: party against party, faction against faction. Every failure becomes someone else's fault. Every promise comes with an expiry date. It's a performance where each act feels familiar, and each ending leaves us where we began.

If our forefathers were to return, they would weep at what we have made of their dream. They would see how intellect has been traded for emotion, and how our capacity for thought has been hijacked by noise. They would find a society that mistook drama for democracy.

The truth is, Kashmir deserves better. It deserves leaders who serve, citizens who think, and a politics that smells of progress.

We have endured enough. To change, we must start holding our leaders, and ourselves, accountable.

Civilization is measured by how it learns from its mistakes. It's time we learn ours.

The author is an entrepreneur from Sopore. He can be reached at syedrizwanb90@gmail.com.



Letter to Editor

When School Admissions Cross the Line in Kashmir

As the new academic season begins, Kashmiri schools are once again filled with parents clutching files, rehearsing answers, and praying their children get through. The air carries both excitement and anxiety. What should be a warm introduction to education often feels like an audition, one where a child's innocence meets a panel's scrutiny.

In many homes, parents spend nights filling long forms, chasing documents, and polishing introductions. The idea of "admission" has become less about learning and more about performance. The question that remains is simple: what should really matter when a school decides to admit a child?

The process has grown complex and, at times, troubling. Schools ask for everything, from the parents' qualifications to their residence and income details. Some go further,

holding interviews where parents report being asked personal or religious questions. "Do you follow any particular faith?" "Does the father keep a beard?" "Does the mother wear a hijab?" "Do you allow your child to sing or dance?" "Which festivals do you celebrate?"

These may seem harmless on the surface, but they strike at the core of equality and privacy. Religion and appearance are deeply personal. When a school evaluates parents through such questions, it risks turning education into exclusion. A beard or hijab has no connection with a child's curiosity, confidence, or capacity to learn.

In a secular system, schools are meant to be safe spaces where diversity is respected. Asking about faith or personal lifestyle not only violates the spirit of education but also teaches the wrong lesson, that acceptance depends on conformity.

When a five-year-old watches parents questioned about what they wear or believe, they learn early what society values most: appearances over essence.

What schools should really look for is simpler, and far more human. Does the child show curiosity, empathy, and readiness to learn? Are parents supportive, disciplined, and willing to work with teachers? These qualities matter more than status, profession, or religious background.

A meaningful interaction could begin with: "How do you encourage your child's creativity?" or "What kind of values would you like your child to learn here?" Such questions connect schools and parents through shared goals, not stereotypes.

Rejection is another part of the story. Many children are turned away because they appear shy or less expressive in interviews. Sometimes, it's about the parent's social

standing. The heartbreak that follows often makes families question their worth.

But most rejections have little to do with the child's potential and more with the system's narrow filters.

Before choosing a school, parents must look beyond reputation. Visit the classrooms, observe how teachers speak to students, and check if the school respects all communities equally. Education begins with the values a school lives by, not the buildings it flaunts.

A good school is one that treats every child with dignity, welcomes every parent with fairness, and protects every belief with respect. When education begins with empathy, admission a promise than a process.

Sincerely,

Tajamul Islam Salroo
tajamul12@yahoo.co.in

What a French Story Has to Say to Kashmir

From 19th-century France to 21st-century Kashmir, the lesson remains the same: a lost language is a lost identity.

Tabassum Haroon

While teaching a class thousands of kilometres from Kashmir, I often find myself speaking with emotion about Alphonse Daudet's short story *The Last Lesson*.

It tells of a small French village, Alsace and Lorraine, where people wake up one morning to learn that they can no longer study their language.

The occupying power has banned French, replacing it with German. That final day, their teacher, M. Hamel, gives his last lesson in French. The children, who once skipped his class, now listen with tears in their eyes. The villagers, too, crowd into the room, wishing they had valued their language more when they had the chance.

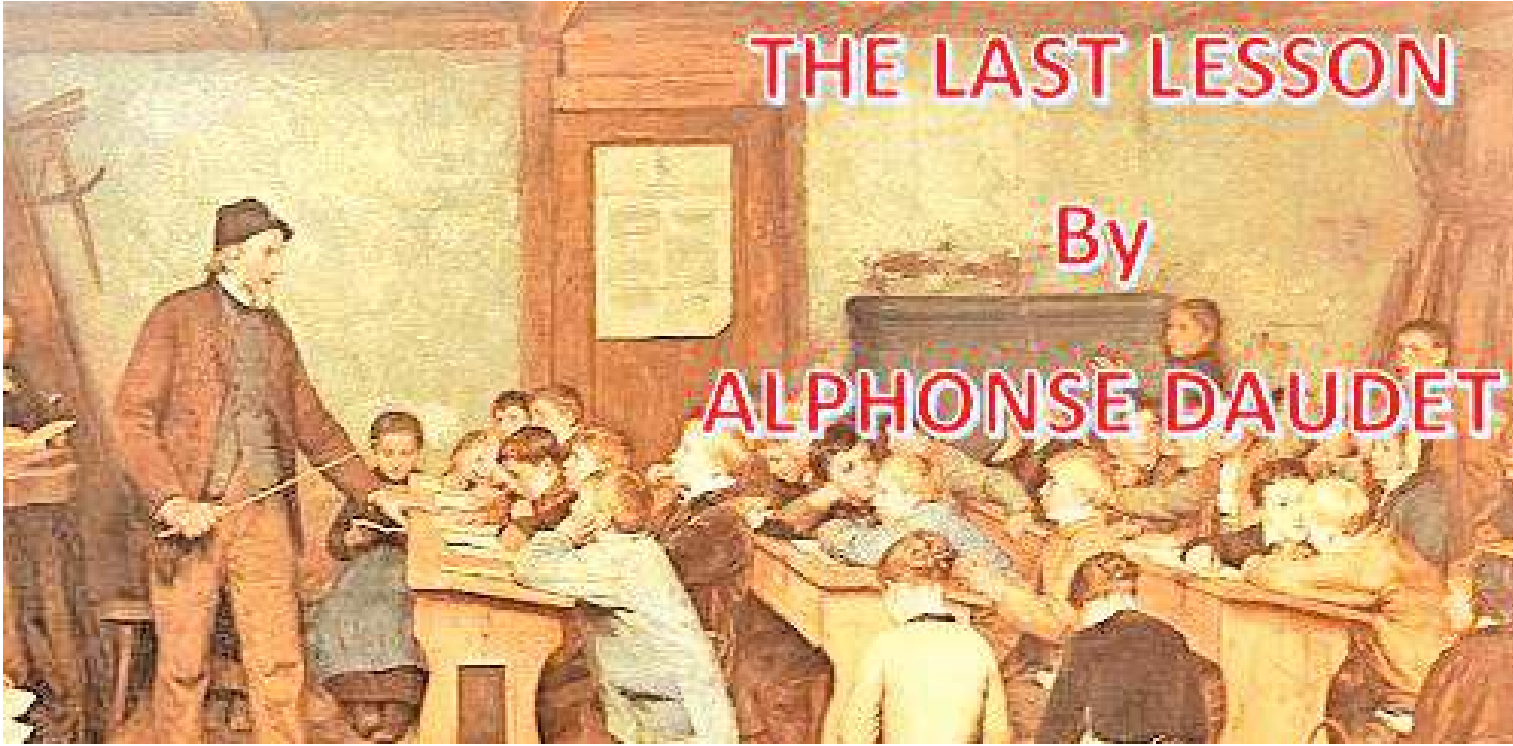
Each time I discuss this story, I look at my students and ask, "How would you feel if one morning you were told that you could no longer speak your mother tongue?" The room goes still. After a long pause, one student whispers, "Detached." Another says, "Uprooted."

Those two words always stay with me. They describe not only the grief of Daudet's villagers but also something I feel about Kashmir today.

In many ways, we are living our own version of *The Last Lesson*: slowly, silently, forgetting our mother tongue.

Over the years, I've watched Kashmiri slip away from daily life. English and Urdu are celebrated, while Kashmiri is dismissed as old-fashioned, even embarrassing.

I still remember speaking to a shopkeeper in Kashmiri and hearing him respond in Urdu, as if my



words carried some social shame. That small moment said everything about the shift we're living through, a silent (and dangerous) loss of linguistic confidence.

I have always felt blessed to know many languages, but Kashmiri is the one that feels like home. It is how my grandmother told stories, my parents scolded and comforted me, and my friends teased me growing up.

English connects me to the world, but Kashmiri connects me to myself.

Yet, I see a strange pride growing among some Kashmiri parents who

boast that their children "don't understand a word of Kashmiri." They say it with a smile, as if their child's inability to speak their mother tongue is a sign of progress. I often wonder what progress means if it comes at the cost of our roots.

When parents do that, they plant an invisible seed of shame. They make their children believe that their mother tongue is something to hide. That seed grows into a kind of lifelong detachment. You can teach a child every global skill, but if you disconnect them from their language, you take away their confidence in who they are.

A child fluent in Kashmiri can learn any language easily because they already have a foundation of expression and eloquence. A child who loses their first language loses the instinct to belong.

As I tell my students, language is essentially about worldview than words. It carries our humour, silences, and the way of seeing life.

The irony is that we, as Kashmiris, have one of the most lyrical and ancient languages in South Asia, but

we treat it as disposable.

According to the 2011 Census, around 6.7 million people identified Kashmiri as their mother tongue. But experts warn that among younger generations, active fluency is rapidly falling. The language now faces what UNESCO once called a "definitely endangered" status, spoken by elders, but fading among children.

The decline is visible everywhere: in classrooms, where English dominates; in homes, where parents mix Urdu or Hindi; in cities, where Kashmiri words sound out of place. But, all is not lost.

Language has a way of surviving through the smallest acts of love.

A few months ago, my daughter spent time with a group of young Kashmiri Pandit girls. All of them were born far from the valley, carrying Kashmiri names but not quite the language. Still, the moment they met, something magical happened.

Between bursts of laughter, they began tossing half-remembered phrases at each other: "Trath pae," "Phat wagon," "Akaeli-tawan," and

the ever-dramatic "kale kharab."

These phrases, picked up from their mothers, sounded like echoes of a shared past, remixed for a new generation. I stood there smiling, hearing in their laughter the faint rhythm of old Srinagar.

Now my daughter follows Kashmiri Instagram pages and learns idioms and slang through reels and memes. She often surprises me with words I've never heard before.

Who would have thought social media could become a classroom for cultural revival?

In her hands, my mother tongue is returning: digitally alive, freshly spoken, and delightfully reshaped.

Moments like these give me hope. Maybe the story of *The Last Lesson* doesn't have to repeat itself in Kashmir.

Maybe, if each of us takes one small step, like speaking, teaching, and celebrating our language, we can turn the tide.

Sadly, we don't need a decree to ban our language. Our silence is doing that already.

I've begun to make it a daily ritual



LET US SPEAK TO OUR CHILDREN IN THE LANGUAGE THAT ONCE SHAPED OUR LULLABIES AND OUR PRAYERS. As an old saying goes, "Naav chhi naav, zaban chhi pechaan". Your name is your name, but your language is your identity.

to speak to my daughter in Kashmiri, even if only for a few minutes a day. We stumble, laugh, and invent. Language, after all, grows through use, not perfection. It carries life only when it is spoken.

If every Kashmiri home speak the language with pride instead of pity, we can still save what's fading. Our children would see that speaking Kashmiri is belonging.

After all, a tree can only grow tall if it isn't ashamed of its roots.

So let us water those roots, with words, songs, and stories. Let us speak to our children in the language that once shaped our lullabies and our prayers.

As an old saying goes, "Naav chhi naav, zaban chhi pechaan". Your name is your name, but your language is your identity.

If we forget that, we risk forgetting who we are.

— The author is a Kashmiri-origin, Dehradun-based freelancer with a decade of experience as an academician and editor, contributing to various publications.



IF EVERY KASHMIRI HOME SPEAK THE LANGUAGE WITH PRIDE INSTEAD OF PITY, we can still save what's fading. Our children would see that speaking Kashmiri is belonging. After all, a tree can only grow tall if it isn't ashamed of its roots.

The Missing Equation

Once the pride of every Kashmiri school, mathematics now struggles for attention. A teacher reflects on how the Queen of Sciences lost her crown, and how we can bring her back.



Tawheed Parvaiz Bhat

I still remember when solving a math problem felt like solving a mystery. Numbers had feel, equations made sense, and every answer brought a small thrill.

In those days, classrooms in Kashmir were alive with curiosity. Students loved competing over geometry puzzles. Teachers filled blackboards with theorems, and parents proudly encouraged their children to take up mathematics. It was a subject of pride.

Today, that energy is fading. In many colleges, mathematics has almost disappeared from classrooms. Enrolment in math courses has dropped to around 1% in degree colleges and below 2% in higher secondary schools.

At Government Degree College Bandipora, only nine students have chosen mathematics in the past two years. One of the largest higher secondary schools in the district has 70 math students out of nearly a thousand. These numbers speak of a growing crisis.

The reasons are many. Teaching has become mechanical, focused more on memorizing formulas than understanding ideas. Most schools lack math labs, clubs, or teachers who can show the beauty behind numbers. Without

imagination or curiosity, the subject feels distant and difficult.

But math is everywhere. It shapes the arches of Srinagar's bridges, the symmetry of Mughal gardens, the rhythm of poetry, and the design of technology. From climate models to computer



THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020 CALLS FOR HANDS-ON LEARNING. We can use that vision to rebuild our approach. With the right effort, students can rediscover what makes mathematics exciting.

codes, every innovation begins with mathematical thinking. An-

cient civilizations built wonders like the Pyramids and the Taj Mahal on its principles of geometry and proportion.

In my classroom, I try to bring back that wonder. I ask students to find math in the world around them: in patterns of leaves, music, and art. Slowly, they start to see it differently. They realize it's about imagination and problem-solving.

If we want to revive mathematics in Kashmir, we must make it part of our daily life again. Schools should set up math clubs and activity parks. Teachers need support and training to make lessons creative. Parents should treat mathematics as a language of logic, not as a burden.

The National Education Policy 2020 calls for hands-on learning. We can use that vision to rebuild our approach. With the right effort, students can rediscover what makes mathematics exciting.

Mathematics hasn't lost its meaning. We have only stopped paying attention.

It's time to bring numbers back to life, and make our classrooms ring again with curiosity and confidence.

— The author is a teacher and columnist focused on education. He can be reached at tawheed.biotech12@gmail.com.

The Crack in Our Mirror

In Kashmir's everyday life, moral shortcuts have become cultural habits.

Ikkz Ikbāl

“Abbu, you always tell me to speak the truth... then why did you lie to the customer today?”

That single question from a seven-year-old froze the room. The father looked away, the mother tried to change the topic, and silence filled the space like shame.

The child didn't just ask a question. He exposed a wound we've learned to hide: the gap between what we preach and what we practice.

Modern psychology calls it Cognitive Dissonance, the unease we feel when our actions betray our beliefs.

In simpler words, it's the unrest of the soul when the tongue and heart move in opposite directions.

This conflict plays out every day in the valley.

A teacher encourages honesty yet helps students cheat in exams. A trader condemns corruption but manipulates the scales for profit. A father scolds his son for lying but lies ten times a day himself.

Each contradiction chips away at something sacred: integrity.

Over time, this dissonance becomes normal. We stop feeling wrong. The conscience that once whispered has gone silent. And that silence is the real moral crisis.

Centuries before psychology gave it a name, Islam diagnosed it with clarity: “O you who believe! Why do you say that which you do not do?” (Surah As-Saff: 2-3)

Faith, in its essence, is not what we say but how we live. But somewhere, we separated belief from behaviour.

We begin our dealings with Bismillah and end them with deceit. We call bribery “chai paani.” We reject dowry in public but accept it in private. We condemn corruption in speeches but defend it in our homes.

We have replaced conscience with convenience. “Times are tough.” “Everyone does it.” “It's just a small thing.” These phrases soften the guilt until we feel nothing. But a sin justified is a sin repeated.

Psychologists say that when faced with this conflict, we try to escape through three doors: we justify the wrong, redefine morality, or shift the blame.

These are survival tricks of the mind,



OUR DOWNFALL BEGAN WHEN FAITH BECAME SPEECH AND VIRTUE BECAME SLOGAN. To rebuild, we must restore alignment between what we say, believe, and do. That harmony is humanity.

but they slowly kill the soul.

Islam offers a cure: Tazkiyah an-Nafs, or self-purification. It begins with Tawbah, sincere repentance, followed by Muhasabah, the courage to ask, “Did my actions today reflect my words?”

It grows through Sohbat-e-Saliheen, the company of those who make us

want to be better.

Our children are watching our lives. When they see us twist truth for comfort, they learn that deceit is normal. And soon, they too will lie easily, without hesitation or guilt. That is how hypocrisy becomes heritage.

When dishonesty becomes culture, truth becomes rebellion. And when hypocrisy becomes habit, sincerity becomes rare.

We talk of reforming systems in Kashmir, but the real system in need of reform is the self. A nation that refuses to face its reflection cannot change its destiny. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, “The strongest among you is the one who controls himself when angry.”

Today, perhaps the strongest is the one who admits: I am not who I pretend to be. The kid's innocent question was a reminder from a still-pure heart before it learns to lie like ours.

Our downfall began when faith became speech and virtue became slogan. To rebuild, we must restore alignment between what we say, believe, and do. That harmony is humanity.

And in that honesty lies peace, with God, others, and ourselves.

— The author is Principal at Maryam Memorial Institute, Pandithpora Qaziabad. He can be reached at ikkzikbal@gmail.com

Departments Giving Wrong Replies To Assembly Will Face Action: Speaker

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Thursday cautioned government departments against providing incorrect or misleading replies to legislators during the ongoing Assembly session, warning that such actions will invite proceedings under the rules.

Rather said ensuring accountability within government departments is crucial for the credibility of the legislative process. "If any honourable member feels that he has not received the correct or complete answer, he can take action against the concerned ministry as per the rules," he said.

He added that the Assembly Secretariat can also issue notices if any lapse is found. "If a department has erred or failed in its response, we will take appropriate action under the laid-down procedures," the Speaker asserted.



AbdulBhat/KO

Emphasizing the importance of transparency, Rather said members must be provided with accurate and reliable information to effectively represent their constituencies. He also stressed that legislators have every right to question discrepancies and hold

departments accountable.

The Speaker reaffirmed his commitment to maintaining fairness in the conduct of the House and ensuring equal opportunity for all members, irrespective of their party affiliation, to raise public issues.

Allows MLAs To Raise Issues Beyond Zero Hour As One-Time Exception

In a rare move, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Thursday allowed legislators to raise important public issues beyond the 'Zero Hour,' terming it a one-time exception.

"Today, I am allowing members to raise certain important issues beyond the Zero Hour. It is a one-time exception and will not form a precedent for future proceedings," the Speaker said, while permitting MLAs to speak on matters including the condition of flood victims.

Earlier, Rather had rejected an adjournment motion moved by MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta seeking a discussion on the post-flood situation in the

Union Territory. The Speaker clarified that the House rules (Rule 58) do not permit reconsideration of an adjournment motion once rejected in the same session.

Emphasizing the importance of public welfare discussions, Rather said the House must prioritize people's grievances and rehabilitation concerns.

Initiating the debate, MLA Gupta highlighted that the recent floods in Jammu division caused widespread damage to homes, schools, and public infrastructure, including in his constituency. He said that relief and rehabilitation efforts so far have been inadequate and delayed, leaving affected families in distress.

LG Sinha To Visit Cloudburst-Hit Chasoti On Nov 3

Lay Foundation For Reconstruction Of Houses

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will reach out to the people of cloudburst-hit Chasoti in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district and lay the foundation for rebuilding houses and other infrastructure damaged in the mountainous belt on November 3, officials said on Thursday.

A cloudburst struck Chasoti — the last motorable village en route to the Machail Mata temple — on August 14, leaving a trail of death and destruction that claimed 65 lives, including those of three CISF personnel and one Special Police Officer (SPO) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police. A total of 167 people were rescued, while 35 were still reported missing, officials said.

Fulfilling the government's commitment, "Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will lay the foundation stone for the reconstruction of damaged houses and other infrastructure on November 3 at Chasoti", a senior official told PTI.

Sixteen houses and several other structures, including temples, were damaged in the floods triggered by the cloudburst in the hamlet, the official mentioned further.

In line with the upcoming programme, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Ku-

mar Sharma on Thursday visited the area to assess the ongoing developmental and restoration works being executed there.

The deputy commissioner inspected the affected sites to review the progress of restoration and rehabilitation activities. He took a detailed stock of measures being implemented to restore essential services and ensure relief to the affected families.

He also inspected the partially damaged houses, for which Sinha is scheduled to lay the foundation stone in the coming days.

He interacted with residents and listened to their grievances related to housing, water supply, and electricity. The deputy commissioner issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for the immediate redressal of issues raised by the public.

The deputy commissioner informed that the district administration has ensured ration supplies to all affected households up to December and assured that additional stock would be provided soon.

Referring to preparedness for the upcoming winter season, Sharma said that all necessary arrangements have been completed and that helpline numbers of the District Administration, Police, and SDM offices have been made available for any assistance required by citizens.



HC Upholds Order On Targeted PDS

M Ahmad

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Thursday upheld Jammu and Kashmir Targeted Public Distribution System Control Order, 2023 issued vide SO 41, observing that it was aimed at ensuring the proper supply of essential commodities to the general public.

Dismissing a batch of petitions filed by fair price shop dealers, a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal observed that if achieving the primary objective incidentally results in the generation of employment opportunities, the petitioners cannot invoke employment concerns to defeat the main purpose of S.O. 41.

"We agree with the respondents (government) that the SO 41 is, in fact, an action on the part of the respondents in fulfilling the object/aim of the Article 47 of the Constitution of India," the court said, observing that Article 47 was the guiding lamp showing a way to the Government to

tread upon, to achieve the goals of raising the level of nutritional security and improving public health.

"The SO 41 has been issued by the respondents in public interest and when the public interest competes against the individual rights of some citizens (petitioners in the present case) and when the complaint is made by them in respect of the violation of the doctrines of 'legitimate expectation' and 'promissory estoppel', then the interest of public at large steal a march on individual interest of the few citizens," the court said, underlining that the petitioners cannot raise the plea of doctrines of "legitimate expectation" and "promissory estoppel" to assail SO 41. "Therefore, the challenge thrown to SO 41 on the above-mentioned grounds is misconceived."

Relying on Order No. 127-FCS&CA of 2016, dated 4 August 4 2016, to assail S.O. 41, the petitioners had argued that the new order had the effect of reducing ration tickets to 1,500 persons or 200 families in rural areas, and not more than

2,000 persons or fewer than 300 families in urban areas. Under the 2016 order, they pointed out, the minimum number of ration tickets was fixed at 250, with an upper limit of 499.

They further contended that S.O. 41 could not be applied retrospectively, as it deprived them of their vested rights to a guaranteed number of ration tickets under previous government orders. The earlier orders, they argued, contained no provisions for reducing ration tickets or limiting the age of fair price shop dealers.

"The petitioners cannot throw a challenge to the Clause 20 (2) of SO41 on the ground of violation of their contractual/fundamental rights, as the petitioners have only been issued licenses by the respondents to ensure proper and smooth distribution of food grains among public and there is no vested rights with the petitioners for a particular number of ration cards," the court said.

The Bench also held that a renewal fee of Rs 1000 cannot be termed as "excessive".

Every Promise Will Be Fulfilled Before Seeking Support Again: CM

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday assured people that every promise made by the National Conference (NC) will be fulfilled before seeking their support again. He said his party is committed to restoring Jammu and Kashmir's voice in Parliament and ensuring justice in governance.

Addressing a public gathering in Handwara, Omar said the National Conference stands by its commitments. "The promises we made to you last September before the elections, we will fulfil each one of them. Only after delivering on those commitments will we come before you again to seek your trust once more," he said.

Abdullah said the party's focus is on strengthening representation, improving livelihoods and creating employment opportuni-

ties. "All this is possible only when representation is right," he said.

He congratulated senior party leader Chaudhary Ramzan for his victory in the recent Rajya Sabha elections, calling him the best choice to represent the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "Ramzan was the best option for us. It was the need of the hour to send a strong voice that would represent the will of the people, fight for their rights and remind the Centre of our situation," Omar said.

The CM said the NC's nominees to the Rajya Sabha will raise Jammu and Kashmir's issues forcefully after years of silence. "We have sent three great candidates to represent the people. Their voices will be heard again in Delhi, where ours had been missing since 2022," he said.

Abdullah said there must be a strong voice in Parliament to remind the Centre of its promises.



"Someone should be there to remind the Centre of its commitments, including the restoration of statehood and the constitutional guarantees withdrawn from Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

He said a resolution was passed during the November session by MLAs seeking the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and constitutional guarantees. The resolution, he said, represented the collective will of the people and reaffirmed their demand for

political and constitutional rights.

The Chief Minister accused the Centre of failing to deliver on its assurance of restoring statehood. "The promises made to us remain unfulfilled. Our demand for restoration of statehood and constitutional rights continues," he said, adding that the National Conference will persist in raising these issues at every platform.

Omar criticised the previous MPs, saying their voices faded in Delhi. "We sent big names earlier, but they got affected by Delhi's pollution and their voices were never heard," he said. "This time, we are confident our representatives will speak for the people."

He said north Kashmir has long lacked meaningful representation. "After 2014, Handwara's voice did not reach either the Assembly or Parliament," he said, adding that the current Baramulla MP attends sessions only after court permis-

sion and remains disconnected from his constituency.

Reaffirming his commitment, CM Omar said Handwara deserves to be a district and will get that status once Jammu and Kashmir regains statehood. "You don't need to seek it; it will be given. Once we regain statehood, I will make Handwara a district," he promised, drawing applause from the gathering.

Abdullah welcomed former People's Conference (PC) leader Ashiq Neelum into the National Conference, calling him an influential figure in Kupwara and north Kashmir. "His joining will strengthen the party and benefit the people. We look forward to working together," he added.

Omar claimed that despite attempts by opponents to provoke and distract, the party remains focused on its promises and the people's trust.

Omar, Mehbooba Flay Termination Of 2 Employees

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti strongly criticised the Jammu and Kashmir administration's decision to sack two government teachers for alleged terror links.

Omar condemned the method of dismissal, arguing that such actions should be reserved for the courts to ensure employees have an opportunity to present their case.

"I have always maintained that the termination should happen through the courts only. Everyone should get an opportunity to explain themselves," Omar told reporters in Handwara in north Kashmir.

He added that invoking Arti-

cle 311 of the Constitution "does not give them any opportunity to present their case" and often leads to employees being reinstated through the courts later, suggesting that terminating individuals "on mere suspicion... would be harmful for all".

Criticising the move, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti charged that the dismissals fuel concerns of a "wider agenda to disempower Muslims especially Kashmiris".

Mehbooba claimed the employees were "denied even the chance to prove their innocence".

She said that Muslims in the region are facing marginalisation through "biased reservation policies" and are now enduring "wrongful dismissals with the judge, jury and executioner all on one side".

No Teacher Recruitment In Last 2 Years: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday informed the Legislative Assembly that no recruitment of teachers has taken place in the last two years.

According to the School Education Department's reply, the last recruitment in Kashmir Division was held in 2019 for General Line, Science-Math, and Urdu teachers. In Jammu Division, the last recruitment drive was conducted in 2016 across districts including Samba, Reasi, Udhampur, and Rajouri.

The department, in response to a query by MLA Sham Lal Sharma, said that while no new teachers have been hired recently, 740 Course Resource Coordinators and 227 Subject-Specific Coordinators were engaged on a contractual basis over the past two years.

The government informed that in Kashmir Division, 975 posts of Masters and 152 posts of Teachers are currently vacant. In Jammu Division, 1,204 schools have been merged with nearby institutions due to low enrolment or accommodation issues, while 14 schools in Kashmir remain non-functional due to zero enrolment.

No Proposal For Trauma Hospital In Magam: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday clarified that there are no current proposals for constructing a Trauma Hospital in Magam or along the Gulmarg Road, nor any plans to create new doctor posts at the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Beerwah.

Responding to a question raised by MLA Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani, Health Minister Sakeena Itoo informed the Legislative Assembly that "no such proposals are under consideration at present."

"The department is constantly working to undertake developmental projects to improve healthcare services, subject to feasibility, suitability,

and after consultation with all stakeholders, including public representatives," she said in a written reply.

On the issue of creating new doctor positions for SDH Beerwah, the minister reiterated that there is no proposal under active consideration. However, she added that healthcare enhancement remains a continuous process and improvements are being prioritized in a phased manner.

Itoo said the Health Department is focusing on strengthening existing healthcare facilities through manpower enhancement and the adoption of digital health initiatives such as e-Sanjeevani and telemedicine, implemented through a structured hub-and-spoke model.

Meat Sellers Warned To Follow Food Safety Rules

The Food Safety Wing of the Drugs and Food Control Organization, J&K, has taken strict action against five meat sellers in Srinagar for violating hygiene and sanitation rules. Officials found the sellers keeping meat carcasses hanging outside their shops in Hazooribagh and Nowgam, despite several previous warnings.

The department has issued prohibition orders, stopping these sellers from slaughtering or selling meat until further notice.

A meeting was later held between the Kashmir Butchers Association, led by President Khazir Mohammad Regoo, and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs Administration, J&K, Ms. Smita Sethi. Officials explained the need to follow proper hygiene and sanitation standards as required under the Food Safety and Standards regulations.

The Butchers Association requested a 15-day grace period to improve their shops as per the rules. Authorities agreed to the request but warned that after the grace period, strict action, including suspension or cancellation of licenses would be taken against any shop found violating the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.(KNS)

Over 17,900 Posts Vacant In Different Deptts

The Jammu and Kashmir government has revealed that a total of 17,953 posts are lying vacant under the direct recruitment quota across various departments in the Union Territory.

According to the official figures tabled in the J&K Legislative Assembly in response to an unstarred question by Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, the government said 2,960 Gazetted and 14,993 Non-Gazetted posts are presently vacant in different government departments.

The reply furnished by the General Administration Department (GAD), shows that the Health and Medical Education Department tops the list with 1,985 Gazetted and 5,300 Non-Gazetted vacancies.

It is followed by the Finance Department, which has 104 Gazetted and 1,457 Non-Gazetted posts lying vacant.

Other major departments with a significant number of vacancies include Power Development Department (61 Gazetted, 1,436 Non-Gazetted), Industries & Commerce (45 Gazetted, 1,130 Non-Gazetted), Jal Shakti (987 Non-Gazetted), and Public Works (R&B) (1,099 Non-Gazetted).

Departments such as Agriculture Production, Higher Education, Law, PD&MD, and Youth Services & Sports have also reported several unfilled positions.

The reply further mentioned that details regarding posts referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), along with their current recruitment status, have also been compiled—(KNO)

Over 24,500 GP Fund Cases Pending Disbursement In J&K: Govt

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday informed that over 24,500 General Provident (G.P.) Fund cases are currently pending disbursement across the Union Territory.

In a written reply to an un-starred Assembly question tabled by MLA Javid Hassan Baig, the Finance Department stated that as of October 10, 2025, a total of 24,579 GP Fund cases remain pending for disbursement in J&K.

The department further clarified that payments are being made as per the availability of resources.

The reply was signed by the Minister Incharge Finance and countersigned by the Under Secretary to the Government, Finance Department. (Observer News Service)

Govt Issues 1,512 Mining Permissions To Locals For CME

The Jammu and Kashmir government has informed that a total of 1,512 short-term mining permissions have been issued to local residents across several districts to facilitate the extraction of construction materials such as sand, gravel, and clay, while also supporting local livelihoods.

According to the reply furnished by the Mining Department to an unstarred question tabled by Saif-ud-din in the Legislative Assembly, the department has granted Mining Leases of RBM blocks in multiple districts including Jammu (30), Samba (19), Reasi (25), Rajouri (22), Poonch (15), Udhampur (7), Kathua (14), Kulgam (19), Baramulla (20), Pulwama (4), and Ganderbal (2) among others.

The government said these leases aim to ensure the availability of key construction materials for developmental projects of national and UT importance.

In order to safeguard the livelihood of local residents, the Government of J&K issued S.O. 599 of 2022 on November 15, 2022, allowing short-term and disposal permits for the manual extraction of sand, silt, and clay by local Hanjis, Khanis, and Muleteers on payment of royalty and other charges — without requiring environmental clearance or e-auction.

The department said the amendment was introduced to support the lower strata of society and ensure uninterrupted construction activity for both government and private projects.

As per official figures, the highest number of permissions were issued in Pulwama (565), followed by Baramulla (331), Anantnag (218), Bandipora (153), and Kulgam (141). Other districts like Kupwara (58), Ganderbal (25), Budgam (11), and Srinagar (10) also received permissions under the same provision.(KNO)

SC: Insurers Can't Deny Claims for Route Deviation



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Supreme Court has said that insurance companies cannot deny compensation to accident victims merely because there was deviation in route of the vehicle involved and that it was in violation of the permit. A bench comprising Justices Sanjay Karol and Prashant Kumar Mishra said the purpose of an insurance policy in the present context is to shield the owner/operator from direct liability when such an unforeseen/unfortunate incident takes place. "To deny the victim/dependents of the victim compensation simply because the accident took place outside the bounds of the permit and, therefore, is outside the purview of the insurance policy, would be offensive to the sense of justice, for the accident itself

is for no fault of his. Then, the insurance company most certainly ought to pay," the bench said. The top court made the observation while dismissing appeals filed by a vehicle owner and insurer, The New India Insurance Company Limited. On October 7, 2014, a motorcyclist was hit by the offending vehicle being driven in a rash and negligent manner, resulting in his death on the spot. The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal awarded an amount of Rs 18.86 lakh as compensation along with interest. Being aggrieved with the amount of compensation awarded, the petitioner filed an appeal before the Karnataka High Court on the grounds that the compensation was not correctly calculated by the Tribunal. The insurance company also challenged the Tribunal's order on the grounds of violation by the insurer of the conditions enumerated in the policy. The high court directed the insurance company to satisfy the award as passed by the Tribunal and granted the right to recover the amount from the owner of the bus. While the insurer challenged the high court's direction to pay compensation first and later recover from the owner, the owner challenged the high court's order allowing recovery from him.

Gold Demand In India Falls 16 Pc In Q3 2025

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- India's gold demand fell 16 per cent by volume in the July-September quarter of 2025 as record-high prices dampened consumer appetite, though investment buying surged on safe-haven appeal, the World Gold Council said on Thursday. Total gold demand declined to 209.4 tonnes in the third quarter from 248.3 tonnes a year earlier, according to the industry body. However, the value of demand jumped 23 per cent to Rs 2,03,240 crore from Rs 1,65,380 crore, reflecting sharply higher gold prices. Gold jewellery demand, which accounts for the bulk of consumption in the world's second-largest bullion market, dropped 31 per cent to 117.7 tonnes from 171.6 tonnes. But the value of jewellery purchases remained flat at around Rs 1,14,270 crore as buyers adjusted to elevated price levels. Investment demand showed "remarkable strength", rising 20 per cent by volume to 91.6 tonnes and surging 74 per cent in value terms to Rs 88,970 crore from Rs 51,080 crore, the WGC said. "This highlights a deepening strategic commitment among Indian consumers to gold as a long-term store of value," Sachin Jain, World Gold Council Regional CEO for India, said. The average gold price in India rose to Rs 97,074.9 per 10 grams during the quarter, up 46 per cent from Rs 66,614.1 a



year earlier, excluding import duty and GST. International prices averaged USD 3,456.5 per ounce, compared with USD 2,474.3 in the year-ago period. Despite the volume decline, Jain remained optimistic about demand during the crucial festive and wedding season, citing early signs from retailers and strong sales in October during Diwali. "There is a 16 per cent drop in volume but there is a 23 per cent historic rise in value. We cannot ignore that," Jain told PTL. "Indian consumers are catching up with the rise in per capita income and disposable income." He noted that many consumers preponed their wedding purchases as prices climbed in recent months, providing confidence for a strong fourth quarter. Gold imports tumbled 37 per cent to 194.6 tonnes from 308.2 tonnes, while recycling fell 7 per cent to 21.8 tonnes. Jain said the import figures reflected last year's surge following a historic duty reduction announced in the July 2024 budget, which made the year-ago quarter an exceptionally strong base for comparison.

US Grants 6 Months Sanctions Waiver To India On Chabahar Port



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- The US has granted India a six-month exemption from American sanctions on the Chabahar port in Iran, the External Affairs Ministry (MEA) said on Thursday. The sanctions were to come into effect from September 29 but following talks between the two sides, an exemption of one month was granted. The fresh exemption of the six-month period will be effective from October 29. "For Chabahar port in Iran, we have been granted exemption for a six-month period from the US sanctions," External

Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing. Last month, the Trump administration announced its decision to revoke the 2018 sanctions waiver with regard to the strategically-located Chabahar port in Iran. India is a major partner in development of the Chabahar port, located in the Sistan-Balochistan province Iran's southern coast. It is currently operating the Shahid Beheshti terminal at the port. The US State Department had said last month that people operating the Chabahar Port and engaging in other

related activities will face sanctions under the US Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act (IFCA) starting September 29. The Chabahar port is being developed by India and Iran to boost connectivity and trade ties. Both the countries are also strongly pitching for making Chabahar port an integral part of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). The INSTC is a 7,200-km-long multi-mode transport project for moving freight among India, Iran, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe.

FOR CHABAHAR PORT IN IRAN, we have been granted exemption for a six-month period from the US sanctions,"

Trump Says India 'Very Good' On Reducing Russian Energy Buys

Press Trust Of India

NEW YORK- US President Donald Trump on Thursday said India has been "very good" on the issue of reducing oil imports from Russia, reiterating his claim that Delhi will significantly reduce its energy purchases from Moscow. Speaking to reporters on-board Air Force One on his way back to Washington following his summit meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Busan, Trump was asked about Russian oil purchases. Trump said Xi has been "buying oil from Russia for a long time. It takes care of a big part of China. And, you know, I can say India's been very good on that front. But we didn't really discuss the oil. We discussed working together to see if we could get that war finished." Trump has been claiming for the past few days that Delhi has assured him that it will significantly reduce its oil



imports from Russia. Last week, Trump reiterated his claim that India has agreed to "stop" buying oil from Russia and would bring them down to "almost nothing" by the end of the year. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has said that India is a significant importer of oil and gas, and it has been Delhi's consistent priority to safeguard the interests of the Indian consumer in a volatile energy scenario. "Our import policies are guided entirely by this objective. Ensuring stable energy

prices and secured supplies have been the twin goals of our energy policy. This includes broad-basing our energy sourcing and diversifying as appropriate to meet market conditions. "Where the US is concerned, we have for many years sought to expand our energy procurement. This has steadily progressed in the last decade. The current Administration has shown interest in deepening energy cooperation with India. Discussions are ongoing," the MEA had said earlier this month.



J&K Bank Accelerates Progress Under Mission YUVA

Observes "Mission YUVA Disbursal Day" Across J&K, Disburses 1250 Cases

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Reaffirming its commitment to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir's flagship program aimed at empowering youth through self-employment and entrepreneurship, J&K Bank Thursday observed "Mission YUVA Disbursal Day" across the UT to fast-track disbursements under the initiative. Marking the successful conclusion of the single-day disbursal exercise, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee pressed a symbolic button culminating in 1250 disbursements under Mission YUVA against a set target of 1000. The event was attended by Chief General Manager (Business Development) Sunit Kumar, General Managers Rakesh Magotra and Nishikant Sharma, DGM Aneet Kanwal Singh, and other senior officers at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters. Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshad Qadri, Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta participated in the event virtually besides all the Zonal Heads of J&K.

The MD & CEO congratulated all the operational heads and frontline teams for surpassing the day's milestone and lauded their commitment towards the successful implementation of the program. Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "J&K Bank has been playing a pivotal role in implementing Mission YUVA across Jammu & Kashmir. Today's focused and highly successful disbursal drive reflects our commitment to ensuring that every sanctioned case swiftly turns into a productive asset on the ground." "While we make consistent efforts to achieve our numerical targets, it is equally important that we work tirelessly to realize the broader vision of the Government behind this transformative initiative. To that end, a robust and continuous monitoring mechanism must be ensured by all stakeholders, in letter and spirit, so that every sanctioned case truly translates into a sustainable livelihood opportunity", he added.



Govt Committed To Preserving Artisanal Heritage: Dy CM

Felicitates 11 Artisans during third edition of 'Know Your Artisan' campaign launch

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Thursday launched the third edition of the 'Know Your Artisan' series under the acclaimed 'Soulful Kashmir' branding campaign at the historic Polo View Market. Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce Vikramjit Singh, was also present in the event as Guest of Honour besides Director Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir Musarat Islam along with senior officials of the concerned department and artisans also attended the program. The event, organized by the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, transformed the colonial-era landmark—renowned for its polo heritage and scenic backdrop—into a dynamic celebration of the Valley's artisanal prowess. At the outset, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the stalls showcasing a spectrum

of Kashmir's handcrafted marvels—from opulent pashmina shawls and kani brocades to intricate papier-mâché artifacts and eco-friendly namda rugs. While speaking on the occasion, the DyCM underscored the initiative's broader significance and said that these events show the government's unwavering commitment to showcase brand J&K at the global level, preserving our rich artisanal heritage while boosting economic empowerment for our skilled craftsmen. "By bringing these timeless traditions to the forefront, we not only honor our past but also weave a vibrant future for sustainable livelihoods," he added. Praising the campaign, the DyCM acknowledged that the initiative addresses modern challenges like machine-made imitations, ensuring fair opportunities especially for women-led cooperatives and forging direct market linkages to empower maximum number of artisans across the region.

Sensex Tanks 593 Points Hit By Foreign Fund Outflows

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Equity markets fell sharply on Thursday, with the Sensex tumbling 592.67 points and the Nifty declining to 25,877.85 level, as fresh foreign fund outflows and uncertainty on the future course of rate action by the US Federal Reserve dampened investors' sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 592.67 points or 0.70 per cent to settle at 84,404.46. During the day, it dropped 684.48 points or 0.80 per cent to 84,312.65. A total of 2,291 stocks declined while 1,876 advanced and 155 remained unchanged on the BSE. The 50-share NSE Nifty tumbled 176.05 points or 0.68 per cent to 25,877.85. From the Sensex firms, Bharti Airtel, Power Grid, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Bajaj Finance and Reliance

Industries were among the major laggards. However, Larsen & Toubro, Bharat Electronics, UltraTech Cement and Maruti were among the gainers. "Equity benchmarks slipped on Thursday as cautious commentary from the US Federal Reserve and renewed foreign fund outflows weighed on sentiment. The Fed's 25 bps rate cut was in line with expectations, but Chair Jerome Powell's indication of a pause in further easing dampened risk appetite, especially amid the ongoing US government shutdown," Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst, Lemonn Markets Desk, said. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,540.16 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought eq-

uities worth Rs 5,692.81 crore in the previous trade. "As expected, the US Fed cut interest rates by 25 bps. However, the market consolidated after Chair Jerome Powell indicated that this might be the last rate cut of 2025, tempering hopes of further monetary easing. The resulting strength in the US dollar contributed to a risk-off sentiment across emerging markets, including India," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said. The BSE smallcap gauge dipped 0.06 per cent and midcap index ended unchanged. BSE telecommunication tanked 2.52 per cent, tech (1.02 per cent), bankex (0.72 per cent), financial services (0.59 per cent) and BSE Focused IT (0.55 per cent). Energy, industrials, capital goods, oil & gas and realty ended higher.

DGCA Plans Competency-Based Training, Assessment Framework For Cabin Crew

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- Aviation watchdog DGCA plans to put in place a competency-based training and assessment framework for cabin crew to help in further improve the training imparted to them, according to a senior official. The Competency Based Training and Assessment (CBTA) framework was introduced for pilots in 2022. Shweta Singh, Chief Flight Operations Inspector at the DGCA, told PTI that the regulator is expected to come out with draft norms for the CBTA for the cabin crew in a month. It will be on a voluntary basis for the airlines. She said the efforts are to improve the competencies of the cabin crew. "For example, if there is a fire in the cabin... how will they deal with it? How will they communicate? All those kind of performance indicators (will be) embedded in it (CBTA framework) which will help them to train better," Singh said. She spoke on the sidelines of a conference in the national capital on Thursday. Participating in a session at the conference, IndiGo's Senior Vice President for Flight Operations Captain Ashim Mittra stressed competency of the crew is more important than just the number of crew.

Rupee Plunges 47 Paise To Close At 88.69 Against US Dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- The rupee depreciated 47 paise to close at 88.69 against the American currency on Thursday on a strong US dollar, weak domestic markets, and a hawkish US Fed. Forex traders said the US Federal Reserve slashed interest rates by 25 bps in its Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting. However, Fed Chair Jerome Powell's commentary was hawkish, trimming rate-cut expectations for December. Moreover, month-end dollar demand from Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and foreign fund outflows may also weigh on the rupee. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 88.37, and later fell to an intra-day low of 88.74. The local unit

finally settled at 88.69 against the greenback, registering a loss of 47 paise from its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee appreciated seven paise to close at 88.22 against the US dollar. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on a strong US Dollar, weak domestic markets and a hawkish Fed. Month-end dollar demand from OMCs may also weigh on the rupee," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Currency and Commodities, Mirae Asset ShareKhan. The US Fed cut rates by 25 bps, as expected. However, Fed Chair Jerome Powell said the December cut was not a foregone conclusion, given inflation remains above target and labour-market uncertainties persist.

Following Powell's remarks, market expectations of a December rate cut fell sharply, prompting a rise in US Treasury yields and a stronger dollar, traders said. Choudhary further noted that the weakness in crude oil prices may support the rupee at lower levels. "US-DINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 88.45 to 89," he said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.09 per cent to 99.12. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.65 per cent to USD 64.50 per barrel in futures trading. On the domestic equity markets front, the Sensex tanked 592.67 points to settle at 84,404.46, while the Nifty dropped 176.05 points to 25,877.85.



Div Com Reviews Arrangements for UT Foundation Day, Ekta Diwas at SKICC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg took a comprehensive stock of arrangements

for the celebration of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas and UT Foundation Day at SKICC during late evening visit to the venue. He was accompanied by Deputy

Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo Commissioner SMC Fazlul Haseeb, Director Information Nitish Rajora and officers of coordinating departments.

Radio Mirchi's 'Pink Mirchi' Campaign Spreads Breast Cancer Awareness Across Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a concerted effort this month to shine a light on breast cancer awareness, Radio Mirchi launched its "Pink Mirchi" campaign across the Kashmir Valley, focusing especially on far-flung areas. The initiative saw the team travelling deep into the district of Pattan and into villages of Bandipora, where they, alongside Dr Shabnam Bashir, engaged local communities in open dialogue, awareness drives and message of early detection and self-check.

During the village visits, Dr Basheer explained the importance of familiarising oneself with the signs of breast cancer, underscoring that the earlier one detects any anomaly, the higher the chance of successful treatment.

On-air, Radio Mirchi carried a series of interviews as part of the campaign: cancer-care experts, medical professionals, and most importantly, real-life survivors and warriors shared

their testimonials. These intimate stories gave listeners a human face to the statistics, making the message of vigilance and solidarity more than just an abstract cause.

"There are three members of my family — me, my mother and my brother — and all three of us know people very, very close to us who have been affected by breast cancer. That personal connection makes this campaign not just professional, but deeply personal", Said Rj Mehak.

At the event, Meem Pathlabs teamed up with Radio Mirchi to offer free breast screening through Pamphlets with QR codes. The users had to scan the QR code, fill in basic details to avail a free and pain-less breast screening procedure.

The campaign also included participation from the student body of Bemina Polytechnic College, who formed part of the pink-ribbon human chain and assisted in pamphlet distribution for awareness efforts

Influencers from different parts of Kashmir also lent their voices to the campaign, helping spread the message on social media platforms and reinforcing that breast-cancer awareness is not just a women's issue — it is a community issue.

Beyond the visual human chain and broadcast segments, Pink Mirchi focused heavily on the message of self-check — urging women (and men) to learn how their bodies change, to flag anything unusual (a lump, skin changes, discharge) and to consult a medical specialist without delay. The campaign highlighted, many Indian women are diagnosed at more advanced stages due to lack of awareness and access to screening reiterating that early detection saves lives.

The campaign made listeners "pinkly promise" to look out for signs and symptoms of breast cancer as women as to as men send reminders to their loved ones and received many pledges.

Aga Ruhullah Inaugurates FutureX Learning Centres in Srinagar



Observer News Service

Srinagar: FutureX Learning — a new-age educational initiative dedicated to redefining modern learning in Kashmir — was inaugurated on Thursday by Member of Parliament Aga Ruhullah at its Parraypora and Hawal campuses.

The ceremony was graced by several notable personalities, including ICAS Officer Shakeel Abdullah, Mohammad Maqbool Akhrooni, Abul Hassan Feroqi, Prof. Nazir Tantary, and DySP Sadder Repan, who attended as special guests. FutureX Learning announced Free Board Revision Classes on its YouTube channel and a Scholarship Test for students of classes 8th, 9th, and 10th, scheduled on November 2 for both Hawal and Parraypora centres.

CONTD. FROM 3RD PAGE

LG Sacks Two

the surrounding areas and was arrested in 2023.

"The evidence collected by the investigators from law enforcement and intelligence agencies has revealed that Hussain was in touch with LeT terrorists Mohd Qasim and Ghulam Mustafa through encrypted messaging applications.

"Both were his handlers, and Ghulam Hussain was carrying out the terror activities as per their directions. He received terror funds via a local conduit, which he subsequently delivered to families of known terrorists as a means to support terrorism, and also distributed money for the recruitment of terrorists and paid for logistics," an official said.

The officials said the investigations also revealed that he was receiving regular parcels and financial assistance through various conduits.

"Hussain did not commit terrorist acts solely for the greed of money but also due to his sympathies towards terrorism, both as an ideology and a violent campaign. He came to be exposed as an OGW planted within the system in Reasi to radicalise youth and recruit them in the terror fold," the official said.

About Dar, the officials said he was appointed as a laboratory assistant in 2009 in the School Education Department on compassionate grounds after the death of his father and was later promoted to a teacher in 2019.

Dar was working as an OGW of LeT and became one of the key figures involved in radicalising youngsters in Rajouri and the surrounding region, they claimed.

They said the investigation has revealed that Dar was also involved in narco-terror and maintained a close link with LeT terrorist Mohd Jabar.

Dar, as a reliable asset of LeT, was using the drug money to finance terror activities and the radicalisation of gullible youth. His terror link was exposed in January 2023 when police recovered an IED planted near J&K Bank in Rajouri, the officials said.

During the investigation, the officials said the police arrested three persons, including Dar.

Subsequent to his detention, Dar continued to display radical tendencies inside the prison and remained deeply committed to the terrorist ideology, it was alleged.

Recently, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha had observed that the people from all sections of society must realise that those who provide ideological and financial support for terrorism, create false narratives are dangerous to peace and development.

Lieutenant Governor Sinha had said that the peace can only be achieved by completely dismantling the terror ecosystem.

"War against terrorism is not over yet. Kinetic and non-Kinetic operations must continue. We must maintain the momentum and take stringent action against terrorism and its entire ecosystem," the Lieutenant Governor had told the security and intelligence officials.

Flood Row: House

"turning a blind eye" to those affected. "Flood victims are facing immense hardship. This is the biggest issue right now. Why has the adjournment motion been disallowed?" he asked.

The Speaker maintained that the government was open to discussing the matter later in the day, but his remarks only intensified the chaos.

Rather said the adjournment motion has been disallowed as Rule 58 (12) puts a bar on admitting an adjournment motion on a subject which has already been disallowed in the session.

The LoP said there should have been a discussion on the issue on the very first day of the assembly session, and accused the government of running away from a discussion.

"What does the government want to hide? A scam in PWD has been unearthed in media today. Why is the government running away? They want to hide corruption," Sharma added.

Sharma's comments led to protests by the treasury benches. With both the treasury and the opposition members on their feet, there was uproar in the House.

Ruling National Conference (NC) MLA from Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi, said the BJP

members "are enacting a drama" and "wasting the time of the House".

As the accusation and counter-accusation flew, deputy chief minister Surinder Choudhary, while pointing towards the BJP MLAs, said, "Chor machaye shor" (thieves were making noise).

Another NC MLA, Salman Sagar, asked the BJP to give an account for the ten years from 2014 to 2024 — when the BJP was in power with the PDP till 2018, and then J&K was under the Centre's rule.

As the ruckus continued, BJP MLA from Kishtwar, Shagun Parihar, tried to enter the well of the House, but was stopped by female watch and ward staff.

Two BJP MLAs, R S Pathania and Surinder Kumar, were marshalled out after jumping into the well.

As the Question Hour continued amid the noisy scenes, the BJP MLAs remained standing till its culmination.

As soon as the Question Hour concluded, the BJP MLAs staged a walkout from the House.

This was the first walkout by the MLAs in the autumn session.

The BJP MLAs shouted slogans against the government, sought an apology from CM Abdullah for "unfulfilled promises", and also demanded his resignation.

The Members of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly (Disqualification on Grounds of Defection) Rules-2025 will be laid in the Legislative Assembly on Friday.

As per list of business scheduled in the House today, the Secretary, Legislative Assembly will lay on table a copy of "Members of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly (Disqualification on Grounds of Defection) Rules-2025" in the House.

Under section 28 of Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019, the 10th schedule of the Constitution of India is applicable to J&K Union Territory.

According to the list, a bill to amend The Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax -2025 will be taken up for consideration and passage.

Four Key Amendment

was moved by Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar. The amendment seeks to further empower local bodies and streamline administrative procedures under the 1989 Act.

Similarly, the Jammu and Kashmir Shops and Establishments (Licensing, Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2025 was moved by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary. The Bill updates existing laws governing employment and service conditions in shops and commercial establishments across the Union Territory.

The Assembly also passed the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2025, presented by Minister for Cooperatives Javid Ahmad Dar. The amendment modernises the Cooperative Societies Act of 1989 to improve regulatory oversight and operational efficiency of cooperative institutions.

Additionally, the Jammu and Kashmir Tenancy Bill, 2025, moved by Minister for Health, Education and Social Welfare Sakeena Itoo on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, was passed to establish a Rent Authority to regulate renting of premises and safeguard the rights of both landlords and tenants.

The Bill also aims to ensure quick adjudication of disputes through a simplified mechanism. An amendment proposed by MLA Nizamuddin Bhat, seeking to extend the timeline in Clause 32(2) from 30 to 90 days, was dropped by voice vote.

LoP Seeks CBI

for the resignation of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Speaking to reporters outside the Assembly Secretariat, Sharma said a local newspaper had exposed major financial irregularities in a government scheme, raising serious questions about corruption at the top level.

"On one hand, the government claims to be committed to employment and development, but on the other, it is caught in scams worth crores. The division mentioned in the report falls under a specific constituency — the government should clarify who the MLA is and

whether he also serves as a minister. If that minister holds late-night meetings with Omar Abdullah, what is being discussed — governance or deals?" Sharma alleged.

The LoP said it was shocking that large-scale corruption had surfaced in less than a year. "We expected immediate action, but there has been none. We demand a CBI inquiry. This is not limited to one division — there are several such cases across departments," he said.

Quoting media reports, Sharma alleged that tenders were allotted to a single contractor, calling it a blatant misuse of authority. "Strange things are happening under this government. Why is there no CBI probe despite such massive losses to the exchequer? This exposes the real face of Omar Abdullah's administration," he said.

He further added that corruption was the "biggest disease in society", affecting even the poorest. "If public money was used properly, many issues like casual labourers' pending regularisation could have been resolved," Sharma said.

On the dismissal of two government employees for alleged terror links, Sharma said the government must act against anyone "who threatens the nation's integrity". "This reflects the Modi government's clarity — those involved in anti-national acts must be removed from service," he said.

The LoP also criticised the government for its "failure" to assess damages caused by the recent floods in Jammu and Kashmir. "In August, heavy rains caused massive destruction. Central ministers visited for an assessment and asked the state to send a compensation report, but nothing has been done so far. The government is disrespecting the affected families," Sharma said.

He added that the BJP has been demanding a discussion on the flood situation in the Assembly for three consecutive days. "The Speaker had promised to allow it, but the government is deliberately avoiding the issue," he said.

Reservation Sparks

the issue of rationalizing the reservation policy.

Raising the matter during Zero Hour, Lone accused the government of withholding crucial data and avoiding questions related to reservation. "It is deeply concerning that we ask questions but don't receive answers. I had sought details about the Cabinet Sub-Committee report and the data supporting the reservation policy. The government must make this information public," he said.

Lone argued that the current reservation framework restricts opportunities for meritorious candidates. "If reservation had been applied this way earlier, would we have the doctors and engineers we see today? They succeeded through open competition. Expanding reservation will limit the potential of talented youth who could represent J&K globally," he said.

His remarks drew an immediate and sharp response from National Conference (NC) MLA Nazir Ahmad Gurezi, who accused Lone of overlooking the hardships faced by students from far-flung regions like Gurez. "You studied in London, while our children study in schools without teachers. In many of our schools, there isn't even a science stream, yet our students compete in the same exams. When one of them succeeds, you say he can't compete — that's unfair," Gurezi said.

The exchange triggered protests from MLAs representing reserved constituencies, who stood up to oppose Lone's comments. Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather intervened to restore order and urged members to maintain decorum before the House resumed normal proceedings.

Justice Surya

where he has been part of several verdicts and orders of national importance and constitutional matters. He also has the distinction of standing 'first class first' in his master's degree in law in 2011 from Kurukshetra University.

Justice Kant, who penned several notable judgements in the Punjab and Haryana HC, was appointed the chief justice of the Himachal Pradesh HC on October 5, 2018.

His tenure as an SC judge is marked by verdicts on the abrogation of Article 370, free speech and citizenship rights.

The judge was part of the recent presidential reference on the powers of the governor and president in dealing with bills passed by a state assembly. The verdict is keenly awaited with potential ramifications across states.

He was part of the bench that kept the colonial-era sedition law in abeyance, directing that no new FIRs be registered under it until a government review.

Justice Kant also nudged the Election Commission to disclose the details of 65 lakh voters excluded from the draft electoral rolls in Bihar while hearing a batch of petitions challenging the poll panel's decision to undertake special intensive revision of the voters list in the poll-bound state.

In an order that emphasised grassroots democracy and gender justice, he led a bench that reinstated a woman sarpanch unlawfully removed from office and called out the gender bias in the matter.

He is also credited with directing that one-third of seats in bar associations, including the Supreme Court Bar Association, be reserved for women.

Justice Kant was part of the bench that appointed a five-member committee headed by former top court judge Justice Indu Malhotra to probe the security breach during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab in 2022, saying such matters required "a judicially trained mind".

He also upheld the One Rank-One Pension scheme for defence forces, calling it constitutionally valid, and continues to hear petitions of women officers in the armed forces seeking parity in permanent commission.

In another notable case, he upheld the Char Dham project in Uttarakhand, emphasising its strategic importance for national security while balancing environmental concerns.

His bench also observed that "freedom of speech is not a licence to flout societal norms" while cautioning podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia for "derogatory" remarks.

Justice Kant headed a bench which pulled up several stand-up comedians, including "India's Got Talent" host Samay Raina, for ridiculing disabled people on their shows and directed the Centre to come up with guidelines for regulating online content.

Holding that freedom of speech is not absolute, Justice Kant led a bench which pulled up Madhya Pradesh minister Vijay Shah for his remarks targeting Col Sofiya Qureshi, who gained nationwide prominence for media briefings on "Operation Sindoor", saying every word uttered by a minister has to be with a sense of responsibility.

He has repeatedly underscored that corruption undermines governance and public trust.

In a 2023 verdict, he called it a "serious societal threat" and ordered the CBI to probe 28 cases exposing an "unholy nexus between banks and developers" that defrauded homebuyers.

He also led a bench that granted bail to former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal in CBI's excise policy case, remarking that the agency must work to dispel the notion of being a "caged parrot".

His bench flagged the absence of a legal framework for domestic workers, directing the Centre to form an expert committee to propose protective measures for this vulnerable workforce.

He has been part of over 300 benches since his elevation to the Supreme Court.

Justice Kant was also on the seven-judge bench that overruled the 1967 AMU verdict, opening the way for reconsideration of its minority status.

He was also part of the bench which in 2021 appointed a 3-member panel of cyber experts to probe the alleged use of Israeli spyware Pegasus for surveillance of certain people in India, saying the state cannot get a "free pass" every time the spectre of national security is raised and it cannot be the "bugbear" that the judiciary shies away from.

LG Pays Tribute

uphold the spirit of unity, a common national identity and brotherhood as a tribute to Sardar Patel."

Domestic Violence

awareness and accessibility of support systems for women across the Union Territory.

152 Lives

damaged, and over 6,500 partially damaged

(Pucca and Kutcha structures). Around 3,540 huts and cattle sheds were also destroyed.

Crop losses in Jammu Division were reported over an area of 69,707,685 hectares, with Rs 5,246.47 lakh dispersed so far as relief to the affected victims.

In Kashmir Division, one death was reported, while 12 houses were fully damaged, 44 severely damaged, and 854 partially damaged. Additionally, 79 huts and cattle sheds suffered damage, and Rs 191.444 lakh have been paid as relief compensation.

In response to the question on the extent of flood damage in the Srigufwara-Bijbehara constituency, the government stated that several structures, including a residential house in Khiram village, Sakhras bridge, a service reservoir, and a graveyard at Pethnoo Sakhras, were partially damaged.

It further said that maize crops spread over 13 x 15 meters of land were affected, while 113.41 hectares of paddy land were damaged within the Bijbehara Tehsil area.

Reservation Report

provisions and judicial principles, including those laid down in the Indira Sawhney vs. Union of India (1992) judgment.

In Indira Sawhney versus Union of India judgment, the Supreme Court has held that reservations should ordinarily not exceed 50 % of the available vacancies.

"However, it is also clarified that this ceiling is not absolute rule and may be relaxed in extraordinary circumstances, where exceptional circumstances and peculiar facts of a particular state or region justify such department," the minister's reply reads.

The government, however, said that it does not maintain region-wise or district-wise details of selections for junior scale posts in the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service, Jammu and Kashmir Police (Gazetted) Service, and Jammu & Kashmir Accounts Service, saying it doesn't maintain such data.

MHA Appoints

case is presented effectively before the court. A Jammu court had, on September 18, given a 45-day extension to the NIA to complete its probe into the Pahalgam attack. The extension expires this week and it is expected that the agency will file its chargesheet now.

Following the attack, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) held a review meeting and approved several measures to strengthen counter-terror operations, including the launch of "Operation Sindoor," aimed at dismantling terrorist infrastructure and cross-border networks.

The NIA took over the investigation from Jammu and Kashmir Police on April 27, 2025, under orders from the MHA, citing the case's national security implications. Since then, the agency has focused on identifying the broader network behind the assault, including foreign funding links and local support.

By June 2025, the NIA arrested two residents of Pahalgam Parvaiz Ahmad Jothar of Batkote and Bashir Ahmad Jothar of Hill Park for allegedly harbouring the attackers at a seasonal hut in Hill Park before the incident.

The two men were charged under Section 19 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967. The agency continues to investigate to uncover the complete network involved in the planning and execution of the attack

Home Minister Amit Shah had confirmed in Parliament on July 29 that the terrorists were from Pakistan and belonged to the LeT.

The NIA has questioned more than 1,000 people, including tourists, mule and pony owners, photographers, employees and shop workers.

Govt Seeks PIB

and tourism, and enhance road safety by ensuring year-round connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the Chenab region. The project also carries strategic importance as an alternative lifeline for the Valley during weather-related disruptions.

Kashmir Observer has been consistently tracking the tunnel's progress and will continue to bring verified updates as the project moves toward PIB consideration next month.

Home Dept To

availability of officers and staff at both locations to maintain seamless functioning during the winter months, it states.

2ND T20I

After Washout, India Head To Melbourne With Nose Ahead

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Formidable India have their tails up as they head to the gargantuan MCG for the second T20I against Australia here on Friday, thanks to the influx of young talent and the return to form of skipper Suryakumar Yadav.

The likes of Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, and Shivam Dube arrived on Australian shores after having redefined the art of T20 batting with their relentless power-hitting, but the lack of big runs from their captain's blade has been a bit of dampener for the team in recent times.

Entering the opener of the five-match series under scrutiny, Suryakumar, however, roared back to form with a 24-ball 39, and his humongous 125-metre six off Josh Hazlewood will stay in memory for long.

However, rain had the last word in Canberra as the match was abandoned with India strongly placed at 97 for one after 9.4 overs, and both Suryakumar and Shubman Gill in the mood to



decimate the Australian attack.

Rain is also forecast for Friday in Melbourne but, without worrying about what's beyond their control, the visitors will look to pick up where they left off in the abandoned series opener.

Going into the second match,

what must have gladdened Indian hearts most was the return to form of Suryakumar, as the team continues on its World Cup path with its high-risk, high-reward approach implemented by head coach Gautam Gambhir.

Gambhir wants his team to

regularly go for totals in excess of 250, 260, and even if they end up getting bowled out for 120-130 in trying to do that and lose a few matches in the process, he wouldn't mind.

India didn't get to bowl in Canberra but as far as that depart-

ment is concerned, they boast of Jasprit Bumrah's class and Varun Chakravarthy's guile, with the likes of Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel forming a potent attack that can also defend a small total should the batters fail to fire.

They will, nevertheless, have their task cut out against big hitters Mitchell Marsh and Travis Head, who has troubled India in the past.

Australia's T20 template is pretty similar to the one adopted by the Indian team with focus primarily on playing attacking cricket irrespective of the match situation. In men like Head, Marsh, Marcus Stoinis, Tim David and Josh Iglis, they have the personnel to put up big totals or pull off tricky chases.

With pace ace Mitchell Starc retiring from T20Is and Pat Cummins recovering from an injury, the bowling looks a bit thin on experience and onus is on Hazlewood to lead the attack that comprises Xavier Bartlett, Matthew Kuhnemann, and Nathan Ellis among others.

Match Starts at 1:45 pm.

Rodrigues Takes India To World Cup Final After Record Chase



Jemimah Rodrigues played the innings of her life, slamming a century for the ages as India pulled off a record chase to storm into the Women's World Cup final with a five-wicket win over defending champions Australia here on Thursday.

Chasing a record target of 339, Rodrigues anchored the innings brilliantly with an unbeaten 127 off 134 balls, while skipper Harmanpreet Kaur made a crucial 89 off 88 deliveries.

Deepthi Sharma (24) and Richa Ghosh (26) also chipped in with handy contributions as India overhauled the target with nine balls to spare.

India will face South Africa in the final. Earlier, opener Phoebe Litchfield's 119 off 93 balls was the cornerstone of Australia's massive total of 338 all out in 50 overs in the second semifinal.

BRIEF SCORES:

Australia 338 in 50 overs (Phoebe Litchfield 119, Ellyse Perry 77, Ashleigh Gardner 65; Deepthi Sharma 2/73, Shree Charani 2/49).

India 341-5 in 48.3 overs (Jemimah Rodrigues 127 not out, Harmanpreet Kaur 89; Kim Garth 2/46). (PTI)

Sajid Dar Participates In FIFA Development Pathway Prog

A group of Indians took part in the FIFA Coach Educators Development Pathway Programme, a five-day intensive course held in Jakarta and organised by the world football governing body's coaching development department.

The Indian contingent included Vivek Nagul (AIFF head of coach development), Sajid Dar, Mariano Dias, Shakti Chauhan, Caetano Pinho, Shekhar Kerkar, and Parthasarthy Thulasi.

The workshop aimed to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of coach educators, focusing on modern coaching principles, advanced educational methodologies, and peer-to-peer learning.

The sessions were conducted under the leadership of Branimir Ujević, FIFA head of coach education, and facilitated by Oscar Diaz, coaching development delivery manager for AFC and OFC.

Technical expertise was provided by Scott O'Donnell, Savio Medeira, Sean Douglas, and Jamal Alhassani.

The programme also served as an important platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange among participants from India, Malaysia, Singapore, and Cambodia, fostering cross-regional dialogue and the sharing of best practices in coach education. (PTI)

Thrilling Bouts Mark Wushu Event At 69th National School Games

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The ongoing 69th National School Games in Wushu (U-17 Category) witnessed remarkable performances from young athletes across the country at Indoor Sports Complex here on Thursday.

Athletes from J&K have impressed one and all with their exceptional skill and competitive spirit.

In boys' 48 kg category, Mursaleen from J&K registered a win. In the 52 kg category, Kapish from J&K also got a win. The 65 kg category saw Suryansh from J&K take the win. In the 70 kg category, Arhan kept J&K in the hunt for a medal, while in the 75 kg category, Sajad from J&K impressed the audience

with his strength and technique.

In the Girls Section, the results recorded were equally impressive. The 65 kg category witnessed remarkable bout from Rutba of J&K. In the 70 kg category, Jiya Manhas from J&K showcased great determination and sporting spirit.

As it stands, Mursaleen (48 kg), Kapish (52kg), Suryansh (65kg), Mohd. Harseeb (80 kg), Jiya Manhas (48 kg), Rutba (65 kg), Arham (70) and Sajad have played exceptionally well in the respective weight categories while qualifying for the final bouts set to be played on Friday at Indoor Sports Complex Wazir Bagh.

The J&K teams are playing under coach Ajay Paul Gill, manager Farooq and assistant coach Abida.

J&K Junior Carrom Team Leaves For Nationals In Gwalior



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Carrom Association has announced a 12-member Junior Carrom Team to represent the region in the 50th Junior National Carrom Championship, being organised by the All India Carrom Federation in association with the State Carrom Association, Madhya Pradesh, and the Gwalior Jila Carrom Association. The championship is scheduled to be held from November 1 to 4 at INIPE, Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh).

Additionally, Adil Shah, President of the J&K Car-

rom Association, will accompany the contingent and attend the Working Committee Meeting of the All India Carrom Federation scheduled during the championship.

For the first time, the carrom players from J&K travelled in Executive Class (AC Class) from Srinagar to Gwalior via Katra for participation in this national championship. The initiative was widely appreciated by JKCA, which praised J&K Sports Council, especially secretary Nuzhat Gul, for her continuous support and encouragement.

TEAM COMPOSITION:

JUNIOR BOYS

- FAIZAN FIRDOUS
- FAALIQ FAROOQ
- SHAHID GUL
- HASSAN ADIL
- AAKIB SULTANI
- ARHAAN KHAN

YOUTH BOYS

- ZAID BIN AJAZ
- MOMIN MEHRAJ

JUNIOR GIRLS

- PAKEEZH FIRDOUS
- SAEEDAH ADIL
- FARHEEN MUKHTAR

YOUTH GIRLS

- MEHAK JAN

THE TEAM WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY TWO OFFICIALS:

- FURQAN NAZIR - MANAGER (MEN'S TEAM)
- BILQUIES JAN - MANAGER (WOMEN'S TEAM)

Over 32,000 Youth Engaged In Sports Activities In Kangan: Govt

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The J&K government on Thursday informed the Legislative Assembly that more than 32,000 boys and girls from Kangan constituency participated in various sports and youth-centric programmes during the last one year.

In a written reply to starred question tabled by MLA Mian Mehar Ali, the Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) said that a total of 18,981 boys and 13,240 girls took part in different games, sports events and activities aimed



at promoting fitness, teamwork, and leadership among the youth.

The reply further mentioned that seven students from Kangan constituency represented J&K at

the national level during 2024-25, while 86 sports kits were distributed across various panchayats and schools in the area.

As part of efforts to attract youth

towards sports, the department organised regular interaction programmes, drug de-addiction drives, and felicitation ceremonies for outstanding young sportspersons.

Various inter-school, inter-zonal, and inter-panchayat tournaments were held in disciplines including football, cricket, volleyball, kabaddi, kho-kho, badminton, athletics, and indigenous games.

The reply also stated that multiple activities were conducted under national initiatives such as My Youth My Pride, Khelo India, Fit India Movement, and Jan Abhiyaan.

To boost sports infrastructure, the government said it has developed the following facilities in Kangan constituency: Playfield in village Bhag Surfraw Hariganivan, Concrete Badminton Court at BHSS Hariganivan, Synthetic Volleyball Court with fencing at Kijpora Kangan, Synthetic Basketball Court at BHSS Kangan.

The department added that it continues to focus on providing youth with better sports infrastructure and regular opportunities to engage in constructive and nation-building activities. (KNO)

Real Madrid Plays Struggling Valencia In La Liga Ahead Of Liverpool Trip

AP

BARCELONA: Real Madrid will look to take care of business against a struggling Valencia and maintain its La Liga lead this weekend before turning to its demanding match at Liverpool.

Xabi Alonso's team visits Anfield in a clash of European title hopefuls next Tuesday in the Champions League.

Madrid beat Barcelona 2-1 last weekend to end a run of four clasico victories for the Catalan club from last season. The victory allowed Madrid to open a five-point gap at the top of the league standings over second-placed Barcelona.

KEY MATCHES

Madrid is on a five-game winning streak that includes a 1-0 win over Juventus in the Champions League.

Kylian Mbappé struck his 11th goal in the domestic league to help defeat Barcelona. The France striker is also joint top of the Champions League with Harry Kane on five goals each.

On Saturday, Madrid will host a Valencia that was jeered by home fans during a 2-0 loss against regional rival Villarreal in the last round. Valencia is winless in five games and has sunk into the relegation zone.

An injury-hit Barcelona will look to lick its wounds from its clasico defeat when it hosts Elche on Sunday.

Elche has been the surprise package in the first months. The small southern club was promoted at the end of last season and has so far defied expectations. Coach Eder Sarabia has his team in eighth place after just two losses through Round 10.



Third-placed Villarreal can provisionally move ahead of Barcelona on Saturday if it beats Rayo Vallecano.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

All eyes in the Santiago Bernabeu will be on Vinicius Junior and Alonso.

Vinicius was visibly upset when

his coach substituted him with around 20 minutes left in the clasico. He went straight to the changing room before rejoining the bench minutes later.

The Brazil forward later apologized on social media saying that "sometimes my passion gets the better of me."

Alonso, who replaced Carlo

Ancelotti this summer, has given Vinicius less playing time than his predecessor.

OUT OF ACTION

Midfield leader Pedri González has joined a long list of injured Barcelona players that already included Robert Lewandowski and Raphinha, the team's top scorers from last season's championship side.

Pedri, who tore a muscle in his left thigh, played 72 of 73 games since coach Hansi Flick took over Barcelona last season. The Spain playmaker's vision, control and passing skills are unmatched by his teammates.

Lewandowski and midfielder Dani Olmo rejoined team practice this week but as of Thursday they had not been cleared by team doctors to play.

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