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**Fiza Masoodi**

Srinagar: Long before he became one of Kashmir's most respected journalists, Tariq Ahmad Bhat was a boy who studied under the yellow light

of a lamppost in his birthplace Chhota Bazar. On winter evenings, when electricity flickered across Srinagar, neighbours would see him crouched beneath that streetlight, his books spread over his knees, lips moving as he memorized lessons. They still remember that glow.

"He would read for hours under that lamp," said a neighbour who attended his funeral prayers on November 4. "People said he was too intense, that he had become mentally-strong from all that studying. He wanted something bigger from life." Tariq eventually found it. He

**6 AT HIS FUNERAL IN SRINAGAR, THE NOVEMBER AIR CARRIED A HUSH AS MOURNERS OFFERED PRAYERS.** Among them were reporters he had once mentored, editors who had once critiqued him, and friends who still couldn't believe he was gone.

rose from the narrow lanes of downtown Srinagar to become the Kashmir Bureau Chief of

The Week, one of India's leading magazines. Over a three-decade career,

he came to embody a rare blend of moral clarity, humour, and grace that colleagues say defined the best years of Kashmiri journalism.

He died on Tuesday morning after suffering a cardiac arrest at his home in Srinagar. He was 54. His death | **More on P6**

## Snowfall In Hills, Rains Lash Kashmir Plains

Dry Weather Likely From Nov 6: MeT



**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Srinagar: The higher reaches of Kashmir, including Gulmarg and Sonamarg, received light snowfall on Tuesday, while rains and gusty winds swept across the plains, bringing a noticeable dip in temperature across the Valley.

According to the Meteorological Department, areas such as Gurez Valley, Razdan Top, Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Farkin Top, and Doodhpathri witnessed light snowfall during the afternoon. The fresh spell turned the upper reaches white, marking one of the earliest snowfalls of the season. | **More on P6**

## Food Safety Gets Scientific Push As SKIMS Plans White Paper

**Fazal Ansari**

Srinagar: The Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), in collaboration with the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K), convened the Food Safety and Health Conclave 2025 on Tuesday, bringing together top experts, policymakers, and public health officials to deliberate on strengthening food safety mechanisms in Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, who was the chief guest at the valedictory session, announced that 7,500 hectares have been earmarked for natural farming to reduce pesticide use and promote sustainable agriculture. He said the government was already implementing flagship horticulture programmes and



had strengthened food safety checks following recent public concerns.

"Adulteration and unsafe practices must be tackled through both regulation and moral responsibility," Dar said, calling for awareness campaigns at the grassroots level.

Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, Director of SKIMS, said the

conclave followed the recent rotten meat scandal and was part of the institute's effort to lead a scientific intervention on food safety. He announced that SKIMS would submit a white paper on food safety to the government, highlighting policy recommendations and research insights.

Prof. Y. Kumar, President of

AIIMS Kalyani, warned that low-dose pesticide exposure posed long-term risks to children and called for coordinated efforts between scientists, religious leaders, and policymakers to strengthen public awareness.

Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Science & Technology, said the success of the new food policy would depend on its technical soundness and political support. He stressed the role of religious scholars and scientific institutions like SKIMS and SKUAST-K in ensuring safe food practices.

DC Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, highlighted the importance of community participation and unbiased enforcement, while legal and religious experts emphasised stronger deterrents and moral accountability in ensuring food purity.

The event featured multiple thematic | **More on P6**

## LG, CM Greet People On Guru Nanak Jayanti

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the auspicious occasion of Prakash Parv of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, which is being celebrated tomorrow.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of the Prakash Parv of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, I extend my greetings and good wishes to all. Guru Nanak Dev ji's life and message of equality, love, brotherhood, compassion and truthfulness is an inspiration for all humanity.

"Guru Nanak Dev Ji taught us to lead a virtuous and noble life. His Prakash Parv is an occasion to rededicate ourselves to the task of creating a just, fair and humane society and practice the revered Guru's noble teachings in our daily lives. Let us take a pledge to work with dedication and commitment to root out any divisive tendencies in our society and uphold the universal values of peace and harmony". Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also | **More on P6**

## Late-Night Campaigning In Budgam PDP Candidate Served Show-Cause Notice

**KO Web Desk**

Srinagar: The Election Commission on Tuesday issued a show-cause notice to Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate for the Budgam bypolls, Aga Muntazir Mehdi, for allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by holding late-night campaign activities without prior permission.

According to the notice, the poll body's nodal officer said it had been brought to their attention through multiple sources that Mehdi conducted political campaign activities, including rallies and processions, during late-night hours on November 1 and



3 in the Budgam Assembly constituency.

"Several complaints have been received from various contesting candidates alleging that you have been organising political campaigning events without obtaining the requisite permission from the competent authority," the notice stated. The officer | **More on P6**

## Preserving Cultural Heritage Crucial For Economic Growth: LG

Stresses On Selfless Service & Inclusive Development At Jhiri Mela

**Observer News Service**

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that preserving cultural heritage is essential for ensuring rapid and inclusive economic growth. He stressed the need to pass on Jammu and Kashmir's rich cultural traditions, arts, and crafts to younger generations through active participation in cultural and skill development programmes.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking after inaugurating the annual Jhiri Mela at Marh Sub-Division in Jammu district, where he paid obeisance to Baba Jitto and Bua Kouri.

"Baba Jitto is a universal symbol of public welfare,



transcending sectarian divides. His values of truth, non-violence, and brotherhood strengthen society and make the Jhiri Mela a celebration of multiculturalism and social harmony," the LG said. "The real tribute to Baba Jitto is to ensure

that the benefits of government schemes reach every farmer."

Calling for greater community participation in governance, Sinha said that active involvement of citizens is vital to promote accountability, improve service delivery, | **More on P6**

## 'Worked 7 Years Beyond Limit' At 93, Ex-MD Convicted For Forging DOB

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: A local court in Jammu and Kashmir has convicted a 93-year-old former Managing Director of the J&K Cooperative Central Land Development Bank Limited for forging his date of birth to unlawfully extend his tenure in service.

According to officials, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch Kashmir secured the conviction of Mohammad Shafi Bandy, who was found guilty of fraudulently manipulating his date of birth to gain illegal service benefits.

The case stemmed from a complaint alleging that Bandy had deliberately recorded his

date of birth as September 1, 1939, instead of 1934, by producing a fake certificate. A verification conducted by the Crime Branch later established that his actual date of birth was June 26, 1932, officials said.

During the investigation, it was revealed that Bandy had overstayed in service for more than seven years, causing wrongful gain to himself and a corresponding loss to the state exchequer.

A formal case was registered by the Crime Branch (now EOW), and after a detailed probe, a chargesheet was filed before the competent court.

Following a full trial, the Court of City Judge, Srinagar, found Bandy | **More on P6**

## With Winter Setting In, All You Need To Know About Flu Shots

**Hirra Azmat**

Srinagar: When the nurse at a private hospital in Srinagar asked the parents of an 11-month-old baby whether they preferred a trivalent or tetravalent flu shot, they froze. "We weren't sure what they were going to give, so we just left without getting the vaccine," the parents said.

They aren't alone. Another parent of a two-year-old shared similar hesitation: "Why should I get the vaccine when my child still caught the flu last year? I'm still not clear



how long the immunity lasts," the concerned mother said. With a spike in flu cases

across Kashmir, doctors are once again urging vaccination — but confusion over which flu

shot to choose and how effective it really is has left many families uncertain. To clear the air, Kashmir Observer spoke with Dr. Suhail Naik, a leading paediatrician and Assistant Professor at Children's hospital, Srinagar.

**What types of flu viruses are circulating in Kashmir this season?**

Typically, both Influenza A (H3N2) and Influenza B strains circulate during the flu season. To determine which strain is dominant, we need frequent testing, serotyping, and detailed data | **More on P6**

## 'Cannons For Bullets': Shah Vows Retaliation to Terror Attacks

**KO Web Desk**

Srinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday warned Pakistan-sponsored terrorists to refrain from attacking India, asserting that any repeat of such acts would invite a fierce response. Speaking at back-to-back election rallies in Bihar, Shah said, "If they repeat the mistake, goli ka jawab goley se diya jayega (they will face cannons for bullets)."

Addressing a large gathering in Darbhanga, the Home Minister said explosives manufactured in Bihar's proposed Defence Corridor would be used against these terrorists.



"Prime Minister Narendra Modi is setting up a Defence Corridor in Bihar. The cannons that will answer Pakistan's bullets will be made here," Shah declared, drawing loud applause. He recalled the 2019 Pulwama attack in which

several CRPF personnel were killed and said the Modi government had avenged it through "Operation Sindoor" within 20 days. "The terrorists who wiped off the sindoor from our mothers and sisters were neutralised on Pakistan's soil," he said.

The Home Minister accused the Congress and Lalu Prasad Yadav's party of safeguarding Article 370 for decades. "For nearly 70 years, the Congress-Lalu alliance protected Article 370. It was Prime Minister Modi who finally ended it on August 5, 2019," Shah said.

Turning his focus to state politics, Shah | **More on P6**



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# ‘Inability To Pay Attention When Sleep-Deprived Could Be Brain Wanting To Clear Waste’

Press Trust Of India

Attention lapses due to sleep-deprivation could be because the brain is trying to catch up with waste cleansing — which typically happens while sleeping — during the day, a new study has suggested. The cerebrospinal fluid, which flows into and around the brain and spinal cord cushions the central nervous system from shocks, helps remove waste from the brain that was built during the day through 'flushing'. It is considered important for maintaining brain health and function. "If you don't sleep, the cerebrospinal fluid waves start to intrude into wakefulness where normally you wouldn't see them. However, they come with an attentional tradeoff, where attention fails during the moments that you have this wave of fluid flow," said Laura Lewis, associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and senior author of the

study published in the journal Nature Neuroscience. Sleep is critical for normal daily functioning, with deprivation known to cause an impaired cognitive function, such as in remembering and paying attention, among other deficits. Problems in the brain's waste clearance has been suggested in previous studies to lead to dementia. The study tested 26 participants for their ability to pay attention — once following a night of sleep deprivation in the lab, and once when they were well-rested — in a visual and an auditory task. or the visual task, the participants were asked to press a button when a cross on a screen in front of them would change to a square. For the auditory one, they were asked to do the same when they heard a beep. Recordings of brain activity using an electroencephalogram and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) scanner revealed that sleep-deprived participants performed worse, compared to the well-rested ones. Time taken to respond to changes in



visuals and audio was more and in some cases, the participants did not register the change — an attention lapse, the researchers said. Among the physiological changes seen during an attention lapse, the research-

ers noted that the cerebrospinal fluid flowed out of the brain during the lapses and flowed back in after each lapse. The result suggests that "at the moment that attention fails, this fluid is actually being expelled outward away from the

brain. And when attention recovers, it's drawn back in," said Lewis. The researchers proposed that when the brain is sleep-deprived, it begins to compensate for the loss in cleansing that normally occurs during sleep, possibly at the cost of attention. "One way to think about those events is because your brain is so in need of sleep, it tries its best to enter into a sleep-like state to restore some cognitive functions," lead author Zinong Yang, a postdoctoral associate at MIT, said. A reduced breathing and heart rate and narrowing of pupils were among the other physiological changes related with an attention lapse, pointing to how effects of sleep-deprivation are body-wide, the researchers said. They "demonstrate that attentional failures during wakefulness after sleep deprivation are tightly orchestrated in a series of brain-body changes, including neuronal shifts, pupil constriction and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) flow pulsations, pointing to a coupled system of fluid dynamics and neuromodulatory state."

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION SOURA SRINAGAR  
ENGINEERING COMPLEX, SKIMS, SOURA SRINAGAR-190011

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas Plot No. 175 measuring 30'x50' i.e. 1500 Sft situated at Illahibagh Housing Colony Srinagar has been allotted in favour of Mohammad Ashraf Bhat S/o Ghulam Qadir Bhat resident of Zaldagar Srinagar vide allotment letter No. LR/ P/1806-12 Dated: 11/08/2001 by the Executive Engineer Erstwhile (R&B) LRCR Division Srinagar on conditions as contained in the allotment order and lease deed; and Whereas Mr. Habibullah Shah s/o Abdul Gani Shah has filed an application before the Executive Engineer R&B Division Soura, Srinagar with the request to issue NOC for transfer of ownership rights of the Plot No. 175 measuring 30'x50' i.e. 1500 Sft at Illahibagh Housing Colony Srinagar; and Whereas, as per the terms and conditions of the allotment the Plot has been allotted on Lease for a period of 20 years and thereafter ownership rights will be transferred to the allottees; and Whereas, in light of the allotment letter dated 11-08-2001, the 20 years lease period of the plot stands already completed on 11-08-2021. Now therefore, it is hereby notified that in case any person/ persons has any objection with respect to the transfer of ownership rights of plot No. 175 situated at Illahibagh Housing Colony Srinagar, they may Submit their objections, with reasons thereof within a period of fifteen days from the . date of publication of this notice in the local newspapers.

No: EE/R&B/Soura/2920  
DIPK-7744/25  
Dated: 04-11-2025

Executive Engineer  
(R&B) Division, Soura

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat hereby solemnly affirm that my wards name in the school records is unfortunately recorded as Ziyan Imtiyaz instead of Arhaam Ahmad Bhat needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objections can contact Principal Noorani Pacific School Bakura within 7 days from the publication. After that no objection will be entertained.

Mob:9622442108

Media line advert

NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Muhammad Musa to (new name) Muhammad Musa Mir. In future I will be known as Muhammad Musa Mir.

If anybody having any objection he/she may contact concerned department within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Media line advert

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son has been wrongly recorded in his Aadhaar Card as Issian Ahmad, whereas his correct name is Ihsaan Javid Parray. Now I have applied for the correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the concerned Aadhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Javid Ahmad Parray  
S/o: Ghulam Qadir Parray  
R/o: Wailoo Kralpora

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of the general public that the name of my daughter has been wrongly recorded in her Aadhaar Card as Mohd Emaan Khan, whereas her correct name is Tabasum Hameed, D/o Ab. Hameed Khan, R/o Kulabug. Now I have applied for the correction of the said error in the Aadhaar records.

Aadhaar No.: 4768 5227 2420

If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same with the concerned Aadhaar authorities within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Ab. Hameed Khan  
Father/Guardian of: Tabasum Hameed  
R/o: Kulabug

fko

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC  
THE JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE BOARD  
OF SCHOOL EDUCATION  
CERTIFICATES-KD, NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR  
ATTENTION PLEASE

I have passed /appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th,) under Roll No. 117010093 Session Annual-Regular Year 2025. Through the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the School records against my Fathers name ALI MOHAMMAD instead of ALI MOHAMMAD HAJAM.

Now I have applied for correction / rectification of error in the Jammu & Kashmir board of School Education, New campus Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public. The Correct particulars be recorded as under:

Name: WASEEM ALI HAJAM,  
Fathers Name: ALI MOHAMMAD HAJAM,  
Mothers Name, BATOOLA BANO  
Date of Birth: 12-09-2010,  
Residence:- Waterwani Budgam  
Mobile. 7780984041.

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Basit Bashir hereby inform the general public that my name in my Aadhaar Card is wrongly recorded as Basit Ahmad Dar (old name). I intend to correct my name in the Aadhaar records to Basit Bashir (new name).

If any person has any objection to the above name change, he/she may file the same with the concerned Aadhaar authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Basit Bashir S/o Bashir Ahmad Dar  
R/o Diaroo Distt Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Muzamil Shaban, S/o Mohd Shaban Mir, resident of Gulshan Abad, Hyderpora, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir – 190014, hereby declare that I am changing my name from Muzamil Ahmad Mir to Muzamil Shaban. My correct and official name as per Aadhaar Card is Muzamil Shaban.

The name Muzamil Ahmad Mir appearing in my PNB MetLife Insurance Policy (No. 24822900) should be read as Muzamil Shaban. If anyone has any objection, they may contact me within 7 days of publication of this notice.

Contact No.: 6005886368  
Muzamil Shaban  
Place: Srinagar

anko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Qasim Gors, hereby inform the general public that my name in my Aadhaar Card is wrongly recorded as Mohd Qasim Gourse (old name). I intend to correct my name in the Aadhaar records to Mohammad Qasim Gors (new name).

If any person has any objection to the above name change, he/she may file the same with the concerned Aadhaar authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Mohammad Qasim Gors  
S/o Sai Mohammad Gors  
R/O Zampathri District Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rifat Jan, hereby inform the general public that my name in my Aadhaar Card is wrongly recorded as Rifat Iqbal (old name). I intend to correct my name in the Aadhaar records to Rifat Jan (new name).

If any person has any objection to the above name change, he/she may file the same with the concerned Aadhaar authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Rifat Jan  
W/o Mohammad Iqbal Wani  
R/o Bongam Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Haneefa Akhter hereby inform the general public that my name in my Aadhaar Card is wrongly recorded as Haneefa Bano (old name). I intend to correct my name in the Aadhaar records to Haneefa Akhter (new name).

If any person has any objection to the above name change, he/she may file the same with the concerned Aadhaar authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Haneefa Akhter  
W/o Shabir Ahmad Sheikh  
R/o Nazneenpora Distt. Shopian

fko

اطلاع عام

ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے جوں و کشمیر بینک زیر اکاؤنٹ 0909040100001380 میں غلطی سے میرا نام بشیر احمد ڈال دیا گیا ہے۔ میرا اصل نام Rifat Jan ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر مجھوں و کشمیر بینک میر گنڈ بڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد ازاں گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

بشارت احمد ڈال دیا گیا ہے۔ میرا اصل نام Rifat Jan ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر مجھوں و کشمیر بینک میر گنڈ بڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد ازاں گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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فون 7889936200 MBC

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
OFFICE OF THE FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER (REVENUE) J&K  
Rail Head Complex Jammu, 180001/Amar Niwas, Tankipora Srinagar, 190001 (www.jkfc.nic.in)  
PhoneNo. 0194-2459372, 0191-2470212, E-mail address jk-fcrev@ik.gov.in

Subject. Appointment to the post of Patwari (Revenue Department) District Cadre in pursuance to Advertisement Notification no. 02 of 2021 dated 26-03-2021 issued by the J&K SSB.

Ref. 1. Letter No. Rev-NG/13/2023 (7152177) dated 24-03-2025 from Administrative Department, J&K.

2. Letter No. JKSSB-Scry/1/2025-03 (7627406) dated 13-03-2025 from J&K Service Selection Board.

ORDER No :138-FC (REV) of 2025  
DATED: 30-10-2025

On the recommendations of the J&K Service Selection Board, endorsed by the Administrative Department vide their letter referred above, Sanction is hereby accorded to the temporary appointment of the below mentioned candidate as Patwari in the Revenue Department (District Cadre), in the pay level-4 (Rs 2550081100):-

S. No	DV. Sr.No.	Roll No.	Name of the candi-Parentage (Mr.)	Address	Category	Cadre/ Item No. Allotted
1.	32-KMR	30090165	AAMIR HUSSAIN MOHD MAQ-41 TANTRAY	41 Near Eidgah Shan-OM BOOL TANTRAY Srinagar Anantnag 192201	OM	Shopian/ 468

2. The appointee shall report to the Principal, Revenue Training Institute, Srinagar within a period of twenty one (21) days from the date of issuance of this order and shall be allowed to join after the production of following documents/certificates (in original) to be verified subsequently:-

(i) Academic/ qualification Certificates.  
(ii) Matriculation/Date of Birth Certificates.  
(iii) Health Certificate from the concerned Chief Medical Officer of the District.  
(iv) Domicile Certificate issued by the competent authority.  
(v) Valid relevant Category Certificate, if any, applicable.

The above appointment shall further be subject to the following conditions:-

(a) That if the candidate has taken loan for self employment from DIC/Employment Department, to be ascertained from the District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Employment & Counseling Centre of the domicile District, he shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government service. He shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his salary. DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes if any, in such a self-employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery.

(b) The salary of the appointee shall not be drawn and disbursed to him unless a satisfactory report in respect of (a) above is received in his favour.

(c) The appointee shall give an undertaking in the shape of an affidavit to the effect that if, on verification, genuineness of the qualification /category certificate from the concerned issuing authority are found fake/forged, the appointment shall be treated to have been cancelled ab-initio.

(d) The appointee shall be initially on probation for a period of two years.

(e) The appointment of the candidates shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as per SRO 400 of 2009 dated 24.12.2009.

(f) The appointee appointed under RBA and ALC/IB category shall be posted in such areas at least for 7 years.

(g) The inter-se-seniority of the appointee shall be determined in accordance with the merit secured by him in the selection list prepared by the J&K Service Selection Board and in terms of J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956.

(h) The cadre allocated by appointing authority/SSB shall not be changed under any circumstances.

(i) This appointment order is issued subject to outcome of any writ petition(s) pending in any competent Court/Tribunal, etc.

4. If the appointee fail to join within a period of 21 days (twenty one) days from the date of issuance of this order he shall forego his right to appointment which shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio without any further notice.

Sd/-  
(Shaleen Kabra)  
IAS Financial Commissioner, (Revenue) J&K  
No: FCR-NGAZ/49/2025-06 (7671652)

DIPK-7754/25  
Dated: 04/11/2025



## Director Information, JD Condole Demise of Journalist Tariq Bhat

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Director Information, Nitish Rajora has expressed deep grief over the death of Veteran and Accredited journalist Tariq Ahmad Bhat, calling his demise an irreparable loss to Kashmir's journalistic fraternity.

In his condolence message, the Director Information said that Bhat was an accredited Journalist with DIPR and his professionalism and integrity is known across the Journalistic circles.

He added that the passing of Bhat has created a deep void in the media fraternity of Kashmir which cannot be filled so easily.

The Director also expressed deep sympathy with the family members of Tariq Bhat and prayed for

peace for the departed soul.

Meanwhile, the employees of Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) also expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of Tariq Ahmad Bhat. The employees remembered Bhat's long association with DIPR and said that he was a torchbearer for many budding journalists.

Meanwhile, Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari, also expressed deep grief over the passing away of The Week Bureau Head.

Bukhari described Tariq as a thorough professional, a self-respecting journalist, and a wonderful human being. He said Tariq was also a dear friend, and his demise is a personal loss to many.

## Zamin Foundation, LD Hospital Host Blood Donation Drive

A Drop of Kindness, A Gift of Life” highlights spirit of compassion, community service

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a display of compassion and community spirit, the Zamin Founda-

excellent coordination between the hospital administration and the Foundation team, ensuring smooth operations and



tion, in collaboration with Lal Ded Hospital, Srinagar organized a blood donation camp on Tuesday. The initiative, held under the guidance of the Foundation's Chairman, aimed to promote voluntary blood donation and strengthen public participation in life-saving humanitarian causes.

The camp witnessed

active participation from donors and volunteers alike. Present on the occasion were Salim Wani, Program Manager, Ushna Aseera, General Manager, and Abrar Ahmad from the Zamin Foundation, who supervised the arrangements and commended the dedication of everyone involved.



## Div Com Reviews Expansion Plan for Civil Enclave at Srinagar Airport

Focus on Road Connectivity and Infrastructure Development

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the expansion of the Civil Enclave at Srinagar Airport and deliberate on the proposed relocation of CRPF barracks situated within the airport vicinity.

The meeting, held at the Divisional Commissioner's office, was attended by Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, and senior representatives from the CRPF, CISF, Airports Authority of India (AAI), and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

During the discussions, the officers carried out detailed deliberations on the development of a connecting road linking the Ring Road, Railway Station, and Srinagar Airport, envisioned as part

of a proposed transport circuit to enhance regional connectivity.

The feasibility of constructing new CRPF barracks and accommodation facilities for CISF personnel to bolster airport security and operational efficiency was also reviewed.

ments to identify suitable land parcels for relocating CRPF facilities in accordance with safety and regulatory guidelines issued by the Air Force authorities.

Emphasizing the importance of inter-departmental coordina-

During the discussions, the officers carried out detailed deliberations on the development of a connecting road linking the Ring Road, Railway Station, and Srinagar Airport, envisioned as part of a proposed transport circuit to enhance regional connectivity.

While addressing the meeting, Div Com Garg directed officials to reassess the alignment of the proposed road to ensure optimal connectivity with minimal land acquisition challenges. He also instructed concerned depart-

tion, the Divisional Commissioner called for timely finalisation of the expansion plan by November 20, noting that the project would play a key role in improving passenger convenience and overall infrastructure at the Srinagar Airport.

## KU Holds Orientation Workshop for New Faculty

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA), University of Kashmir (KU), organised a one-day orientation workshop on “Integrating New Faculty into the University Quality Culture” here on Tuesday.

The workshop aimed to familiarize newly inducted faculty members with the university's quality assurance framework, policies, and web-based systems. It also focused on enhancing understanding of teaching, research,

and service quality standards that guide the institution's academic environment.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said, “Building a culture of quality begins with awareness and accountability. Our goal is to ensure that every faculty member understands their role in strengthening institutional standards and contributing to continuous improvement.” She added that such initiatives reflect the University's collective commitment to excellence and transparency in academic and

administrative functioning.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, highlighted the need for consistent efforts to align individual teaching and research practices with institutional benchmarks. Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, said that quality assurance is a continuous process that demands collective commitment and highlighted that every member of the academic community has a vital role in strengthening the university's quality culture.

## Fire Breaks Out in Fateh Kadal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A major fire erupted late Tuesday night in Srinagar's Fateh Kadal locality, consuming at least two to three residential buildings and prompting an extensive fire-fighting operation.

Officials from the Fire and Emergency Services said they received a distress call at 11:04 p.m., after which fire tenders were immediately dispatched from the Babbemb and Habba Kadal fire stations at 11:05 p.m.

Due to the densely packed nature of the neighborhood, additional reinforcements were summoned from the Headquarters, Safa Kadal, MR Gunj, and Shaheed Gunj stations to help contain the blaze.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Auction Notice		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start date/time	Name of work
EAFFZ-MIS24-23	17.11.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for setting up and operation of Grocery & Photocopier kiosk at Jalandhar City & Ludhiana Railway Station.
EAFFZ-OSD 25-9	17.11.2025 at 11:30 Hrs.	Allotment of Commercial Publicity rights through Dual Display Information System (DDIS Screens) on 71 UTS/PRS/UTS cum PRS counters at 69 NSG-5 & NSG-6 category Railway Stations over Firozpur Division.
EAFFZ-WVM 25-10	18.11.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for provision and operation of Water Vending Machines at Railway Station Faridkot, Phillaur, Firozpur Cantt, Amritsar & Phagwara.
EAFFZ-MIX ED25-5	21.11.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.	1) Allotment of contract for provision, operation and maintenance of Plastic Bottle Crushing Machine with advertisement rights on body of machine at Railway station Firozpur Cantt. 2) Allotment of contract for setting up and operation of various types of kiosks at Railway Station Fazilka 3) Allotment of contract for setting up and operation of Medical store, Textile Store, Mobile and Accessory Store Grocery & Photocopier kiosk at Railway Station Firozpur Cantt.
EAFFZ-PARG25-21	21.11.2024 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of Parking lot on contract at DAV College Jalandhar Halt Railway Station.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website <a href="http://www.irops.gov.in">www.irops.gov.in</a> 3435/2025		
Serving Customers With A Smile		

NORTHERN RAILWAY		
E-TENDER NOTICE		
No. NR-SNT-W-LDH-82		Dated: 04.11.2025
Dy. CSTE/Works/LDH acting for & on behalf of President of India invites E- tenders in Single packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria for the under noted work:		
1	Name of work	S&T work (Indoor & Outdoor) of Addition/Alteration in existing Electronics Interlocking system in connection with provision of Full Length New Goods Line at PAMPORE Station on Banihal- Baramulla Section of Jammu Division of Northern Railway.
2	Approximate cost of the work	Rs. 1,45,59,973.89/- (Rs. One Crore forty five lacs fifty nine thousand nine hundred and seventy three and paise eighty nine only)
3	Earnest Money	Rs. 2,22,800/- (Rs. Two lacs twenty two thousand and eight hundred only).
4	Completion period	Four Months from the date of issue of acceptance letter/ telegrams.
5	Closing date	11.00 Hrs. on 25.11.2025.
6	Validity of offer	60 days from the date of opening of tender.
Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date & time only. Bids are to be submitted online only. Manual bids/offers are not allowed against this tender, and any manual offer received shall be ignored.		
The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E - Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. <a href="http://www.irops.gov.in">www.irops.gov.in</a> for participating in the e- tender system. Necessary changes, Corrigendum / addendum, if required, would be posted on this web site only.		
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE		3419/25

### Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION BARAMULLA e-mail, id: xenmhd.bla@jk.gov.in

#### CORRIGENDUM

Subject: - CANCELLATION OF e-NIT No. 48 of 2025-26 Dated 23.10.2025.  
Tender No: - MHDB/TS/2025-26/2092-97/48 Dated 23.10.2025.  
Reference: - This office e- NIT ID Nos: 2025\_PWDJK\_292932\_1

Due to the Administrative reasons / on technical grounds, the eNIT for the work titled “Supply of fire wood dry, moisture / dust free (Bagati / Kikar / Apricot Except Willow & Popular), duly chopped to Bukhari and Hamam Sizes for the use during winter season of 2025- 26 at Mechanized Snow Clearance Control Rooms of Sub Division 1st viz Baramulla and Watergam and 2nd viz Tangmarg and Gulmarg of M&H Division Baramulla,” stands cancelled ab initio.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical & Hospital Division  
Baramulla

No: - M&HDB /TS/CAN/3024-27  
DIPK-7770/25  
Dated:- 04-11-2025

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

AIRPORTS  
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 13 Jumada al-Awwal 1447	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5: 30
	ZUHR	12:15
	ASR	3: 58
	Magrib	5:38
	ISHA	7: 01

## This Day In History

- 1556 - Akbar (14) succeeds his father Humajun as Sultan of Delhi
- 1556 - Battle at Panipat: Mogollegers beat hindu leader Hemu
- 1605 - Gunpowder Plot: Catholic conspirator Guy Fawkes attempts to blow up King James I and the British Parliament. Plot discovered, Guy Fawkes caught, tortured and later executed along with seven others.
- 1678 - Brandenburgse troops occupy Greifswald in Sweden
- 1725 - Spain & Austria sign secret treaty
- 1757 - Battle at Rossbach (7 year war/French & Indian War)
- 1838 - Honduras declares independence of Central American Federation
- 1862 - Battle at Barbee's Crossroads, Virginia: 51 casualties
- 1873 - Due to the fallout from the Pacific Scandal, John A. Macdonald resigns as Prime Minister of Canada
- 1881 - French government-Ferry resigns
- 188 - 1 1,600 police and volunteers attack Mori settlement at Parihaka in western Taranaki which had become the symbol of protest against the confiscation of Mori land, New Zealand
- 1900 - Under US military control since the end of the Spanish-American War in 1898, Cuba now calls its own constitutional convention
- 1911 - Italy attacks Turkish North-Africa (Libya), takes Tripoli & Cyrenaica
- 1912 - Democrat candidate Woodrow Wilson is elected President of the United States, defeating Republican incumbent William Howard Taft and Progressive candidate Theodore Roosevelt
- 1913 - Ludwig III crowned king of Bavaria
- 1914 - Britain declares war on Turkey and annexes Cyprus, occupied since 1878; the immediate reason is to keep it from being taken by Turkey
- 1916 - Emperors Wilhelm II (Germany) and Franz Jozef I (Austria-Hungary) establish the kingdom of Poland
- 1916 - Second Chamber accept initial impetus to general males/female suffrage
- 1916 - The Everett Massacre takes place in Everett, Washington as political differences lead to a shoot-out between IWW organizers and local police.
- 1917 - Gen Pershing & US troops see action on Western Front for 1st time
- 1921 - Soviet Russia signs a treaty with Mongolia, temporarily supporting the new government against China and Japanese incursions
- 1925 - Mussolini disbands Italian socialist parties
- 1930 - Nobel for literature awarded to Sinclair Lewis for "Babbitt"
- 1933 - Spanish Basques vote for autonomy
- 1937 - Adolf Hitler informs his military leaders in a secret meeting of his intentions of going to war
- 1940 - Franklin D. Roosevelt is re-elected President of the United States for an unprecedented third term, defeating Republican candidate Wendell Willkie
- 1941 - Japanese naval staff officers Suzuki and Maejima leave Pearl Harbor.
- 1943 - Vatican in Rome bombed by unknown source
- 1944 - Allied troops reach Zoutelande, Walcheren
- 1944 - Canadian & British troops liberate Dinteloord
- 1953 - Nobel prize for physics awarded to Frederik Zernicke
- 1956 - Britain and France land airborne forces at Port Said in Egypt, escalating the Suez Crisis
- 1964 - US launches Mariner 3 toward Mars; no data returned
- 1967 - ATS-3 launched by US to take first pictures of full Earth disc
- 1967 - US troops conquer Loc Ninh South Vietnam
- 1967 - Yemen president Sallal flees
- 1975 - British government sends troops to Belize
- 1978 - Iranian PM Jaafar Sharif-Emami resigns to Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi
- 1979 - Iran government of Bazargan resigns
- 1979 - Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini declares US "The Great Satan"

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705  
Editorial: (0194) 2502327  
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

Kashmir's  
Vanishing Villages

Silence is fast spreading across Kashmir countryside, where laughter once filled the air. The young have moved to Srinagar, Delhi, or the Gulf, leaving behind homes that feel empty. Migration that once promised hope now feels like loss.

Every year, thousands of young people leave rural Kashmir to find work and stability. Official data shows that this shift from villages to cities has grown sharply in the past decade. Farming, once the pride of the valley, is losing its strength. Unpredictable weather, falling profits, and weak market support have made agriculture a struggle. Many no longer see a future in the fields their families once cherished.

The signs are hard to miss. New houses stay locked through winter. Apple boxes lie untouched beside broken carts. Lanes that once rang with children's voices now fall silent. Village life is slowing down. Festivals, weddings, and local markets grow smaller each year.

This change runs deeper than economics. It is reshaping community itself. Villages were once places of shared work and friendship, where neighbours built together and celebrated together. When the young leave, they take away energy, stories, and the sense of belonging that kept these places alive. The old remain, tending their fields alone, watching their villages fade into memory.

Women carry much of the burden. They manage homes, farms, and children while men work far from home. Money comes back through remittances, but families grow apart. Many live between two worlds, uncertain where they truly belong.

Government programs promise rural development, but most fail to touch the core issues: weak irrigation, few small industries, and poor access to credit. Without real reform, migration will continue to drain the countryside of its youth and its vitality.

Kashmir's strength has always come from its villages. Reviving that spirit needs a clear vision and a new pride in rural life.

The land still waits, ready to give back. What it needs are young people willing to dream on it again.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

When Money Outshines Morals

As Kashmir races into modernity, the loss of trust between its people is leaving scars deeper than any economic crisis.

Irshad Mushtaq

There was a time in Kashmir when a handshake sealed a deal. A promise carried more weight than a signed paper. That simple trust was the real wealth of the valley. It built families, friendships, and entire communities. Today, that fabric feels strained. Money has begun to speak louder than integrity, and deceit has found a disturbing respectability.

The shift is visible in daily life. Bounced cheques and broken commitments are no longer exceptions. Many treat dishonesty as shrewdness. The old wisdom that a lie travels fast but falls hard has been replaced by a belief that shortcuts are clever. Behind the smiles, there is unease. Suspicion now shadows even the smallest exchanges, and stress has silently entered homes that once knew contentment.

This erosion of trust has a cost that goes beyond money. A society built on mistrust cannot prosper in spirit. Kashmir's economy might recover from losses, but its culture will not survive without moral repair. Restoring honesty is not about law. It is about conscience.

Elders must lead by example, reminding the young that wealth without integrity brings no peace. Schools must teach ethics alongside equations. Every small act of sincerity—repaying a debt, keeping a promise—helps mend the tear.

Kashmir has endured many storms. Its resilience lies in the decency of its people. To rebuild that, we must believe again in the strength of a word, in the beauty of trust. The valley's true paradise was never only in its mountains. It was in the honour of its people.

— The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Is Gold Shaping a  
New World Order?

From Riyadh to New Delhi, the rush for gold reflects a deeper quest for autonomy in an era of digital currencies and geopolitical finance.

Syed Duha and Saifullah Bashir

The post-1945 financial order was built on the belief that global systems were apolitical: the money, markets, and networks functioned on neutrality. That belief no longer holds true.

Payment systems can now be weaponised, reserves can be blocked, and algorithms can enforce sanctions faster than diplomats can draft them.

In the shifting terrain of global finance, sovereignty is being silently redefined by gold reserves. Gold has re-emerged as the most elemental form of security which is solid, neutral, and beyond manipulation.

The recent surge in gold prices crossing \$3,500 an ounce in 2025 and projected to touch \$4,100 by 2026 is not merely a market phenomenon. It is a political signal.

For decades, the U.S. dollar anchored the world economy, offering both convenience and control. But when financial systems were restricted and sanctioned after geopolitical conflicts, the illusion of neutrality vanished.

Holding dollars came to mean holding conditional power where wealth could be rendered inaccessible overnight.

It is this loss of certainty that has made the solidity of gold newly attractive. The world is, thus in effect, rewriting the grammar of sovereignty, and gold is becoming its new syntax.

Central banks have taken note. Between 2023 and 2024, they purchased more than a thousand tonnes of gold: the fastest accumulation in modern history. This is not a speculative rush but a structural correction, a hedge against the weaponisation of finance.

IMF data reveals that the dollar's share of global reserves fell from 65 per cent in 2016 to below 58 per cent in 2024. In the same period, gold's share rose sharply, particularly among emerging economies.

A 2022 IMF report titled "The Stealth Erosion of Dollar Dominance" observed that the dollar's share in reserves declined from 71 per cent in 1999 to 59 per cent in 2021.

"If dollar dominance ends," the IMF concluded, "it will not be replaced by a single currency, but by a collection of alternatives."

The trust that once converged on the dollar is now dispersing across multiple assets. Central banks are quietly diversifying their holdings, adding euros, yen, and smaller but stable currencies.

Meanwhile, gold's share in foreign exchange reserves is rising. Emerging markets now keep about 9 percent of reserves in gold, more than double the 4 percent a decade ago.

For developed markets, the figure stands near 20 percent. And gold, sitting outside this competition, gains value precisely because it belongs to no one.

This slow rearrangement is visible even within the old foundations of the global system. The petrodollar order, which once tied oil and power to the dollar's supremacy, is being silently rewritten.

Saudi Arabia, which has long been the guarantor of that system, increased its gold holdings by 9 percent in 2024, reaching 15.4 tonnes, the highest level since 2014.

The move is not symbolic. It coincides with Riyadh's \$6.9 billion currency swap agreement with China, designed to facilitate trade in local currencies, and the rollout of its digital riyal under the mBridge project, which is a cross-border payment experiment using central bank digital currencies.

These shifts may look technical, but they point to something profound: a steady effort to diversify exposure and regain monetary agency.

The dollar is still the anchor, but its grip is loosening.



“For complex economies like India, gold offers a vital “middle path”, the external resilience needed to stay integrated with the global system while cushioning against its inherent volatility. The dollar's authority now rests on consent rather than certainty, signaling a profound shift in global trust. Gold's strategic resurgence stands as the ultimate expression of an emerging multipolar world order.

India's direction appears similar but carries its own context. The Reserve Bank of India's latest data shows gold reserves crossing 102 billion dollars, up by 3.595 billion dollars, marking the highest share in India's reserves since 1997.

Gold now makes up 14.7 percent of the total reserve basket. The increase is not dramatic but deliberate. It signals a desire for buffers in the world of volatile trust.

India isn't part of the loud de-dollarization talk. The approach is pragmatic: expanding the UPI network across borders, testing the digital rupee step by step, and pushing trade in local currencies where it fits.

Each initiative, in its own way, adds flexibility to financial sovereignty. India remains within the system but tries not to be trapped by it.

Within BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, India engages with alternative payment networks but stops short of endorsement.

Gold fits naturally in this middle path. Its growing share in Indian reserves offer an un-

derstanding of stability and caution in a shifting world order.

India's larger story lies outside its official vaults. Roughly, 40 percent of the country's total gold reserve base originates from domestic holdings, including households, temples, and private safes. It is one of the largest unofficial reserves in the world.

But much of it stays idle. India can stand out in this new order by utilizing the reserves that already exist to prevent the import of gold. The idea sounds simple: turn sleeping wealth into living reserves with the help of smarter Gold Monetization Scheme where families could deposit their jewellery, in return for digital gold bounds or paper gold.

Turning physical gold into ETFs (Exchange-Traded-Funds) or digital forms builds strength without more imports. Incentives can make it real, like tax breaks, safe returns, and easy conversion through banks or known jewellers.

The potential is significant. Even a 10 percent conversion of private gold holdings could reduce India's import bill sharply, strengthen the rupee, and expand RBI's capacity to stabilise external accounts.

Instead of re-importing physical gold, consumers could convert digital units back into ornaments when required. That loop keeps cultural habits intact but redirects liquidity to national reserves. It allows India to preserve sovereignty without confronting the dollar order directly and helps it to balance participation with protection.

Therefore, gold's resurgence is a strategic shift that is actively shaping the world order. Its influence comes by enforcing a new financial architecture.

First, gold enforces multipolarity by acting as the universally accepted, non-sovereign reserve asset, allowing central banks to divert trust from a single currency to a collection of stable alternatives like Yuan.

Second, its elemental security lies in restoring monetary sovereignty for nations wary of the weaponization of finance. It serves as a fundamental means to de-risk national systems and preserve economic agency.

For complex economies like India, gold offers a vital “middle path”, the external resilience needed to stay integrated with the global system while cushioning against its inherent volatility.

The dollar's authority now rests on consent rather than certainty, signaling a profound shift in global trust.

Gold's strategic resurgence stands as the ultimate expression of an emerging multipolar world order.

Both the authors are associated with University of Kashmir.

Letter to Editor

Educating the Heart for a Peaceful Kashmir

Everywhere I look, people seem to be chasing comfort and success, but losing peace along the way. We have built taller homes, faster cars, and smarter phones, but inside we feel more restless than ever. Families break down over money, neighbours fight over pride, and nations clash over borders.

From Ukraine to Gaza, violence has become a familiar language. Humanity appears to have forgotten its purpose.

Living in Kashmir, I have seen how conflict seeps into everything, from conversations at home to lessons in school. The younger generation grows up surrounded by tension and uncertainty. That is why education cannot remain limited to exams and jobs. It must teach how to coexist, value life, and build peace in a world losing it.

Islam teaches peace as a way of life, not a theory. The Quran repeatedly reminds believers to “enter into peace completely” and to walk humbly on the earth. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)'s words still echo: “Spread peace, feed the hungry, and pray at night while others sleep.”

These teachings are practical tools to live with empathy and restraint. They can guide us back from the chaos we have created.

The question is how to apply these values in today's society. I believe the answer lies in our schools. Teachers hold the power to shape the moral imagination of a generation. They can help children think beyond personal success, question violence, and understand compassion as strength.

When a teacher listens with patience or resolves a classroom conflict fairly, students learn more than

what textbooks offer. They witness peace in practice.

Peace education should not be treated as a special subject in Kashmir classrooms. It should flow naturally through every lesson. History can teach the cost of war. Literature can open windows to empathy. Science can show how human choices affect shared survival. When education focuses on moral clarity as much as technical skill, students grow into citizens who value harmony over hostility.

Peace education also prepares children to challenge injustice without hatred. It helps them see dignity in difference and strength in dialogue. In a place like ours, such learning can transform frustration into purpose.

Teachers are the builders of this transformation. Their influence ex-

tends beyond the classroom. Their students carry forward lessons of kindness, fairness, and cooperation into their homes and communities. Every teacher who teaches peace shapes the future of Kashmir far more deeply than any policy ever can.

The Quran reminds us: “Everything on earth perishes; all that remains is the face of your Lord.”

What will remain of us are the values we pass on. If we want a future free of conflict, we must start by teaching peace, patiently, persistently, and with faith that every child we reach can become a messenger of harmony.

Sincerely,

Mohammad Iqbal Khandy  
khandyiqbal@gmail.com

# The Apple Architect of Kashmir

How one man's faith, labour, and leadership helped turn a modest village in Sopore into the heart of Kashmir's apple revolution.

Dr. Ashraf Zainabi

In Warpora, a village in Zain-geer Sopore, the story of Haji Mohammad Sultan War still moves from lip to lip like an old folksong.

Those who knew him describe him as a man who carried a century of Kashmir's history in his heart and left behind orchards that continue to bloom with his spirit.

Sultan was born around 1925, in a modest mud house where the family's few possessions were measured in faith rather than fortune. Along with his elder brother, Haji Ghulam Rasool War, he began life with nothing except a patch of land and a will that would one day transform the landscape of North Kashmir.

The brothers were orphans before they were adults, burdened with responsibility before they could dream of ease. But instead of yielding to hardship, they leaned into it. They chose to work hard, and with purpose.

As young men, the two would travel across the mountains to Gilgit-Baltistan, on horseback and foot, looking for work in places where no roads existed. Those journeys stitched strength and spirit into their character.

When they returned to Zaingeer, they returned with vision. It was the mid-twentieth century, a time when much of rural Kashmir still lived from one harvest to the next. The brothers saw promise in the soil. They began to plant apple saplings, an idea that seemed strange in a region accustomed to subsistence farming.

The first trees took years to



bear fruit. Seasons passed. People watched, sometimes with doubt, and sometimes with hope. Then the miracle began.

The orchards bloomed, and with

them, Zaingeer changed.

From the 1950s through the 1970s, the valley's green fields turned into a mosaic of apple trees. A generation that once struggled to make ends meet began to find prosperity through the same soil that had once yielded so little.

Today, Sopore's name is synonymous with apples, the "apple town" of Kashmir, and its roots trace back to those two brothers who planted a new way of life.

What made Sultan's story remarkable was his humanity.

When the area had only one car, it belonged to him, but it never stayed parked at his home. It served as a community vehicle, rush-

ing the sick to hospitals, carrying neighbours through emergencies, or ferrying strangers across villages.

To own a car in that era was to possess a kind of power, but Sultan used it to serve. He believed that blessings grew by sharing them.

Those who visited his home recall the same generosity. The door stayed open to everyone: labourers, travellers, families in distress. There was no pride in his hospitality, only a deep sense of duty. He and his brother built their lives on work, faith, and compassion.

Politics tempted many of their generation, but they kept their distance. They admired Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's National Conference,

but never chased public office. They seemed content with their silent revolutions of soil and seed.

On 4 November 2025, Sultan passed away in his village at the age of around one hundred. His departure was as calm as his life, without ceremony and commotion, surrounded by the same land he had tended since boyhood.

His brother Ghulam Rasool had left a few years earlier, completing a parallel journey of faith and purpose.

Today, when apple trucks roll out of Sopore toward markets across India, few remember the men who first planted the dream. But, in every box of fruit leaving the valley, their legacy travels.

ON 4 NOVEMBER 2025, SULTAN PASSED AWAY IN HIS VILLAGE AT THE AGE OF AROUND ONE HUNDRED.

His departure was as calm as his life, without ceremony and commotion, surrounded by the same land he had tended since boyhood. His brother Ghulam Rasool had left a few years earlier, completing a parallel journey of faith and purpose.

Sultan's life reminds Kashmir of a time when progress was built on hard work, wealth meant shared well-being, and leadership grew from example.

He lived long and meaningfully. The orchards he planted outlast him. And in the rustle of those trees, the people of Zaingeer still hear his story, of two brothers who turned hardship into harvest and left behind a legacy that continues to bear fruit for all.

— The author is a teacher and researcher based in Gochhar Pora, Chadoora, Jammu and Kashmir. He is also the son-in-law of Haji Mohammad Sultan's elder son, the late Nazir Ahmad War.

SULTAN'S LIFE REMINDS KASHMIR OF A TIME WHEN PROGRESS WAS BUILT ON HARD WORK, WEALTH MEANT SHARED WELL-BEING, AND LEADERSHIP GREW FROM EXAMPLE. He lived long and meaningfully. The orchards he planted outlast him. And in the rustle of those trees, the people of Zaingeer still hear his story, of two brothers who turned hardship into harvest and left behind a legacy that continues to bear fruit for all.

## What Happened to Learning in Kashmir

A generation of Kashmiri students is growing up tested, ranked, and exhausted.

Dr. Mushtaq Rather

Each winter, living rooms in Kashmir turn into study corners, parents whisper about question papers, and children measure their moods by mock test scores.

Every conversation circles back to one thing: marks.

For years, exam scores have been treated as the only sign of success. But the real purpose

young people live meaningful lives.

The race for grades has replaced the joy of learning. Schools now reward memorization instead of understanding, and many children feel trapped under expectations they can't escape.

This pressure is visible everywhere. From Kupwara to Kulgam, young students spend long hours in crowded coaching centers. Parents invest their savings hoping that high marks will secure better futures for their children. The idea seems right, but it comes with a cost.

A 2022 survey by the National Council of Educational Research and Training found that 81 percent of Indian students feel stress and anxiety before exams.

This pressure is worse in Kashmir because of sudden disruptions, poor infrastructure, and limited access to digital tools.

According to the National Statistical Organization, one in five students across India takes private coaching to handle exam stress. In Kashmir towns, coaching centers have replaced playgrounds.

The outcome is worrying. The National Crime Records Bureau reported that more than 13,000 students across India died by suicide in 2022. These numbers reflect a system where exams have become a source of fear instead of learning.

Exams were meant to test knowledge. Instead, they now divide students into winners and losers. They reward those who can memorize quickly and repeat what they learn on paper. Creativity, empathy, and problem-solving rarely count.

As a result, many graduates in Kashmir leave college with degrees that do not match the



skills needed in today's job market.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 tried to change this pattern. It suggested that assessment should help children learn and grow. The policy encourages teachers to use regular, small assessments that show how students think and apply ideas. It also introduced an initiative called PARAKH, which promotes projects, portfolios, and performance-based tasks as better ways to test learning.

If applied properly, these ideas could change how students in Kashmir experience

The NEP 2020 offers a good starting point, but it will work only if everyone participates. Teachers need support and training to design better assessments. Parents must see education as more than report cards. Policymakers have to ensure that schools get the resources to make learning creative and flexible.

education. They could reduce the fear of exams and make learning more engaging. But progress has been slow.

The old system still dominates classrooms. Many teach-

ers and parents continue to value grades over understanding. Students are still taught to memorize answers instead of explore questions.

Exam scores have also be-

come symbols of family pride. Relatives discuss results in gatherings as if they reflect the family's honour. Children grow up believing that their worth depends on marks writ-

ten in red ink. This comparison culture starts early and erodes confidence.

Psychologists call this a fixed mindset, the belief that intelligence cannot grow. It makes students afraid to fail or experiment.

What they need instead is a growth mindset, the belief that effort and feedback lead to improvement.

When students see a low score as a step toward progress, they become stronger. Teachers and parents can help by appreciating effort, curiosity, and persistence, rather than perfection.

Education should prepare children for life, not lifelong stress. Exams can be useful when designed well, but they lose meaning when they only test memory.

Changing the way we assess students is essential in Kashmir, where young people already live with many challenges.

The NEP 2020 offers a good starting point, but it will work only if everyone participates. Teachers need support and training to design better assessments. Parents must see education as more than report cards. Policymakers have to ensure that schools get the resources to make learning creative and flexible.

Children in Kashmir deserve classrooms where they can ask questions, explore ideas, and make mistakes without fear. Real education begins when students learn for understanding.

When that happens, exams will no longer be a burden. They will become moments of growth.

— The author is an educator and columnist from Mattan, Anantnag. He can be reached at aroshfatimamar15@gmail.com.

CHILDREN IN KASHMIR DESERVE CLASSROOMS WHERE THEY CAN ASK QUESTIONS, EXPLORE IDEAS, AND MAKE MISTAKES WITHOUT FEAR. REAL EDUCATION BEGINS WHEN STUDENTS LEARN FOR UNDERSTANDING. WHEN THAT HAPPENS, EXAMS WILL NO LONGER BE A BURDEN. THEY WILL BECOME MOMENTS OF GROWTH.

of education is to build knowledge, skills, and values that help

# India, Israel Sign Major Defence Pact

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, Nov 4: India and Israel on Tuesday inked a defence pact that will facilitate sharing of advanced technologies and promote co-development and co-production of key weapon systems and military hardware, in a major move to further bolster their already robust strategic ties.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in Tel Aviv following a meeting of the India-Israel Joint Working Group (JWG) on defence cooperation.

The MoU on defence cooperation was signed to provide a "unified vision and policy direction to deepen the already strong defence cooperation between the two countries", the defence ministry said.

The pact also provides for cooperation in the areas of artificial intelligence, cyber security, defence research and innovation and industrial collaboration.

India is a leading buyer of Israel's military hardware, and the latter has been supplying various weapon systems, missiles and unmanned aerial



vehicles over the last few years. However, the transactions have largely remained behind the curtains.

"The India-Israel defence partnership is long-standing, based on deep mutual trust and shared security interests," the ministry said.

The signing of the MoU came when Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar is on a three-day visit to India.

In a statement, the defence ministry said a wide range of areas for cooperation have been identified in the MoU that will

benefit both countries.

"Important fields include strategic dialogues of mutual interest, training, defence industrial cooperation, and capabilities including science and technology, research and development and technological innovation, artificial intelligence and cyber security cooperation," the ministry said.

"The MoU will enable the sharing of advanced technology and will promote co-development and co-production," it said.

The JWG reviewed the on-going defence cooperation

initiatives and agreed that both the nations have benefited from each other's strengths, the ministry said.

"The two sides discussed the potential areas for future collaboration in the field of technology as well as enhancing operational capabilities," it said.

"They also deliberated on various issues, including shared challenges of terrorism, and underscored their collective resolve to fight against the threat," it said.

The signing of the pact came amid reports that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is likely to visit India in the next couple of months.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Israeli counterpart Sa'ar held extensive talks in New Delhi on Tuesday that focused on working for a global approach of "zero tolerance" to combat terrorism.

The two sides also decided to enhance cooperation in areas of trade, infrastructure and connectivity.

The ties between the two countries have expanded manifold in the last few years in diverse sectors.

## Online Gaming Law Pleas

# SC Seeks Centre's Detailed Reply

Press Trust Of India

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to file a comprehensive reply on petitions challenging an online gaming law which prohibits "online money games", and bars banking services and advertising related to them.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan was informed that the Centre has filed its reply on the interim prayer made in the pleas.

"We want the Additional Solicitor General appearing for the Union to file a comprehensive reply to the main petition itself," the bench said.

It said copy of the reply be served in advance to the advocates appearing for the petitioners and if they want to file any rejoinder, they may do so at the earliest.

The bench posted the matter for hearing on November 26.

The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 is the first central legislation banning real-money online gaming, including

fantasy sports and e-sports played for stakes and has faced challenges before the Delhi, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh high courts. Senior advocate C A Sundaram, appearing in the matter, told the bench that the business was completely shut for over a month.

During the hearing, one of the advocates told the bench that a fresh writ petition was filed in the matter but it was not listed for hearing.

"I (petitioner) am a chess player and its a source of livelihood. I was also about to launch an app," the lawyer said.

"India is a strange country. You are a player. You want to play. It's your only source of income and therefore, you want to join the proceedings," Justice Pardiwala observed.

The counsel said the petitioner participates in online tournaments organised by the companies and he pays a participation fee also. The bench said his plea be also tagged with the pending petitions.

The top court was hearing a batch of transferred petitions

challenging the online gaming law.

The bench said a separate petition, which has sought directions to the government to prohibit online gambling and betting platforms that allegedly operate under the guise of social and e-sports games, would also be heard on November 26.

The top court on Monday had sought response of the Centre on the plea filed by the Centre for Accountability and Systemic Change (CASC) and Shourya Tiwari.

The petitioners argue that the Act imposes a blanket ban even on judicially recognised skill-based games, violating Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to practice any profession or carry on lawful trade.

The Karnataka High Court had recently issued notice in another related petition.

On September 8, the top court had allowed a plea by the Centre to transfer the petitions challenging the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 from three high courts to the apex court to avoid conflicting verdicts.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### The Reporter Who

has left the press fraternity in shock, and his funeral drew droves of journalists, officials, and friends who remembered him as "fair, fearless, and humble."

"He was a professional par excellence — sharp in his insight, fearless in his analysis, and unwavering in his integrity," said former journalist Suhail Bukhari, who worked alongside Tariq for years. "In a profession as strained as journalism in Kashmir, his laughter brought rare light. His humour could lift even the heaviest newsroom days."

Tariq Bhat's journey into journalism began in the 1990s, when Srinagar was caught in the throes of turmoil. After finishing his post-graduate degree in Mass Communication and Journalism at the University of Kashmir, where a classmate, Mussarat Zia, remembered his "striking resemblance to Abdullah Abdullah, the Afghan foreign minister", Tariq worked briefly with The Indian Express before joining The Week in 2001.

His first assignments took him deep into the countryside, where he wrote about the forgotten corners of the valley. "He loved journalism deeply, not as a career but as a calling," said one of his former colleagues. "He carried the despair of what journalism in Kashmir was becoming, silently, on his shoulders and in his heart."

At The Week, his stories were known for precision and compassion. He wrote without embellishment, often letting his subjects speak for themselves. His award-winning report on Dardpora, a north Kashmir village of widows, earned the International Press Institute's India Award in 2014, shared with the magazine's chief photographer Arvind Jain. It remains one of the most haunting portraits of loss and survival from Kashmir's decades of discord.

"I leaned heavily on his razor-sharp insights, his unerring depth, and his quiet generosity," said Yusuf Jameel, a veteran journalist and friend. "His voice will echo in every story we tell from the Valley."

Colleagues recall his modesty. Though he was The Week's senior-most journalist in Kashmir, Tariq preferred to describe himself as a "small-time reporter" or "lesser mortal." He never sought attention, said PDP leader Naem Akhtar, who often interacted with him in his capacity as the party's spokesperson. "He had an invincible curiosity to get to the bottom of an issue," Akhtar said. "He gave soul to society and became a torchbearer for the budding journalists of our land."

For many younger reporters, he was exactly that — a mentor who never stopped guiding. "I first met Tariq Sahib in 2007, as a fresher stepping into journalism," one scribe said. "He often took us along on assignments, experiences that shaped our early careers. Whenever he spotted a good story, he'd call and say, 'Write this for a national or international audience.' That was his way of teaching us to think beyond borders."

In his newsroom, he was known for his patience. Colleagues at The Week recall how he treated even the youngest trainee with kindness. "He was courteous to everyone," one editor said. "He was the kind of senior who made space for others."

His last article, published on November 3, examined the annual migration of Jammu and Kashmir's government offices to Jammu, the traditional Darbar Move, and quoted Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as saying that the move fulfilled one promise from his election manifesto.

Hours before his death, Tariq Bhat had exchanged messages with friends, ending one conversation with the Kashmiri blessing, "Lassiv", be blessed.

When the news of his death broke, messages of grief flooded social media. CM Omar Abdullah and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti expressed their sorrow, describing him as a journalist of rare integrity. Journalists across the country echoed that sentiment.

"He represented the best of what Kashmiri journalism once stood for — sincerity, warmth, and an unshakable belief in truth," said one of his peers. "Some people are simply irreplaceable. Tariq bhai was one of them."

Bhat's passing has left a void that many say will be hard to fill. In an age when journalism

in Kashmir often feels trapped between fright and fatigue, his career stood as proof that dignity and depth could still coexist in reporting.

At his funeral in Srinagar, the November air carried a hush as mourners offered prayers. Among them were reporters he had once mentored, editors who had once critiqued him, and friends who still couldn't believe he was gone.

A few spoke about that old lamppost in Chotta Bazar, how it had once cast its light on a young boy's open notebook, and how that light, in some way, never really went out.

### Snowfall In Hills

In Srinagar and several other low-lying areas, strong winds blew for nearly an hour in the afternoon, followed by intermittent rainfall in the evening. The showers brought a fresh chill to the air as temperatures dropped further

Director MeT, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, said the weather would remain generally cloudy on November 5, with a possibility of light to moderate rain or snowfall over higher reaches at many places in the Kashmir division and at scattered places in the Jammu division, particularly during the evening of November 4 to early morning of November 5.

He added that dry weather conditions are expected to return from November 6 and continue till November 15, while both maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to drop further from Wednesday onwards.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif said that mostly dry weather is expected from tomorrow onwards for about 10 days.

"A few spots (particularly in Chenab Valley) can receive a brief spell of rain/snow tomorrow, otherwise mostly dry weather conditions are going to prevail," he said

### Food Safety Gets

sessions, including Public Health and Regulatory Frameworks, Food Safety and Ethics in J&K, and Clinical Consequences of Unsafe Food Consumption.

Prof. Ganie praised the efforts of Prof. Iftikhar Bashir and his team for organising a "policy-relevant and academically substantive" platform, expressing confidence that the conclave's recommendations will help shape future food safety measures in the Union Territory.

### LG, CM Greet

extended warm greetings to the Sikh community and the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti. In his message, the Chief Minister said that the timeless teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji—rooted in compassion, equality, and selfless service—continue to illuminate the path of humanity and inspire people across the world.

He underlined the importance of embracing these universal values to build a society founded on mutual respect, harmony, and inclusivity.

Omar Abdullah expressed hope that the divine message of Guru Nanak Dev Ji would continue to guide Jammu and Kashmir towards greater unity, peace, and prosperity

### PDP Candidate

further said that Flying Squad Team (FST) magistrates submitted reports confirming such activities and that videos of the events had circulated widely on social media, serving as prima facie evidence of the alleged violations.

The notice described the actions as "clear and wilful violations" of the MCC, noting that such breaches "disturb the level playing field, vitiate the free and fair electoral process, and undermine the sanctity and credibility of democratic elections."

Muntazir was asked to respond within 24 hours of receiving the notice and explain why action should not be taken against him. The EC also directed him to ensure strict compliance with the MCC and seek prior permission before conducting any political meeting, rally, or campaign activity.

However, in his written response, Muntazir denied any deliberate or wilful violation, saying the gathering in question was not a planned campaign event but "a spontaneous congregation of local villagers."

"The gathering was not a political event but a community interaction. The locals stopped me along my route, expressing a deep emotional and faith-based attachment to my family," Muntazir said, adding that such gatherings

have long been a part of local tradition.

He said the brief use of a loudspeaker was only to address the sentiments of those present.

"It would have been socially insensitive to deny their request, considering the faith-based nature of the interaction," he added.

The PDP candidate maintained that he respects the Election Commission's rules and has directed his team to inform authorities before any future community interactions.

"The incident should be viewed in light of its cultural and emotional context, and not as a violation intended for electoral advantage," Muntazir said.

### Preserving Cultural Heritage

and frame policies that address people's real needs.

"Community participation in governance should be ensured to promote accountability, improve service delivery, and foster inclusive and transparent governance," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged people to embrace the path of selfless service and work towards a just and equal society as envisioned by Baba Jitto. He also exhorted officials and public representatives to work collectively to provide market access to local artisans, craftsmen, and traders.

"Together we can make a strong, secure, prosperous, and self-reliant Jammu Kashmir," Sinha remarked, while lauding the resilience and contribution of the farming community to the region's economy.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor dedicated a pilgrim community hall and four modular bus stops, besides laying the foundation stone for the first Indoor Sports Complex in Marh Sub-Division under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The newly inaugurated pilgrim community hall will function as a rest facility throughout the year and also serve as a venue for religious, cultural, and awareness programmes. The four modular bus stops—set up at Jhiri Chowk, Rajpura Chowk, Bawa Talab Chowk, and Kanachak Chowk—are aimed at improving connectivity and easing transportation for devotees.

The upcoming Indoor Sports Complex, expected to be completed within four months, will include two badminton courts, judo and Taekwondo rings, shooting ranges, table tennis tables, and a reading and recreation area—marking a new step toward sports promotion and youth engagement in the region.

During his visit, the LG also inspected stalls put up by government departments, self-help groups, agri-entrepreneurs, and farmers, and felicitated progressive farmers for their contribution. The event featured vibrant cultural performances showcasing the rich artistic and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the Lieutenant Governor stated: "Today, I inaugurated the annual Jhiri Mela at Marh sub-division in Jammu. Paid obeisance to Baba Jitto and Bua Kouri. Dedicated a pilgrim community hall and four modular bus stops, and laid the foundation stone for the first indoor sports complex under CSR at Marh."

Senior officials including Bharat Bhushan, Chairman, District Development Council Jammu; Surinder Kumar, MLA from Marh; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range; and Dr. Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, along with a large number of devotees and locals, attended the inaugural ceremony.

Every year, nearly 10–12 lakh devotees from Jammu, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana visit the fair to pay homage to Baba Jitto, who laid down his life around 500 years ago in protest against the exploitation of farmers by an oppressive landlord.

The Jhiri Mela, jointly organised by the Directorate of Tourism and the district administration, will continue till November 13. Hundreds of farmers and pilgrims have already arrived to participate in the fair, which celebrates the spirit of sacrifice, justice, and community service.

Officials said the Departments of Agriculture and Horticulture, along with the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), have made elaborate arrangements for sanitation, health facilities, parking, power supply, and water

availability.

The Agriculture Department's participation in the mela also serves as a platform to educate farmers about modern techniques, government schemes, and innovations, while honouring Baba Jitto's enduring message of dignity in farming.

Security has been strengthened in and around the mela site with the deployment of police and paramilitary forces, officials confirmed.

### At 93, Ex-MD

guilty and sentenced him to two years of simple imprisonment on each count, along with a fine of 5,000 per offence. All sentences shall run concurrently, officials added.

### 'Cannons For Bullets

launched a sharp attack on the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and its leadership, accusing them of trying to bring back "jungle raj" in Bihar. "Lalu Prasad and his party raise slogans like 'Shahabuddin amara rahe'. But people of Bihar will not allow the return of fear, extortion, and kidnappings that marked their rule," he said.

The BJP leader urged voters to press the lotus button on November 6 to ensure the NDA's return to power, promising that real development could happen only under the Modi-Nitish Kumar leadership.

Announcing several development promises, Shah said the NDA government would spend 26,000 crore to harness the Koshi river for irrigation and flood prevention. He also promised AIIMS-Darbhanga and a medical and engineering college in each district if the alliance retains power.

Claiming that the NDA had already covered 3.6 crore people under free health insurance and generated youth employment through IT parks, Shah said Bihar's development had been derailed during the RJD-Congress era.

He further accused the RJD-Congress alliance of "insulting Chhathi Maiya," saying the people of Bihar would respond through the ballot box. "Bihar never forgives those who insult its culture," he said.

From Mahatma Gandhi's karma bhoomi Champaran, Shah also pledged to eliminate Naxalism by March 31, 2026, and revive the sugar mills that had shut down during the RJD's rule.

"Over 20 sugar mills were closed then. We will revive those and set up five more. The NDA is committed to making Bihar self-reliant in every sector," Shah said.

### With Winter Setting

analysis. "Clinically, there's a noticeable rise in flu-like illnesses, but the situation is not alarming," he said.

Compared to last year, the flu season started a little earlier that is around October but the severity of illness remains similar. "There has been a surge in outpatient cases, but no major increase in hospital admissions or severe cases, indicating that the disease is not more dangerous this year. The number of cases mainly reflects how widely the virus is spreading, not how severe it is," he said.

#### Who is most affected?

- The most vulnerable groups include:
- Children under five years,
- Elderly people,
- Those with chronic illnesses like asthma, diabetes, heart disease, or cancer
- Healthcare workers, who are at high exposure risk.

"But that doesn't mean healthy people are immune," Dr. Naik pointed out. "Anyone can get infected."

What exactly is a flu shot?

A flu shot is an inactivated influenza vaccine meaning that it contains killed virus components that train your immune system to recognize and fight the flu.

"After vaccination, the immune system produces neutralizing antibodies. That's why, even if you catch the flu later, the illness is usually milder," Dr. Naik explained.

He added that for children under five, the vaccine helps prevent complications like pneumonia, dehydration, febrile convulsions, and hospitalization.

#### Trivalent vs. Tetraivalent: What's the difference?

Here's where confusion often begins.

The Trivalent vaccine protects against three virus strains – two influenza A strains (H1N1 and H3N2) and one influenza B lineage.

The Quadrivalent (Tetraivalent) vaccine covers four strains – the same two A strains plus two B lineages (B/Victoria and B/Yamagata), offering broader protection.

Although the World Health Organization (WHO) currently recommends trivalent vaccines based on global circulation patterns, the quadrivalent vaccine is generally preferable if cost is not a barrier. Also, according to Indian Consensus Practice Guidelines (2019), quadrivalent vaccines are recommended over trivalent ones (Grade 2A) for the Indian population.

"In Kashmir, both are available, and quadrivalent vaccines are often priced similarly, making them a good choice," he said.

#### Which one should Kashmiris choose this season?

"If there's no major cost difference, both work," Dr. Naik explained. However, given the broader coverage, quadrivalent vaccines are preferable. "What matters most is that high-risk people get vaccinated without delay irrespective of the vaccine type."

#### When should you get vaccinated?

Flu activity in Kashmir usually increases between November and March, coinciding with cold weather and indoor crowding.

"October is ideal for vaccination so immunity builds before peak season," Dr. Naik said. "But it's never too late. The vaccination can be done anytime between September and March."

#### Are flu shots safe for children?

Yes, flu vaccines are safe for babies over six months. "In India, the Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) Advisory Committee on Vaccines and Immunization Practices (ACVIP) recommend two doses in the first year, one month apart, followed by a single shot every year," Dr. Naik said.

Naik elaborates flu vaccines are generally very safe. "They are administered worldwide on a large scale every year. Some individuals, however, may experience mild, short-lasting side effects such as low-grade fever or soreness at the injection site. However, people especially children with asthma or with a known egg allergy should receive the vaccine in a hospital setting under medical supervision, because most flu vaccines are prepared using egg-based production methods."

#### How long does protection last?

Immunity begins about two weeks after vaccination and is strongest in the first few months. Because both the virus and our immunity change over time, annual vaccination is essential. "That's why last year's vaccine doesn't fully protect you this year," Dr. Naik explains.

#### Can you still get the flu after being vaccinated?

Yes, it's possible. But it doesn't mean the vaccine failed. "Some people may catch flu before their immune system fully responds, or they might be infected by a strain not covered by the vaccine," Dr. Naik says. "Still, vaccines drastically reduce the risk of severe disease and hospitalization."

#### The bottom line

Doctors across Kashmir agree, getting any flu shot be it trivalent or tetraivalent is far better than skipping it.

"Vaccination is the best defense we have," says Dr. Naik. "It may not prevent every case, but it prevents serious illness, especially among children and the elderly."

As flu cases rise with the onset of winter, experts say now is the best time to roll up your sleeve and protect yourself and your family from the season's most common infection.

# Traditional Orchards Give Way to High-Density Apple Plantations

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** With demand for traditional apple varieties remaining comparatively low in the market, more growers in Kashmir are switching over to high-density apple cultivation, especially in low-lying areas where paddy land is now being converted into orchards at a rapid pace.

Growers from several areas of Kashmir said that until a few years ago, many areas had no history of apple orchards. But after a few farmers experimented with high-density apple varieties and recorded remarkable success — both in terms of production and returns — more and more people started shifting from paddy to horticulture, they said.

They added that apples are being grown in every corner of Kashmir as paddy lands are being converted into the horticulture sector. "Earlier, we never thought that this land could produce apples at all," the growers said, adding that "after seeing the results on some private plots, almost everyone has now started planting high-density varieties."

According to KNO, High-

density apple farming was introduced in Kashmir after 2015. These trees start yielding fruit as early as the first or second year and reach full production by the fourth or fifth year. The traditional apple trees, on the other hand, usually take nearly 10 years to bear fruit and are harvested late in the season, mostly in November — a period vulnerable to untimely snowfall.

High-density orchardists say the early harvest (August-September) and availability of protective measures against hailstorms have made the new cultivation system more economically secure.

Mohammad Amin Dar, a farmer from a low-lying area of Shopian who has planted high-density apples on 8 kanals of land, said the trend is driven by practical benefits.

"People have noticed the advantages of high-density apples. We have now prepared another 12 kanals and will convert that too into a high-density orchard," Dar said. "These trees need less labour and inputs, yet the fruit is of superior quality — uniform colour, uniform size, and bet-



ter grade. That is why they fetch double the rates compared to traditional apples."

Varieties like Jeromine, King Roat, Gala Scarlet, Red Velox, Scarlet Spur-II, Super Chief, Redlum Gala and Auvi Fuji, RD 11, Syncho Gala, Terex Gal, Z 1, and SS2 are among the most popular high-density cultivars currently grown in J&K.

Another grower, Farooq Ahmad, said that in the Lassipora area of Pulwama alone, thousands of high-density plants are being planted this year. "Hundreds of kanals of paddy land are being converted into these or-

chards now because the economics are simply better," he said.

Officials in the horticulture department said the shift involves modern planting systems, advanced pruning techniques, drip irrigation, fertigation and technology-based monitoring.

"This entire approach is transformative," said an official. "It is attracting attention from the apple experts across India. Farmers are embracing it because they clearly see the higher productivity potential and financial returns."

According to official figures, over 1000 hectares of land have already been brought under

high-density apple farming in J&K so far, with plans to expand the coverage to 5,500 hectares in the next few years. The horticulture department is currently offering a 50 per cent subsidy for orchardists who establish or convert to high-density systems.

It was in September 2015 that the then Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed inaugurated the first-ever high-density apple orchard in Bamdoora, Anantnag — marking the official beginning of the transition in Kashmir's horticulture sector.

Kashmir produces on average over 20 lakh metric tonnes of apples every year — a figure that in some years touches 25 lakh MT. According to the J&K Economic Survey-2017, nearly half of Kashmir's population is directly or indirectly dependent on the apple industry. More than 3.5 lakh hectares are under apple cultivation in the region currently.

Horticulture contributes around 9.5 per cent to J&K's GDP, while about 8.5 crore man-days of employment are generated annually through this sector, making it one of the most vital pillars of Kashmir's economy.

## NHM Employees in Hajin Block Stage Protest

Employees working under the National Health Mission (NHM) in Block Hajin of north Kashmir's Baniptora district staged a protest at the Community Health Centre (CHC) Hajin on Monday, demanding the release of their pending salaries for the last four months.

The protesting employees expressed anguish over the delay, saying it had pushed them and their families into financial crisis. Several employees displayed white papers at their workplaces as a symbolic gesture to highlight their plight and draw the government's attention.

Dr Shahnaz, one of the protesting employees, said despite repeated appeals, their demands had gone unheard. "We are facing serious problems due to non-payment of salaries. In Baniptora, other blocks have received their dues, but Hajin block is still awaiting release. I'm a single mother, and paying my child's school fees has become impossible," she said. She added that around 93 NHM employees in the block were affected and struggling to meet daily expenses. "We have informed higher authorities, including the BMO Hajin, but nothing has been done yet," she said.

Dr Muzaffar, another protesting doctor, said the employees continued to serve diligently under challenging conditions, ensuring uninterrupted health services, implementing government programmes, and responding to emergencies. "Despite our dedication, we have been left unpaid for months, which has caused immense hardship," he said, appealing to the Lieutenant Governor and the Mission Director NHM J&K to intervene for immediate salary release and ensure timely disbursement in future. [KNT]

## ACB Books Officials, Beneficiary in Illegal Petrol Pump

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a formal case in connection with the illegal construction of a petrol pump on Kahcharaie land in central Kashmir's Budgam district. The case, registered under FIR No. 21/2025 at Police Station ACB Srinagar, follows a detailed verification based on a complaint lodged by the inhabitants of Arigam village.

According to the ACB, the verification established that one Ali Mohammad Khan, son of Sonaullah Khan, a resident of Arigam Budgam, constructed a petrol pump on Kahcharaie land at Arigam in June 2020 by obtaining a license through manipulated and misleading information.

The inquiry revealed that during 2018, the then Patwari, Naib Tehsildar, and Tehsildar of Arigam and Khanshab had issued No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for proprietary land under Survey Nos. 531 and 533 Min. However, they deliberately omitted to mention that access to these plots was only through State/Kahcharaie land (Survey No. 535), which lay between the site and the main road.

It was also found that the concerned Patwari concealed the existence of Survey No. 532 (Shamlat land) while preparing Khaka Dasti, thereby misrepresenting the actual position on the ground. Despite a clarification sought by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam in March 2018, the field officials falsely certified the site as suitable for transportation and storage of fuel.

Based on these misleading reports, the then Deputy Commissioner Budgam issued a petrol pump license (No. DCB/2020/10 dated May 22, 2020) in favour of the beneficiary on non-contiguous survey numbers. The then Sub-Divisional Magistrate Khanshab also forwarded the reports to higher authorities without conducting any independent verification or record scrutiny. [KNT]

## Drug Peddler's Property Attached in Udhampur

Police here on Tuesday attached property worth Rs 50 lakh belonging to a drug peddler under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, officials said.

During the investigation into narcotics cases, it was found that the accused, Amit Singh, had acquired a residential house with land at village Preyan Sounthan and a KTM Duke motorcycle from the proceeds of the narcotics trade, they said.

Based on the material evidence and investigation, police found that the said properties were acquired through illicit earnings from drug trafficking, they said. Accordingly, the movable and immovable assets were attached under the NDPS Act for further legal proceedings, they added. The total value of the attached properties, including the house, land, and vehicle, is estimated at Rs 50 lakh.

In Udhampur, the police said they have so far attached properties worth Rs 10.50 crore in NDPS-related cases during the current year, reaffirming its resolve to make the district drug-free. (PTI)

## Police Arrest 4 Drug Peddlers

Srinagar: Continuing its unwavering crackdown on drug trafficking and substance abuse, Police on Tuesday said to have arrested four drug peddlers in Pulwama and Shopian and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In Pulwama, during naka checking at Gudoor Crossing, a police party intercepted two individuals carrying nylon bags. During the search, about 7Kgs of Poppy Straw were recovered from their possession, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

They have been identified as Mohd Ashraf Naik, son of Gh. Ahmad Naik, resident of Ghat Gulzarpora and Abdul Qayoom Mir son of Wali Mohd Mir resident of Gudoor Pulwama. In another operation at Singo Narbal, police apprehended one individual carrying charas-like substance (weighing 77.5 grams). He has been identified as Ishfaq Ahmad Hafiz son of Mohd Ashraf Hafiz resident of Pricho Pulwama, the statement reads.

Similarly in Shopian, a police party of Police Station Zainapora at a checkpoint established at Heff Kuri intercepted a suspicious person, identified as Tariq Ahmad Sheikh resident of Heff Zainapora. Upon the search, 3,600Kgs of charas-like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to a police station where he remains in custody, police said. (Observer News Service)

## Stanford Lists Dr Tasleem Arif Among World's Top 2% Scientists

KO Web Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Dr Tasleem Arif, a Kashmiri dermatologist from Soura, Srinagar, has been ranked among the world's top two per cent of scientists by Stanford University for the second consecutive year (2024-2025). Believed to be the first and only dermatologist from Jammu and Kashmir to achieve this distinction, Dr Arif joins 21 Indian dermatologists featured in the global list curated by Prof. John P.A. Ioannidis in collaboration with the Elsevier Data Repository.

Expressing gratitude, Dr Arif said, "I'm not proud for making it personally, but for representing the dermatological fraternity of my Union Territory—this is a proud moment for both my alma maters, GMC Srinagar and SKIMS."

A prolific researcher with over 155 publications and



several book chapters, Dr Arif is globally recognised for his pioneering work on scleroderma — an autoimmune disease that hardens the skin and internal organs. He serves as Editor-in-Chief of Morpheia and Related Disorders (2024), a comprehensive reference published by Bentham Science.

His research on "Esophageal involvement in systemic sclerosis and morpheia" was reviewed by the New England Journal of Medi-

cine (NEJM)—a rare honour in global medical research. Dr Arif's diagnostic innovation, the "Tasleem's Water Jet Sign", and his novel surgical techniques in vitiligo and hyperhidrosis have also earned international recognition.

A reviewer for prestigious journals including The Lancet and Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology (JAAD), Dr Arif also sits on the editorial boards of over 25 medical journals.

Recipient of the Imrich Sarkany Non-European Memorial Scholarship (EADV, 2023) and World Champion in Dermatology (2019) by IASR, Dr Arif is currently Head of Dermatology at Dar As Sihha Medical Complex, Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

"Achievements come and go," he says, "but representing your people and your place—that's what truly stays."

## DPRs Invited for 7 Ropeway Projects in J&K

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) has invited detailed project reports (DPRs) for seven ropeway projects in Jammu and Kashmir under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode, officials said.

According to PTI, the information was shared by officials during a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to review the progress of ropeway projects under the Parvatmala scheme, the Inter-Modal Station (IMS) at Katra and the Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) in Jammu.

These projects are seen as crucial for improving connectivity, tourism and logistics infrastructure in the Union Territory, they said.

"The bids for these ropeway projects are scheduled to be submitted in November 2025," an official said.

The seven proposed

ropeways include Sonmarg-Thajwas, Doodhpathri-Diskhal, Baderwah-Seoj Dhar, Baltal-Amarnath, Pahalgam-Amarnath, Nashri Tunnel-Sanasar and the Shankaracharya ropeway project, the officials added.

Reviewing the projects, the chief secretary said the administration is "prioritising sustainable transport solutions to improve connectivity to key tourist and pilgrimage destinations".

He emphasised that the timely completion of DPRs is vital, noting that "these ropeway projects hold immense potential for promoting tourism and providing last-mile connectivity to major scenic and religious sites".

During the meeting, the chief secretary also reviewed the progress of the inter-modal station (IMS) at Katra — a flagship infrastructure project designed to integrate multiple modes of transport for the convenience of pilgrims visiting

the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

"The project will ensure seamless connectivity for pilgrims and tourists, making travel more efficient and comfortable," an official said.

Reviewing the status of the multi-modal logistics park (MMLP) in Jammu, the chief secretary called for the early signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate the start of DPR-related work, including topographical and geotechnical surveys.

He also directed authorities to finalise land availability to enable NHLML to begin on-ground activities without delay.

Reiterating the government's commitment to fast-tracking transformative infrastructure projects, the chief secretary urged all departments to "maintain close coordination with NHLML and ensure timely execution of works".

## 3 MW Hydropower Project in Daksum to Illuminate 3,500 Households

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Construction work on a 3-megawatt hydropower project is underway in the Desu Daksum area of Kokernag in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Once completed, the project is expected to generate power for around 3,000 to 3,500 households.

According to KNO, the construction company has already completed the laying of approximately 800 metres of the pipeline required for the project, and the remaining 400 metres are expected to be completed within the next two to three weeks.

After construction, the project will operate round the clock in three shifts, providing employment to 30 to 35 workers per shift.

Ghulam Hassan Dekka, a local, said, "We have been working here for some time. This power project will benefit the local population a lot because this is a poor and far-flung area."

Dekka said there is no harm from this project. "Many labourers are working here. Such projects are the need of the hour," he added.

Another local said they had to face a lot of difficulties during winter and power curtailment, and now they are expecting 24-hour electricity. "Electricity is important in this modern era. The water bodies should be used for these projects, and after generating electricity, the same water can be used again," he said.

Junaid Mohammad Makroo,

Managing Director, Kashmir Valley Energy Private Limited, said "This is a 3 megawatt power project which we have taken from the Jammu & Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA), and with overload capacity, it will function up to 3.6 megawatt. We have already laid around 800 metres of pipeline, and the remaining 400 metres will be completed within the next 2 to 3 weeks."

He said that at present, around 150 local workers are engaged in this project. "Once construction is completed and the plant reaches the commissioning and operational phase, around 30 to 35 people will work in each shift, and the plant will operate in three shifts round the clock," Makroo said.

The MD said the major benefit of this project is electricity generation for the government, and equally important is the employment it provides. "Local people working with us will learn new skills and will be able to enhance their capabilities for future opportunities as well," he said. "Labour here is mostly local; only specialised skilled labour has been hired from outside where necessary."

Makroo added, "This project becomes a national asset. Such projects usually operate under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, 'Build-Operate-Transfer' (BOT), where a private entity builds and operates the project for a fixed term, after which it is handed over to the government."

## Budgam Bye-Election: NC Candidate Faces Public Anger



Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** An unusual scene unfolded during the election campaign rally of National Conference's Budgam bypoll candidate Aga Mehmood on Tuesday, when a woman suddenly walked onto the stage, took the microphone and demanded removal of smart meters and urged people to vote for development instead of "fake promises."

As per KNO, a woman all of sudden walked on the stage and addressed the gathering by raising concerns over rising hardships faced by poor families.

She said several political parties had visited their area repeatedly but can't trust anyone until they fulfill their promises. "She demanded that chairs of leaders should remain upside down until the demands of the poor are fulfilled," locals said.

During her short address, the woman loudly chanted slogans against the installation of electricity smart meters. She further highlighted the struggle of educated unemployed youth.

Her unexpected intervention drew loud applause from parts of the crowd especially women, briefly shifting attention from the scheduled speeches.

## JK Records Nearly 2,900 Dengue Cases This Year

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a rise in dengue infections this year, with close to 2,900 confirmed cases reported so far, officials said on Tuesday.

Health experts have once again appealed to the public to follow precautionary measures to curb the spread of the mosquito-borne disease.

As per official figures, available with KNO, 2,867 dengue cases have been registered across the Union Territory to date. Jammu continues to remain the worst hit with 1,209 cases, followed by Kathua with 772, Udhampur 399, and Samba 160.

Other districts reporting cases include Reasi (59), Rajouri (62), Poonch (26), Doda (58), Ramban (41) and Kishtwar (12). Twenty-eight cases have been detected in the Kashmir division while 41 cases were reported from outside J&K.

Officials said 24,141 tests have been carried out this year. "Only 48 patients needed hospitalization and nine of them are still undergoing treatment," an official said adding that one resident of J&K lost his life at DMC Ludhiana due to dengue-related complications.

The official stressed that there is no dedicated vaccine or specific antiviral therapy available for dengue at present. "The only way to control dengue is to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. People must keep their surroundings clean and ensure there is no stagnant water."

Health experts said dengue continues to pose a serious public health threat.

"Aedes aegypti mosquitoes



breed even in small collections of clean water — like pots, tubs, tyres, lids, buckets or bottles. Every household needs to check such spots regularly," doctors said. They advised people to use mosquito repellents, wear full-sleeved clothing and keep water storage containers covered.

Doctors further said that dengue mosquitoes tend to bite early morning and during late afternoon hours, therefore people are advised to use mosquito nets or window screens even during daytime rest.

Common symptoms include high fever, severe headache, pain behind eyes, intense body and joint aches, vomiting, nausea and rashes.

"Severe dengue can show red-flag symptoms like continuous vomiting, stomach pain, gum or nose bleeding, blood in stools or vomit, sudden fatigue or restlessness. Such cases need urgent hospitalization," they warned.

Dengue cases have fluctuated in the region over the past few years — J&K recorded around 7,000 cases in 2024, 6,403 in 2023 and the highest ever 8,269 cases in 2022, which also resulted in 18 deaths. In comparison, dengue was almost non-existent in the region a decade ago — with only two cases reported in 2009 and none in 2010.

# Asia Cup Fallout: Rauf Gets 2-Match Ban; Surya Fined, Bumrah Gets Demerit Point

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** India's T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav and Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf were on Tuesday fined for "bringing the game into disrepute" during the Asia Cup in September with the latter also copping a two-ODI suspension for accumulating four demerit points during the tournament.

Rauf was handed financial penalties of 30 per cent of his match fee for two incidents in two separate games against India, leading to a two-match ban in the ODI series against South Africa that began on Tuesday. The next game is on November 6 and he will sit out of that as well.

Rauf accumulated four demerit points for the two incidents which

were converted into two suspension points as per ICC rules.

Suryakumar was penalised 30 per cent of his match fee for his comments supporting the Indian armed forces and showing solidarity with victims of the Pahalgam terror attack after the September 14 game between the two sides.

Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was also handed one demerit point for making a "plane down" gesture after yorking Rauf in the final.

In the September 14 game, Rauf was found guilty of offensive gestures depicting a plane crash, mocking the Indian military action under Operation Sindoor and alluding to the Pakistani claims that six Indian fighter jets were downed by it during



the showdown.

He repeated the same gesture on September 28 while fielding near the boundary line trying to instigate a group of Indian fans.

Pakistan batter Sahibzada Farhan was also handed a demerit point but Indian pacer Arshdeep Singh was let off without a fine or

conduct, which relates to conduct that brings the game into disrepute. He was fined 30 per cent of his match fee and received two demerit points.

"S. Farhan (Pakistan) was found guilty of the same offence and was issued an official warning, receiving one demerit point."

"Haris Rauf (Pakistan) was also found guilty of the same offence and fined 30 per cent of his match fee, resulting in two demerit points."

Meanwhile in case of Arshdeep, it was about a social media clip in which he was seen mocking Pakistani fans but the ICC Match Referee didn't find it offensive. The reference was India vs Pakistan Super 4 game on September 21.

## 12th UT Tennikoit C'ship 2025 Concludes In Pahalgam



The 12th UT Tennikoit Championship 2025, conducted by the J&K Tennikoit Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council, concluded at the Sports Stadium, Pahalgam, on Tuesday.

The closing ceremony was attended by MLA Anantnag (West) Abdul Majeed Larmi as the Chief Guest, while officials of JKSC attended as Guests of Honour. Other dignitaries present included Mohd Isaq, Co-Chairman, Tennikoit Federation of India; Kausar Jabeen, Secretary, J&K Tennikoit Association; G.A. Beigh, Patron, J&K Tennikoit Association and Mr. Ishtiyak Amin, Organising Chairman.

More than 200 players from Jammu and Kashmir participated in the event.

The third-day tournament witnessed intense matches reflecting the growing popularity of Tennikoit in J&K. The championship also featured selection trials for the upcoming Sub-Junior & Junior National Championships. (Observer News Service)

## YSS Budgam Hosts UT Level Cricket Tournament For Boys U-14



Dabirah Hassan

**BUDGAM:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam organised the Inter District UT Level Cricket Tournament for Boys Under-14 under the supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam Ghulam Hassan Lone.

The mega sporting event is being held across three prominent venues of the district — Sports Stadium Budgam, Eidgah Ground Sheikhpora, and Sports Stadium Charar-i-Sharief. The tournament aims to provide a competitive platform for budding cricketers from different districts of J&K.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from young players and received appreciation for the smooth conduct and excellent arrangements made by the organising committee of YSS Budgam.

The DYSSO commended all participants for their sporting spirit and encouraged them to continue pursuing excellence in sports.

Meanwhile, District Anantnag registered a record-breaking victory in the tournament, defeating District Samba by 164 runs. The partnership between Simnan Tariq 134\* and Ayan Parvez 66\* led Anantnag to a record 241/0 in 15 overs, while Baber Bashir claimed 3 wickets for the team.

## Shopian Clinches UT Level U-14 Girls Netball Title In Anantnag

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag-hosted Inter-District Netball Tournament for Under-14 Girls concluded on Tuesday at Sports Stadium Wanpora Qazigund here.

In the first semi-final, District Shopian outplayed District Jammu, while District Kulgam triumphed over host District Anantnag in the second. The grand finale between Shopian and Kulgam witnessed top-class performances, where District Shopian emerged victorious, clinching the UT Level Netball U-14 Girls Championship title.

The final presentation

ceremony was attended by Abdul Gani Shah, Senior PEM of DYSSO Anantnag, and Zahoor Ahmad Sheikh, Senior Netball Selector. Both dignitaries appreciated the outstanding performances of young players, including Aleeza, Rabiya, and Ursula, who impressed with their agility, teamwork and tactical play throughout the tournament.

"The result reflects the rising sporting excellence of youth in Jammu and Kashmir, with the Department of Youth Services & Sports reaffirming its commitment to promoting talent, discipline, and teamwork across all districts of the UT," the department said.



## Triumphant India Women Arrive In Delhi For Meeting With PM



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The victorious Indian women's cricket team led by Harmanpreet Kaur touched down in the national capital on Tuesday evening for its meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday.

The team won its first global trophy -- the 50-over World Cup -- beating South Africa by 52 runs in the final in Navi Mumbai on Sunday, marking a defining moment for the women's game in the cricket-obsessed country.

The squad members along with head coach Amol Muzumdar got a

warm reception at the Mumbai airport where a sizeable crowd came to see them off.

Star Air, a regional airline, operated a special charter flight (S5-8328) to carry the team to Delhi from Mumbai.

Upon arrival at IGI, the Indian team members left for the hotel and are scheduled to meet the prime minister on Wednesday evening, before dispersing for their respective home towns.

The ceremony, to be held at the prime minister's official residence, will celebrate the team's remarkable campaign under captain Harmanpreet.

## Amar Singh College Clinches 1-Run Victory Over GDC Patan

In a nail-biting encounter at GDC Baramulla, Amar Singh College edged past GDC Pattan by just one run. Batting first, Amar Singh College posted a total of 119 for 5.

According to a press release issued, The match reached its climax in the tense last two overs, where GDC Pattan came agonisingly close to the target. However, Amar Singh College held their nerve and successfully defended 11 runs, sealing a dramatic win.

Prof. Bilal Ahmad Malik was declared Man of the Match for his sensible and composed innings that proved crucial in setting up the victory. (KNS)

## PCB Chief Naqvi Unlikely To Attend ICC Meeting With BCCI

"Domestic political issues" might prevent Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Mohsin Naqvi from attending the ICC's Executive Board meeting in Dubai where the BCCI is set to raise the issue of the Asia Cup trophy not being presented to India.

The four-day meeting began on Tuesday and Naqvi, who is also the chairman of the Asian Cricket Council, was to face the BCCI's ire for not handing the trophy after the winning players refused to accept it from him due to his anti-India statements.

The PCB source did not specify the exact political issues that would come in the way of his attendance. Naqvi also holds the interior minister's position in his country and has not attended ICC meetings after Jay Shah was elected Chairman of the world body last year. (PTI)

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