



Climate Red Flag?

Jhelum Flows Below Zero; Gulmarg Hits 17.2°C



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir is witnessing unusual weather patterns this March, with the River Jhelum dropping below the zero gauge mark and Gulmarg recording a historic temperature of 17.2°C in the first week of the month, raising concerns among experts about the impact of deficient snowfall and rising temperatures.

control data, the Jhelum was flowing at minus 0.86 feet at Sangam in south Kashmir at 9 am on Thursday, indicating discharge below the zero level, an uncommon development for early March when gradual snowmelt usually boosts the river's flow.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif said the unusually low river level reflects deficient winter precipitation and weak

According to official flood

Temps Likely To Rise Over Next 2 Days

Agencies

The Meteorological Department (MeT) on Thursday forecast a sharp rise in day temperatures across Jammu and Kashmir over the next 48 hours, saying the prevailing dry weather is likely to trigger heat spell like conditions in parts of the Union Territory. Officials at the MeT Centre in Srinagar said that mainly dry weather is expected to prevail across J&K for the next few days, which | [More on P6](#)

Tight Security, Precautionary Curbs Across Kashmir Today

- ◆ Internet At 2G Speed, Prepaid Calls Suspended
- ◆ Decision On Relaxation To Be Taken After Friday Prayers: Officials

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Authorities have decided to enforce stringent precautionary restrictions across all districts of Kashmir on Friday to maintain law and order.

Senior officials in the security establishment said deployment has been intensified in major towns and sensitive pockets, with curbs on movement in identified areas.

The decision comes in the wake of processions and rallies that were taken out in different parts of Kashmir following the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in US-Israel strikes last week.

"Security arrangements have been strengthened and restrictions will remain in place on Friday. The situation is being closely monitored," an official said, adding that any decision on relaxation would be taken only after Friday prayers.

Officials said mobile internet services will continue to operate at 2G speed across the Valley, while prepaid mobile calling services will remain suspended.

They said the curbs are temporary and aimed at preventing any escalation and checking the spread of misinformation. Another | [More on P6](#)

Why Has Dal Lake Turned Green? Locals Question, Experts Cite Ecological Factors

Mohammed Mudassir Ali Dar

Srinagar: The sudden green appearance of large patches of Dal Lake has triggered debate among residents, lake dwellers and experts, with locals raising concerns over possible interference while officials attribute the change to ecological factors such as reduced inflow, rising temperatures and increased nutrient load.

Several residents living around the lake said they had never witnessed such a phenomenon before and demanded clarity from authorities managing the lake.

A Dal dweller said the green colour had appeared recently and many people dependent on the lake were worried about its impact.

"I am 55 years old and have lived my entire life around



Dal Lake. I am seeing this kind of green colour for the first time," he said.

Some residents alleged that authorities may have carried out interventions in the lake ahead of visits by dignitaries, claiming the change might have been aimed at improving the lake's appearance from aerial views. They also criticised certain policies related to lake management,

including the use of mechanical weed harvesters.

According to them, large harvesting machines brought in to remove weeds may have disrupted the lake's natural ecosystem.

"Machines were brought to remove vegetation, but they have also affected the lake's natural biomass and aquatic life," one resident said.

Lake dwellers also pointed

to structural interventions and reduced water movement in certain areas, saying bridges and other developments have slowed circulation in parts of the lake.

However, officials and environmental experts say the colour change is primarily linked to environmental and climatic conditions affecting the lake.

Dr Muzamil Ahmad Rafique, Superintending Engineer at the Jammu and Kashmir Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), said Dal Lake behaves differently from a flowing river and is sensitive to changes in water circulation.

"Dal Lake is unlike the Jhelum river. It is a relatively stagnant water body that depends on inflow and outflow channels. When inflow reduces and water remains

stagnant, | [More on P6](#)

President Announces New Governors, LGs

Vinai Saxena Appointed Ladakh LG

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The President of India on Thursday announced a series of appointments and transfers of Governors and Lieutenant Governors across several states and Union Territories.

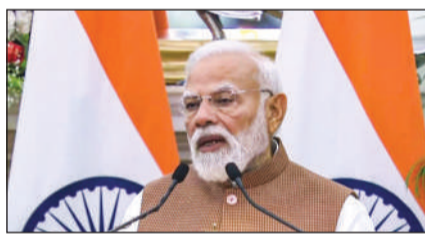
According to the official notification, Shiv Pratap Shukla, who was serving as Governor of Himachal Pradesh, has been appointed as the Governor of Telangana.

Jishnu Dev Varma, currently the Governor of Telangana, has been appointed as the Governor of Maharashtra.

The President has also appointed Nand Kishore Yadav as the Governor of Nagaland, while Syed Ata Hasnain has been appointed as the Governor of Bihar.

In another change, R. N. Ravi, who was serving as Governor of Tamil Nadu, has been | [More on P6](#)

No Issue Can Be Resolved Through Military Conflict: PM



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called for a "swift end" to the conflicts in West Asia and Ukraine, saying no issue can be resolved through military confrontation.

Modi made the remarks after holding wide-ranging talks with Finnish President Alexander Stubb.

"India and Finland, both, believe in the rule of law, dialogue, and diplomacy. We are in agreement that no issue can be resolved through military | [More on P6](#)

India Finally Condoles Khamenei's Killing

KO Web Desk

India on Thursday expressed condolences over the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei, even as opposition parties criticised the government for what they described as a delayed response to the assassination and to the sinking of an Iranian warship by the United States near Sri Lanka.

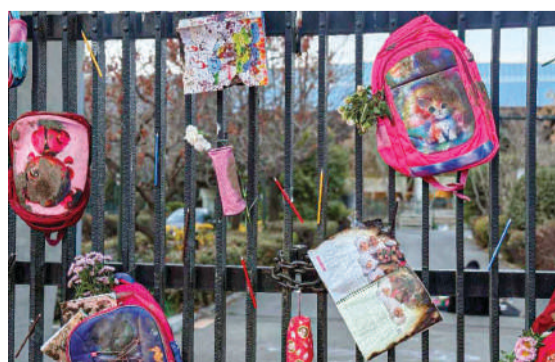
Six days after Ayatollah Khamenei was assassinated by US & Israel, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri | [More on P6](#)

Deadly Iran School Strikes Prompt Calls For Investigation

Agencies

Tehran/Minab: A total of 186 students and teachers have been killed and 114 others injured in the past five days of relentless US-Israeli attacks on Iran, according to reports.

Iran's Ministry of Education stated that approximately 20 educational institutions across the country have either been damaged or completely destroyed during the strikes.



The deadliest incident of Saturday, February 28, when two airstrikes

struck Shajareh Tayyeb Elementary School, an all-girls primary school in the southern city of Minab. According to officials, 168 young students were killed when the school was hit in what witnesses described as two consecutive strikes that devastated the campus.

US President Donald Trump announced the start of "major combat operations" against Iran on Saturday (28th February), confirming | [More on P6](#)

NASHA MUKT JAMMU KASHMIR ABHIYAAN

Dear parents,

Open communication is the first line of defense against drug abuse.

Talk to your children about the danger of drugs, listen to their concerns, and create a safe space for them to confide in you.

Support families in building strong, drug sensitized homes

National Toll-free Deaddiction Helpline 14446

Take e-Pledge on <https://nashamuktjk.org> or scan

Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K

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Dated: DIPK-11581/25



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327
 Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

IIT Mandi Develops Advanced Landslide Early Warning System

Press Trust Of India

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi, in Himachal Pradesh have developed a real-time landslide monitoring and early warning system. Scientists said the technology was deployed in three landslide-prone areas in Mandi district and claimed that the model, based on machine learning and advanced analytics, achieved over 90 percent accuracy in landslide prediction. The system, capable of detecting ground movements of less than one

millimeter and uses sensors to transmit real-time data, has been developed in collaboration with the National Mission on Himalayan studies, IIT scientists said on Thursday. During monsoon last year, Himachal Pradesh witnessed around 140 major landslides. This new early warning system, which automatically activates cautionary mechanisms like hooters and blinkers and sends alerts to authorities enabling swift action and minimisation of losses and casualties, could prove to be very beneficial for the state, researchers said. Prof Varun Dutt from IIT Mandi told

PTI Videos that the system, which is installed on hills, is activated even if it detects a minute shift -- less than one millimetre -- in the ground, and sends alerts to 'warning poles' installed in vulnerable areas such as valleys or along road stretch around the hill. It sets off a hooter and blinker, alerting people about possible landslide, besides sending alerts via SMS and an Android-based web application to the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) control room. The system works in real time and provides resolution upto millimetres, as compared to satellite data which gives information with a resolution of

around 20 meters, Dutt said. He further said while satellite data helps track ground movements over a period of 14 days to two months, the new system can detect much finer changes. The Government of India has launched the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission and its data will gradually become available, further improving the warnings, the researchers said. Currently, satellite data is received once every two weeks. This data is being integrated with the system data to issue more accurate and timely warnings, they added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Fayaz Ahmed Mir, S/o wali MOHAMMAD Mir R/o Usmanabad, Upper Ashpeer, Sopore, hereby inform the general public that the names of my children were wrongly recorded as under: MOHAMMAD RAAEF MIR instead of MOHAMAD RAAEF MIR (Son) UMACYYA MIR instead of UMMAYA MIR (Daughter) HOOR FAYAZ instead of HOOR ZARA (Daughter) I am in the process of renewing their passports with the correct names as mentioned above. If anyone has any objection regarding the above corrections, they may file the same in writing before the Post Master, Post Office Baramulla, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Fayaz Ahmed Mir
 F/o Mohamad Raaef Mir, Ummaya Mir & Hoor Zara
 R/o Usmanabad, Upper Ashpeer, Sopore

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Manzoor Ahmad Yatoo while my correct name is Zahid Ahmad Sheikh. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Zahid Ahmad Sheikh
 S/o Pyaray Lal Mirda
 R/o Heevan Fatehgadh Tehsil Baramulla fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is information for general public that my father's caste has been wrongly mentioned in my Passport bearing Number AM358459, as Aabid Hussain Wagay, While as my father's actual and correct Caste is Aabid Hussain Wani. Now I am applying for its necessary correction. If any body is having any objection in this regard, he/she may contact at passport office srinagar within a period fo seven days. No objection will be accepted after that.

ANABIA ABID
 D/O. AABID HUSSAIN WANI
 R/O. CHAK RAMBIR PORA fko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death
 Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Name: Shafeeqa Begum W/o Late: Ghulam Mohammad Dar R/o: Saglpora, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of WARDS Namely Mohammad Irfan Dar D.O.B: 21-06-2010 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

fko Tehsildar Executive Magistrate Bomial

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death
 Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Sajad Ramzan Lone S/o Mohammad Ramzan Lone R/o Latti Shaht, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of WARDS Namely Mohammad Zeiyaan- DOB: 11-06-2020 Sadaf Sajad - DOB 08-09-2017 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

fko Tehsildar Executive Magistrate Bomial

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that my name in the bank records is recorded as "Ghulam Ahmad Lone" in J&K Bank, Main Branch Magam under A/c No. 10090040100090768. However, I intend to update/correct my name to "Gh Ahmad Lone" in accordance with my service records and other official documents maintained with the said bank. Therefore, any person having any objection to the said correction may file the same before the concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, it shall be presumed that no one has any objection and the correction process will be carried out accordingly.

Gh Ahmad Lone
 S/o Gh Mohiuddin Lone
 R/o Badran, Magam
 Contact No.: 9419369556 bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Faizan Ahmad Shah, S/o Farooq Ahmad Shah, R/o Achhabal Sopore Baramulla hereby declare that I intend to change my name from Faizan Ahmad Shah to Faizan Farooq for all purposes and records. I have applied for the change of my name in my account maintained with Jammu and Kashmir Bank, C-D Hospital Branch. Henceforth, I shall be known and identified as Faizan Farooq instead of Faizan Ahmad Shah in all my records and documents. If any person has any objection to this name change, they may file the same with the concerned branch within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Faizan Ahmad Shah
 (Now to be known as Faizan Farooq)
 R/o Achhabal, Sopore, Baramulla fko

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW(R&B)D MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH KASHMIR

(NOTICE INVITING TENDERS)
 e-NIT No: - 41 of R&B/MDSK/2025-26 Dated: 05 / 03 /2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited in two-cover system (Technical and Financial) on Percentage basis from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) / Experienced firms / Authorized dealers of OEM's for the below mentioned work:-

S. No	Name of work	Cost of Tender Documents (Rs.)	Estimated cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Time of Completion (months)	Tender Opening Authority	Position of Funds
1.	Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 27 Nos. (06 Passenger Customised 21 No. + 08 Passenger 06 No.) (G+3) MRE lifts at Transit Accommodation Lethpora, Phase-II.	8500/-	56030453/-	1120609/-	04 Months	Superintending Engineer, R&B Circle, Pulwama-Shopian	Available with intending department

Position of AAA: Authorization conveyed vide no. DMRRR-Plan/47/2023, Dated:09/08/2024 by the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Affairs.
 Position of TS: Accorded by Chief Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Engineering Department, Kashmir vide order no. MHED/K/TS/170, Dt: 11/02/2026.

S. No	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05/03/2026
2	Period of Downloading of bidder Documents	From 05/03/2026 (02:15 hrs) To 13/03/2026 (12:00 hrs)
3	Bid Submission Start Date	From 05/03/2026 (02:15 hrs)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 13/03/2026 (12:00 hrs)
5	Date and time of opening of technical bid (online)	14/03/2026 at/after 12:00 hrs in the office of Superintending Engineer, PW (R&B) Circle Pulwama-Shopian.
6	Date and time of opening of financial bid (online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.
7	Tender document Fee Submission (Between the start and end date of bid submission)	By uploading a scanned copy of Treasury Challan Receipt in favour of the Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir Anantnag to be deposited in Major Head 0059 OR Online Bank transfer acknowledgment including m-Pay or any other mobile banking App., to be uploaded with online bid. Tender Id to be written on the voucher and then uploaded. OR Bank Account No: 0014010200000198 favoring Executive Engineer (R&B), Mechanical Division South Kashmir Name of the Bank: Jammu & Kashmir Bank Branch Name: TP Anantnag Branch Code: EMPIRE IFSC Code: JAKA0EMPIRE MICR Code: 19205100
8	Earnest Money Deposit	Earnest money deposit @2% amounting to Rs 1120609/- of the estimated cost, in shape of CDR/FDR/BG from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank pledged to Superintending Engineer, PW (R&B) Circle Pulwama-Shopian. The bidders must upload documentary proof (scanned copies) of the CDR/FDR/BG-. In case of unsuccessful bidder(s), the EMD shall be released immediately after placement of the work order in favour of the lowest bidder and in case of the successful bidder the same shall be released after submission of Performance Security @5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 15 days after intimation by tender inviting authority. EMD shall be valid for a period of 45 days after bid validity. The EMD Shall NOT be deposited in the official Account of the Division/Circle Office provided above for deposit of the Tender Fee. If any Bidder Pledges the EMD in the official Account of the Executive Engineer R&B Mechanical Division South Kashmir, their BID shall be outrightly rejected.

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule. Note:-1. The bidder must get registered on JKPWDOMS, as no payments shall be made unless the bill is processed on JKPWDOMS in view of circular issued by Finance Department of JK UT. No payment shall be released until and unless bill is processed through JKPWDOMS application and routed through JKPaysys. However, for those bidders who are not yet registered on JKPWDOMS shall submit and undertake that JKPWDOMS registration will be done well on time before release of payment. 2. In case of any technical clarifications, suggestions, comments set forth in the tender documents, the tenderers shall address the Superintending Engineer, PW (R&B) Circle Pulwama - Shopian or Executive Engineer Mechanical South Kashmir in writing at least six days before the last date fixed for submission of tenders. The queries/clarifications can be mailed to 0194.2502327. No. R&B/MDSK/3067-75.

DIPK-11604/25 dated: 05-03-2026
 Sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Mechanical Division South Kashmir

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application TARIQ AHMAD ZARAGAR S/O ABDUL MAJEED ZARGAR R/O THINDIMA kreeri Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward classes in favor of AISHA TARIQ AAMINA TARIQ , RUKAYA TARIQ

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of THINDIMA KREERI of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the ZARGAR community having annual income 280000 // (Two lack Eighty Thousand) the details of family of the applicant are as follows

1...TARIQ AHMAD ZARGAR	Head of family	50	Labour
2..AISHA TARIQ	daughter	24 years	Student
3...AMINA TARIQ	daughter	18 years	student
4....RUKAYA TARIQ	-	15 years	student

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

fko NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Directorate of School Education Kashmir Samanderbagh - S.P. College Road Srinagar - 190001

Email: dsekjk@gmail.com / dsek-jk@nic.in
 (Teaching Section)

Sub: CCP(D) 55/2022 in SWP No. 415/2019, CCP(D) No. 56/2022, CCP(D) No. 57/2022, CCP(D) No. 59/2022, CCP(D) No. 29/2023 titled Shabir Ahmad Mir and others Vs Shri Arun Kumar Mehta and others - CCP(D) No. 28/2023 in SWP No. 1477/2018 titled Yasmeena Rehman and Anr. Vs. Shri Alok Kumar and others: Central Administrative Tribunal order dated 27.09.2023 and 02.12.2024 - adjust-ment thereof. Ref: Administrative Department's communication No.: Edu-LGLOKmr/222/2023-08 (7231167) dated: 27/01/2026

Notification No. 01-DSEK of 2026 Dated: 04/03/2026

Pursuant to the directions conveyed by Hon'ble High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Srinagar dated: 27/04/2021 passed in CCP(D) No. 28/2023 in SWP No. 1477/2018 titled Yasmeena Rehman and Anr. Vs Shri Alok Kumar and others, clubbed with CCP(D) 55/2022 in SWP No. 415/2019, CCP(D) No. 56/2022, CCP(D) No. 57/2022, CCP(D) No. 59/2022, CCP(D) No. 29/2023 titled Shabir Ahmad Mir and others Vs Shri Arun Kumar Mehta and others, and as recommended by J&K Service Selection Board vide No. JKSSB-LEG/12/2023-03 (E-7104707) dated: 31/12/2025 received through Administrative Department vide communication No. Edu-LGLOKmr/222/2023-08 (7231167) dated: 27/01/2026, the below named two candidates are hereby informed through the medium of this Notification to submit all the Testimonials/Certificates (in original) and Verification of Character and Antecedents Form prescribed by the Government in light of Order No. 528-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated: 21/06/2021 before this office, within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this Notification. After expiry of the stipulated time period, if the selectee(s) fails to produce the desired documents before this Directorate his/her claim for appointment as Teacher shall be treated as foregone and no further notice shall be issued in this behalf.

S.No.	S.No. in Revised Selection List	Item No.	Name of the candidate	District	Name of the Post	Cat.
1	RBA-24	3	Mehraj ud Din Sheikh S/o: Gh Ahmad Sheikh R/o: Vizer Wagoora Baramulla 193103	Baramulla	General Teacher	RBA
2	OM-29	17	Aamina Hassan D/o: Gh Hassan Malik R/o: Aa-dipora Malikpora Sopore, Baramulla, 193201	Baramulla'	Science-Math	OM

Director School Education Kashmir
 DIPK-11588/25
 Dated: 05/ 03 / 2026
 No.: DSEK/Estt/B-Trs/LS/272 / 743-48

Email ID: gmdic-srinagar@jk.gov.in Tel/FAX: 0194-2427478

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, SRINAGAR

Near Petrol Pump Baghi Ali Mardan Khan, Srinagar - 190011

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s Saheb Industries Khunmoh formally registered with this office under No 01/03/08700/PMT/MSME dated 09-06-2014 for the line of activity of "Manufacture of Steel Furniture, assembling/repairing of video/audio fitted steel modular furniture and manufacturing of wooden furniture by hand tools.

Now the partners of the unit have approached this office for change of location from existing to Cement Road Khunmoh (Survey No. 2217 min, Khawat No 74, Khata No. 265)

Any person having any objection for above mentioned changes shall report to the office of General Manager, District Industries Centre, Srinagar within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- General Manager District Industries Centre Srinagar.
 DIPK-11598/25 dated: 05-03-2026

Dozens of Posts Vacant at KU Despite Recruitment Drive

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Despite recently advertising several positions, dozens of key administrative and technical posts continue to lie vacant at the University of Kashmir, affecting the smooth functioning of academic and administrative work at the institution.

Sources said important positions including Director of IT & SS, Director of EMMRC, Deputy Director of DIQA and two Assistant Director posts in DIQA have remained unfilled for years. The Director IT & SS position has been vacant for nearly 13 years, with an in-charge director holding the responsibility since 2014.

Similarly, the Director EMMRC post has remained vacant for around seven years, while an in-charge official has been handling the office for the past six years. Officials said three Deputy Registrar posts at satellite campuses are also lying vacant, impacting administrative functioning.

The shortage extends to the Construction Division, where several posts including four Junior Engineers, two Work Supervisors, two Electricians, one Mechanic, two Linemen, one Head Draftsman and seven Plumbers

remain unfilled.

A senior professor said the shortage has weakened monitoring of construction and repair works. "Due to lack of supervision, contractors sometimes use inferior material in civil and electrical works," the professor said.

Clerical staff shortages are also affecting departments, with around 90 Junior Assistant posts currently vacant, forcing some Heads of Departments to perform clerical duties themselves.

University insiders said that while the institution has expanded significantly over the past two decades with new departments and satellite campuses, the staff strength has largely remained unchanged.

They also warned that more than 300 employees are expected to retire within the next two years, which could further strain the university's functioning if timely recruitment is not carried out.

Aspirants have urged the Chancellor of the University to intervene and direct authorities to fast-track recruitment for non-teaching and technical posts, stating that filling these vacancies would improve administrative efficiency and provide opportunities to job seekers. KNT



Div Com Reviews Projects for Traffic Management & Road Safety

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Thursday chaired a meeting to review finalization of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for parking sites, roads and bridges, besides identifying black spots to ensure smooth traffic movement and decongestion of Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, CEO of Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), SSP Traffic Srinagar, RTO Kashmir, and officers from the Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department, Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

Addressing the officers, the Divisional Commissioner directed all departments to submit reports on developmental projects related to roads, bridges and parking areas, including details of approved

works, proposals under submission and new project proposals.

He also instructed the departments to submit a report on traffic black spots and bottlenecks along with proposed interventions by Monday.

The Divisional Commissioner also urged SSP Traffic to ensure optimum utilization of ITMS cameras for effective enforcement of traffic regulations and generation of challans.

Further, the CEO SSCL was

The Divisional Commissioner also urged SSP Traffic to ensure optimum utilization of ITMS cameras for effective enforcement of traffic regulations and generation of challans.

The CEO of Srinagar Smart City Limited was directed to rationalize e-bus routes, ensure adherence to time schedules and designate proper bus stops.

The R&B Department and Border Roads Organisation (BEACON) were asked to submit a report regarding the closure of crossings along the National Highway from Parimpora to Narbal.

directed to ensure painting of stop lines and marking of zebra crossings on roads. The Divisional Commissioner instructed that work on the IT-based car parking be completed by March 31.

The R&B Department was also directed to submit a report identifying bridges requiring intervention to facilitate inland waterway transport on the Jhelum River.

Students Stranded in Iran Seek Evacuation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Anxiety continues to grip families across Jammu and Kashmir as Indian students studying in different universities in Iran have urged the Government of India (GoI) to facilitate their evacuation through neighbouring countries, Armenia and Azerbaijan, amid the deteriorating security situation in the region.

They have written to the concerned in Iran to allow them to return through the borders of

neighbouring countries.

Students said the situation in several Iranian cities has become increasingly uncertain due to the ongoing conflict and reports of explosions in nearby areas, leaving many of them frightened and unsure about their safety.

Several Indian students studying at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences said that the Vice Chancellor of the university has advised international students to consider returning to their home countries due to the worsening security conditions. KNO

Zabarwan Park Museum Reopens for Tourists

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Zabarwan Park Museum located at Boulevard in Srinagar reopened for tourists on Thursday after remaining closed for nearly five years, marking a significant step towards reviving tourism infrastructure in the region.

The museum was formally reopened in the pres-

ence of Director Tourism Syed Qamar Sajad and other officials from the Tourism Department.

Speaking to KNS, the Director Tourism said that revival and restoration of tourism assets remain a top priority for the department in order to enhance visitor experience and further promote tourism in the Valley. He said that several

artefacts at the museum require upgradation and maintenance, which will be carried out in the coming days ahead of the opening of the Tulip Garden.

With the onset of the spring season, Jammu and Kashmir is expected to witness a significant increase in tourist footfall as visitors arrive to experience the natural beauty of the Valley.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE			
Tender No:- 240-2025-26-DEN-HQ-FZR		Date: 03.03.2026	
DEN/HQ/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-25.03.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in			
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Packet System	
Open	Works	Single Packet System	
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Tender Closing Date/Time	
02.03.2026	11.03.2026	25.03.2026 & 15:00 Hrs	
SN	Tender Number	Details of Tender	
1	240-2025-26-DEN-HQ-FZR	Repair & maintenance of bridges and Provision of Ballast Retainers on Approaches of Major Bridges in the section of ADEN-1/FZR and ADEN-2/FZR.	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
	1,04,16,944.71	2,02,100.00	60 Days
			Period of Completion
			06 Months
Similar Nature Work:- "Any civil work other than track work."			
Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.			
738/26			

**THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR**

I have passed / appeared in SSE / HSE-I / HSE-II (Class 10th / 11th / 12th) under Roll No. 732241, 11th 316, 12th 719452 Session: A/R, Bi-Annual, Annual Year: 2000 / 2001, 2003 through THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION. The error has been committed by the Govt B.H.S.S. Tral against my Name as Taveed Ahmad instead Taveed Ahmad Shah.

Now I have applied for correction to The Jammu and Kashmir Board Of School Education, New Campus Bemina Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub office Pulwama within seven days from the date of the 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: TAVEED AHMAD SHAH
Father's Name: MOHD AMIN SHAH
Mother's Name: HASEENA BANO
Date of Birth: 02-12-1985
Residence: Trali Payeen
Mobile No: 9149576634

fko

<p style="text-align: center;">از نیابت ہر دو مشورہ</p> <p>درخواست از جانب عنوان:- درخواست منجانب روز بروز رمضان خیر محمد رحمان ساکن میری پورہ برادرہ وصول تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">اشہتر بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص وعام</p> <p>معاہلہ مندرجہ عنوان میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادرہ وصول تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جس میں وہ اظہار کرتی ہے کہ ان کے ادھار کارڈ پر پیم پیدائش 14-05-2003 ہیں جبکہ اصل تاریخ پیدائش برطابق سکول سرٹیفکیٹ 05-10-2004 ہیں۔ ساکن ادب پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ مطابق سکول سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کی خواہاں ہے۔ لہذا اس بارے میں ہر خاص وعام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو مطلوبہ سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہوتو چاروں کے اندر اندر دفتر بذمہ پیش کریں۔</p> <p style="text-align: right;">نائب تحصیلدار</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">از نیابت ہر دو مشورہ</p> <p>درخواست از جانب عنوان:- درخواست منجانب روز بروز رمضان خیر محمد رحمان ساکن میری پورہ برادرہ وصول تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">اشہتر بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص وعام</p> <p>معاہلہ مندرجہ عنوان میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادرہ وصول تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جس میں وہ اظہار کرتی ہے کہ ان کے ادھار کارڈ پر پیم پیدائش 14-05-2003 ہیں جبکہ اصل تاریخ پیدائش برطابق سکول سرٹیفکیٹ 05-10-2004 ہیں۔ ساکن ادب پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ مطابق سکول سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کی خواہاں ہے۔ لہذا اس بارے میں ہر خاص وعام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو مطلوبہ سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہوتو چاروں کے اندر اندر دفتر بذمہ پیش کریں۔</p> <p style="text-align: right;">نائب تحصیلدار</p>
--	--

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

SOCIAL ACTIVIST & PRESIDENT
OF NGO HELPING HANDS CARE FOUNDATION J&K
— BEREAVED —

With deep sorrow and profound grief, it is hereby informed that beloved **Mausi** (maternal aunt) of **Nasir Hussain**, Social Activist and President of **Helping Hands Care Foundation J&K**, passed away at their **Residence at Pallar Budgam** on **04 March 2026** and his **chaharum** will be observed on **06 March 2026**.

Her sad demise has left the entire family in immense pain and sorrow. In this difficult hour, heartfelt condolence messages and expressions of sympathy have poured in from various social organizations, political parties, and religious institutions, all extending their solidarity and prayers to **Nasir Hussain** and his bereaved family.

Aameen.

- 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: +9194841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBERA: 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**

16-Ramazan
1447

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5: 31
ZUHR	12:43
ASR	4: 50
Magrib	6:34
ISHA	7: 54

This Day In History

- 1079- Omar ibn Ibrahim al-Chajjam completes Jalali-calendar
- 1454- Thirteen Years' War: Delegates of the Prussian Confederation pledge allegiance to Casimir IV of Poland, and the Polish king agrees to help in their struggle for independence from the Teutonic Knights.
- 1479- Treaty of Alcaçovas: Portugal gives the Canary Islands to Castile in exchange for claims in West Africa
- 1521- Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan is the first European to sight Guam in the western Pacific

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE			
Tender Notice No: 433_TELE_JAT_30_25_26		Date:- 03.03.2026	
Closing Date/Time: 25.03.2026 15:00			
Sr. DSTE/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on https://www.ireps.gov.in against Tender Notice no. 433_TELE_JAT_30_25_26 Closing Date/Time 25.03.2026 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.			
Contract Type	Works		
Name of work	Replacement of old Exchange with Server based IP based exchange at stations over Jammu division of North Railway		
Tender Closing Date/Time	25.03.2026 15:00	Date Time of Uploading Tender	03.03.2026 17:12
Advertised Value (Rs.)	19404770.92	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	11.03.2026
Earnest Money (Rs.)	247000.00	Period of Completion	4 Months
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 742/26			

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE			
Tender Notice No.: 433_TELE_JAT_08_25_26		Date: 03.03.2026	
Closing Date/Time: 25.03.2026, 15:00 Hrs.			
Sr. DSTE/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on https://www.ireps.gov.in against Tender Notice no. 433_TELE_JAT_08_25_26 Closing Date/Time 25.03.2026, 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.			
Contract Type	Works		
Name of Work	Replacement of defective 4-Quad with 6-Quad cable for improving reliability of block working in JAT-MCTM section.		
Tender Closing Date, Time	25.03.2026 15:00 hrs.	Date, Time of Uploading Tender	03.03.2026 17:03 hrs.
Advertised Value (Rs.)	3,41,41,083.94	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	11.03.2026
Earnest Money (Rs.)	3,20,700.00	Period of Completion	4 Months
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 743/2026			

موت نے آکر چراغ حیات بجھا دیا اور یادوں نے دل کے اندھیروں کو جگا دیا۔

آہ انتہائی رنج و غم کے ساتھ اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ زوجہ محترمہ محمد جعفر میر صاحب مورخہ 05 مارچ 2026 بروز جمعرات کو صبح 30:10 بجے مختصر علالت کے بعد اس فانی دنیا سے رخصت ہو گئیں۔ ان کے انتقال کی خبر نے دلوں کو غمگین اور آنکھوں کو اشکبار کر دیا ہے۔

وہ اپنے اخلاق، محبت، نیک سیرتی، خلوص، دینداری اور محبت اہل بیت (ع) کی وجہ سے ہمیشہ یاد رکھی جائیں گی۔ ان کی جدائی اہل خانہ اور تمام عزیز و اقارب کے لیے ایک گہرا صدمہ ہے۔

اللہ تعالیٰ مرحومہ کی کامل مغفرت فرمائے۔ انہیں جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ ترین مقام عطا کرے اور سوگوار خاندان کو صبر جمیل عطا فرمائے۔ اس سلسلے میں ان کا اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 8 مارچ 2026 بروز اتوار صبح سات بجے ان کے آبائی قبرستان واقع مومن آباد منڈی بل میں انجام دیا جائے گا اور اس کے بعد تعزیتی مجلس دن بھر جاری رہے گی

سوگواران
میر خاندان
بٹ خاندان

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KO VIEW

Kashmir's Hormone Crisis

Something is breaking inside young Kashmiris, and the warning signs are everywhere.

In Srinagar hospitals, doctors now see what once seemed rare: twenty-somethings arriving with exhaustion that sleep won't fix, weight from nowhere, chaotic cycles, and climbing blood sugar.

They feel old in young skin, and their lab reports tell the same story repeatedly. The body's command system is crashing.

Hormones run everything that keeps us functioning. They guide metabolism, sleep, mood, and the ability to create life. When that guidance falters, the whole body stumbles into disorder.

That failure is becoming impossible to ignore in Kashmir now.

At Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, physicians track a disturbing surge in metabolic disease among young adults. They trace it to hormonal chaos born from daily habits. Research from the Indian Council of Medical Research confirms what clinics witness: obesity, diabetes, and hypertension are spreading through Jammu and Kashmir.

Each condition connects deeply with hormones managing insulin, cortisol, and reproduction.

The culprit is a sweeping lifestyle change in Kashmir. The valley once built health through physical labour woven into survival. Farmers walked rugged terrain because livelihood demanded it. Then urban life arrived. Now desks chain people for hours, screens glow past midnight, and movement vanishes from daily routines. Stress fills the silence that remains.

Food compounds the damage and distress. Plates heavy with polished rice and refined flour send blood sugar spiking. Bakery snacks and sweetened drinks force insulin into overtime until it surrenders. Fat accumulates, and glucose regulation collapses.

Women absorb severe impacts and influences of this modern way of living. Gynecologists describe growing numbers of young patients with polycystic ovary syndrome, a hormonal defiance disrupting cycles, ballooning weight, and stealing fertility. Doctors connect these cases to insulin resistance and sedentary routines.

Men fall into similar patterns. Endocrinologists note dropping testosterone in patients who should peak. Cortisol floods bodies trapped in unrelenting pressure. Energy evaporates, fertility weakens, and vitality erodes. Winter sharpens the crisis, as bitter cold imprisons people indoors. Sunlight disappears, and vitamin D plummets, dragging hormonal balance and bone health downward. Diets grow heavier, and metabolism struggles harder.

The National Family Health Survey captured hard evidence: overweight adults multiplying across the region. Doctors link this to metabolic disorders rooted in hormonal wreckage. Patients now arrive with full syndromes: belly fat, high blood pressure, twisted cholesterol, volatile glucose. Physicians call this metabolic syndrome, and hormones sit at its center.

Inside fertility clinics, couples fear families that never start. Tests reveal hormone disruption. Ovulation stalls, while sperm quality falls as metabolism falters.

Hormone imbalance drains energy, blurs focus, slows work, dims classrooms, and strains homes.

A hidden health crisis now sweeps through society, turning bodies into engines of economic and social strain.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Property Or Portfolio

Investors weigh emotional security of land against higher potential market returns.

Irshad Mushtaq

Real estate remains the first choice for investment in Kashmir. Elders still urge everyone to buy land whenever possible. The idea feels safe and rooted in tradition. But the financial landscape today pushes investors to look again and consider new options.

Property still offers emotional value. Families recall homes in Delhi that rose in price and created stability. But the numbers today are less convincing.

Rental yields in major cities stay close to 2 to 3 per cent a year. Maintenance bills take away more value. Returns once touched high double digits in a few pockets. Growth slowed after the 2014 floods as many localities struggled to deliver steady gains. Selling a property can take months and legal processes add delays.

Market-linked products present a stronger case. The Nifty 50 has averaged about 12 per cent CAGR across thirty years. Leading flexi-cap mutual funds have delivered close to 15 per cent over two decades with simpler taxation and easy liquidity.

These products work without high commissions, legal hurdles, or long waiting periods. Only 7 per cent of Indians invest in such instruments. Kashmir's share stays below 1 per cent due to mistrust and poor awareness.

The preference for real estate is more psychological than financial. Property feels stable and markets feel risky, though long-term data suggests the opposite. A mutual fund can be sold in minutes. A flat may take a year to find a buyer. Investors need to study costs, track real returns after inflation, and choose products with low charges.

Kashmir once relied on land, gold, and fixed deposits. Today the region can access national and global markets with ease. Wealth grows when learning grows. A balanced, flexible approach offers younger generations a clearer path to financial strength.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial educator.

The Seeds of the Iran War

Washington once backed Iran's nuclear ambitions under the Shah. Decades later, it cites the same program to justify war.

Mubashir Bashir

Betrayal is the word that comes to mind. In the early hours of February 28, the United States and Israel launched a ferocious strike on Iran, killing Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and several senior security officials at his residence in Tehran.

The attack came in the middle of negotiations over Iran's nuclear program, a dispute that has long divided Tehran and the West.

Washington and Tel Aviv allege that Iran has sought to develop a nuclear weapon. Tehran rejects the accusation, insisting that its program is peaceful and meant only for civilian purposes.

The dispute has turned Iran's nuclear program into one of the most volatile flashpoints between Tehran and Washington.

Since the Islamic Revolution of 1979, Iran has been in the crosshairs of the United States. The U.S. does not recognize the Islamic Republic as a legitimate entity that represents the Iranians. It perceives it as a "regime" of "mad mullahs," which confronts and resists Western hegemony in the region.

The U.S. and Israel have used Iran's nuclear programme as a pretext to topple the Islamic government in Tehran for decades. They have tried every coercion strategy: sanctions, assassination of Iran's top nuclear scientists, cyberwarfare, industrial sabotage and espionage, so on and so forth to roll back Iran's nuclear programme, but they failed to do so.

The U.S. and Israel see regime change as a viable strategy to dismantle Iran's nuclear programme. Since the 1990s, these two countries have used the nuclear issue as a casus belli for military strikes on Iran.

To analyze the broad contours of the current U.S.-Iran conflict, one must understand its trajectory: how the U.S. and Iran have reached this cycle of violence.

Before the Islamic Revolution of 1979, Iran was a key ally of the U.S.

During the Cold War, a period characterized by a 'bipolar' world order dominated by the U.S. and the USSR, Iran was the lynchpin in the U.S.'s 'Twin Pillars' strategy, which aimed to prevent Soviet influence in the Persian Gulf.

This context is essential for understanding why the United States backed Mohammad Reza Shah's ambitious nuclear program.

In December 1953, U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced the 'Atoms for Peace' program, intended to mitigate the risks of nuclear proliferation while promoting the peaceful use of atomic energy.

On March 5, 1957, Iran and the United States signed a framework agreement under this initiative, aimed at developing nuclear energy for civilian purposes, particularly for electricity generation.

For Shah, the primary motivation behind his ambitious nuclear project was electricity generation. Iran signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1968 and ratified it in 1970.

Under President John F. Kennedy's administration, the U.S. constructed Iran's first nuclear reactor, the Tehran Research Reactor (TRR), at the University of Tehran in 1967. This reactor was mainly used to produce medical isotopes for cancer treatment and nuclear medicine.

Later, during Richard Nixon's administration, the U.S. supported Iran's 1974 plan to produce 20,000 megawatts of nuclear power through the 'Twenty-Year Vision Plan.'

In 1976, the Ford administration agreed to sell Iran plutonium extraction technology, allowing the country to develop an indigenous nuclear fuel cycle to power its reactors. Furthermore, in October 1977, Gerald Ford signed a \$6.4 billion deal with Shah to sell Iran eight light-water reactors and construct additional nuclear plants.

Since returning to office, Donald Trump has ordered military strikes in several countries, including Iran, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Iraq, Venezuela and Nigeria. In less than nine months, he has drawn the United States into another war with Iran, openly aiming to "decapitate" the regime in Tehran. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio acknowledged that Washington knew Israel was preparing to strike Iran and feared Tehran would retaliate against American forces, prompting the United States to act pre-emptively. Trump now appears trapped in a war that was not entirely of his choosing, one that followed Israel's decision to attack.

Ironically, the United States laid the foundations for a nuclear Iran before the Islamic Republic, led by Ayatollah Khomeini, severed all ties with Washington.

Around the mid-1980s, Iran began to rebuild its nuclear program. In 1995, Russia and Iran signed an \$800 million deal to complete the Bushehr nuclear power plant, which had been abandoned by Kraftwerk Union, a German company.

Since the 1990s, Russia has been the primary investor in Iran's nuclear program. During this period, Iran's nuclear programme faced heavy sanctions, notably the Iran Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) in 1996 under the Clinton administration.

In August 2002, the Iranian nuclear "crisis" erupted when the world discovered Iran's secret enrichment facilities at Natanz and Arak. To address the crisis, Iran and the E3 (Germany, France, and the U.K.) signed several agreements, including the Tehran Declaration (2003) and the Brussels Agreement (2004).

Under the Brussels Agreement, Iran 'voluntarily' and temporarily agreed to halt enrichment activities and adopted the Additional Protocol to the 1967 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

However, the Europeans were unable to resolve the stalemate because the U.S. government, led by the Bush administration, demanded "zero enrichment", leading to the collapse of talks in March 2005.

Between 2006 and 2010, six UN Security Council resolutions were passed against Iran, imposing "biting" sanctions.

In July 2015, the 'P5+1' (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, plus Germany) and Iran reached an agreement known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), or the Iran nuclear deal.

Tehran consented to limit its nuclear program in exchange for relief from sanctions. However, in 2018, Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the agreement and initiated a "maximum pressure" campaign, imposing more than 1,500 sanctions on Iran.

The Biden administration (2021-2024) has also struggled to break the deadlock regarding Iran's nuclear program.

When Trump resumed office in January 2025, he expressed a desire to renegotiate with Iran. In June 2025, amid ongoing nuclear negotiations mediated by Oman, Israel and the United States conducted joint military strikes on Iran, targeting nuclear sites and civilian infrastructure.

The conflict resulted in the deaths of many Iranian nuclear scientists and top military generals,

with over a thousand Iranians were killed.

On June 22, 2025 under the "Operation Midnight Hammer," Trump claimed to have "obliterated" Iran's nuclear program.

Following that summer strike, Iran and the US returned to the negotiating table, with Oman mediating the talks.

On February 26 this year, Iran and the US held the third round of indirect talks in Geneva. Iran is believed to have made major concessions on "zero stockpiling," and the deal was very much within reach, noted the Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi, who mediated the talks.

Just two days after, on February 28, under "Operation Epic Fury," the US and Israel launched coordinated military strikes on Iran, killing Iran's Supreme Leader instantly. Currently, the death toll has surpassed a thousand.

There is a major escalation in the region. Iran, fighting for survival, has launched a massive retaliation.

Tehran has expanded the geography of risk by striking US bases in the Persian Gulf. It has widened the escalation trap to Tel Aviv, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, and Oman.

Ali Khamenei had clearly stated that if Iran were attacked, it would be a "regional war."

Trump betrayed diplomacy, and the consequences have been catastrophic for everyone to see. The GCC countries have been drawn into this conflict, causing irreparable damage to Iran's relations with its Arab neighbours.

A regional war was the last thing the Gulf monarchies wanted, knowing that it could spill over into their territories.

Iran has already closed the Strait of Hormuz, a vital chokepoint in the Persian Gulf through which about 20 percent of global oil and gas passes, with serious consequences for the global economy.

Since returning to office, Donald Trump has ordered military strikes in several countries, including Iran, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Iraq, Venezuela and Nigeria.

In less than nine months, he has drawn the United States into another war with Iran, openly aiming to "decapitate" the regime in Tehran.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio acknowledged that Washington knew Israel was preparing to strike Iran and feared Tehran would retaliate against American forces, prompting the United States to act pre-emptively.

Trump now appears trapped in a war that was not entirely of his choosing, one that followed Israel's decision to attack.

Washington and Tel Aviv believed that eliminating Iran's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, would cause the Islamic Republic to collapse like a house of cards. That calculation has not held.

Iran is fighting back. If it were really about Iran's nuclear programme, there were diplomatic off-ramps available in June 2025 and in February this year to resolve the Iranian nuclear imbroglio.

However, as Ali Khamenei said, Iran's desire for a nuclear weapon is a bogeyman that the US has created.

The real objective of the "Great Satan" (a sobriquet constructed by Khomeini for the US) is to smash the Islamic Republic to the ground.

Trump used negotiations as a ruse. The sinister aim is regime change.

In June 2025 and now again, Trump abandoned diplomacy, and the consequences are obvious: regional apocalypse.

The writer is a PhD candidate at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlar Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. He can be reached at mubashirganie82@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

A Rare Bright Spot in Kashmir's Public Healthcare

Nobody wakes up wanting to visit a hospital. We all hope to stay healthy, avoid doctors, live our whole lives without crossing those sliding doors. But bodies break on their own schedule. Bones snap on icy roads, joints wear out after years of hard labour, and tumors grow silently until they demand attention.

When that moment hits, your local hospital becomes the only thing standing between you and disaster. That hospital has too often been a place of last resort in Kashmir. Poor families here face brutal choices. Private clinics charge money most people simply do not have. Travelling to AIIMS Delhi costs more than a year of wages.

So people wait, and suffer at home. They hope the pain goes away on its own. Sometimes it does, but often it gets worse.

This is why the new 120-bed orthopedic block at the Bone and Joint Hospital in Barzulla matters so much. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah opened the building in July 2025. I visited last month when a relative needed care. I walked in expecting the usual Kashmiri public hospital experience: crowded corridors, broken equipment, the particular exhaustion

of places asked to do too much with too little. Instead I found something else entirely.

The third floor holds the patient wards. The beds adjust for comfort. Wash basins sit right next to patients, so hygiene becomes easy instead of impossible. A heating system works through winter, which in Kashmir transforms a room from miserable to bearable. Families get a separate pantry to store food and manage the small rituals of care that make hospital life tolerable.

The floors shine, and the walls hold fresh paint. Even the exterior adds something to the city, a building that says we value the people inside it.

This matters for reasons beyond looks. Patients heal faster in clean, well-designed spaces. Anxiety drops when families see their loved ones treated with proper equipment. Staff work better when the building supports them instead of fighting them.

A hospital serves as a machine for recovery, and this machine finally has all the parts it needs.

But here is the harder truth: new buildings age fast in Kashmir. The shine fades, equipment breaks, and systems

that work perfectly in month three start failing by month thirty. Maintenance requires money, attention, and a public that treats public goods as their own personal property.

I have seen too many promising starts turn into disappointments. A school opens with fanfare and leaks within two years. A road gets paved in spring and crumbles by autumn. The pattern repeats because we confuse opening with finishing.

A hospital is a living thing that demands constant care.

The staff at Barzulla already work long hours under serious pressure. They deserve support, when things go wrong. But they also need partners.

Attendants who sleep on the floor, visitors who track mud through the corridors, and patients who leave trash behind play a role in what this place becomes. Clean hospitals happen because everyone inside them chooses to cooperate.

I think about the other hospitals in Srinagar. Lalla Ded Hospital serves women through some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives. SMHS Hospital handles emergencies that arrive without any warning at all. These places

save thousands of lives every single year. They also struggle with overcrowding, outdated equipment, and the same maintenance challenges that threaten every public building in the valley. They deserve the same attention Barzulla finally received.

I watched my relative recover in that building. The pain slowly eased and relief showed on his face. His family relaxed as the monitors showed improvement. That is what a good hospital gives people: a chance to return to normal life.

Barzulla now gives us that chance. The building is ready, the equipment works, and the doctors and nurses have what they need. The rest depends on how we treat this place.

The answer will show in small things: clean floors in 2027, working heat in 2029, and the way families and patients care for the space.

Healthcare in Kashmir has taken a step forward. Now we must make sure that step lasts.

Sincerely,

Sahil Manzoor Bhatti
sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Style, and Stories of 1960s Srinagar

I walked the lanes of my college years where small victories, stolen smiles, and carefully earned clothes carried a sense of pride and belonging unlike anything today.



Syed Nissar H Gilani

I catch sight of Dress Corner these days, and it pulls me straight back to those sunlit afternoons of my college years, from 1963 right through to my postgraduate days in 1970.

Back then, we treated any shop with real branded men's clothes like a hidden treasure, something special that made our hearts race with possibility.

Srinagar pulsed with these spots we called corners, each one a magnet drawing us into the everyday adventures of growing up.

Book Corner sat right there by the grand old S.P. College and the lively Government College for Women along M.A. Road, and my circle of friends, including Saleem, Rauf Fazili, Syed Ahamed, and Mushtaq Buch, who left us far too soon, made it our regular haunt.

We wandered in for the newest shirts or jackets, sure, but mostly we soaked up the buzz of student chatter and dreams spilling out onto the pavement. That place wrapped us in the energy of lectures just ending and futures still unfolding.

Right next door stretched Love Lane, tucked away behind the Women's College, a narrow path alive with the silent excitement of young hearts stealing moments together or stealing quick peeks at faces that lit up their world.

We all knew the pull of those encounters, the way a shared smile could turn an ordinary walk into something electric. Even so, we

shared those spaces with watchful guardians who shaped our world with firm hands.

Jinab Saif-ud-Din, the sharp-minded administrator at S.P. College, and Professor Mahmooda Ahmed Shah, the inspiring principal of the Women's College, stood as pillars of order. They guided us away from reckless impulses, trimming back any excess with clear expectations, and in turn we held them close with genuine admiration and warmth.

Come around three or four in the afternoon, when the Women's College doors swung open and students poured out, the whole area transformed into a lively gathering ground. Young men gathered there, eager to catch eyes or exchange waves, letting the crowd carry them along in waves of laughter and possibility.

Anyone who pushed too far with careless words soon faced the firm hand of officers from the Kothibagh Police Station, who enforced the rules of the day and occasionally marched the boldest ones off to spend a night reflecting behind bars.

A little farther out at Polo View, Beauty Corner drew crowds with its displays of intricate Kashmiri crafts and those soft, handwoven shawls that seemed to hold stories in every thread.

Over at Budshah Chowk, Paris Beauties hummed under the watchful eye of Ghulam Rasool, whose bright red Volkswagen gleamed like a promise of far-off places parked out front. He stocked wonders like French perfumes, scents that whispered of elegant lives we could only imagine.

As students scraping by on pocket money, we hoarded every coin in our little tin "ginny boxes," plotting and saving for weeks or even months to claim one crisp shirt or a cozy sweater that felt like a victory.

One piece stands out in my memory above all: that half-sleeve nylon sweater in a cheerful lemon shade I scraped together enough for one crisp autumn day. I wore it like a



SRINAGAR'S STREETS BUSTLE NOW WITH FRESH ADDITIONS, INCLUDING COFFEE CORNERS STEAMING WITH BREWS FROM DISTANT LANDS, Cake Corners tempting with layers of sweetness, but that special spark from our era, the one woven into every shared glance and treasured find, eludes the rush of today.

crown, parading through campus with a grin that wouldn't fade, and it held up through three full decades, its colour as fresh as the day I brought it home.

People in my neighbourhood came to see it as a lucky charm, more than a few grooms slipped it on for their wedding days, then carefully folded it back into my family's keeping at our old place in Yarkand House Mallaratta.

Dress Corner itself belonged to a solid Punjabi family, who built trust with local customers. They ran the Neelam Hotel just upstairs, filling the air with the aroma of fresh meals and warm welcomes.

Life brought them hardships over the passing years, blows that tested their spirit, but their shop thrives on, passed down through generations who carry forward that same blend of skill and straightforward kindness, earning nods of respect from everyone who steps through the door.

Srinagar's streets bustle now with fresh additions, including Coffee Corners steaming with brews from distant lands, Cake Corners tempting with layers of sweetness, but that special spark from our era, the one woven into every shared glance and treasured find, eludes the rush of today.

We carried those simple, dearly bought clothes like emblems of our own unfolding stories, a personal pride that fast-changing trends seem to chase right out of reach.

I look back on those times as a former civil servant who once served in the administrative ranks, and as someone honoured with the Moulana Abul Kalam Azad Award from the UP Cultural Academy for my Urdu translation of Sir Francis Younghusband's "Kashmir."

Those corners shaped me, and in sharing them, I hope you feel the warmth of afternoons that still colour my steps.

— The writer is a former civil servant from the administrative service.

Mindful Days in Kashmir

Fasting and devotion in the valley transform ordinary hours into practice, reflection, and achievement.



Dr. Sofi Rafiq

Kashmir stirs before dawn during Ramzan, as the call to prayer fills the valley and families come together for sehri.

The early meal fuels a day of fasting and devotion, and the first light brings focus and intention.

Time feels alive in the way the day unfolds, and paying attention turns ordinary moments into purposeful action.

Islam describes time as a trust from Allah, and the Qur'an repeatedly reminds people that careful use of it leads to success in this world and the Hereafter.

Surah Al-Asr opens with an oath on time, highlighting its importance in growth and fulfillment.

Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, pointed out youth, health, wealth, free time, and life as blessings meant to engage fully, showing that living with focus begins with awareness of hours that pass.

Ramzan builds structure that teaches focus and organization. Waking up for sehri brings energy and clarity, while performing the five daily prayers at set times teaches planning and discipline.

Tarawih at night strengthens devotion, and iftar gathers families, creating a natural flow of connection and reflection.

The month encourages prioritizing actions that benefit life and soul, such as reading the Qur'an, learning, helping neighbours, and spending quality



moments with family.

These habits turn routine into practice that develops attention, responsibility, and meaningful achievement.

Focusing during Ramzan changes the way people spend their day.

Early mornings bring calm and a chance to get things done, while prayers break the day into meaningful moments.

Meals become a time to nourish the body, and talks feel more thoughtful. Cutting down on things like too much screen time, idle chat, or extra sleep creates room for learning, work, and worship.

The month shows how quickly hours pass and encourages using them wisely, proving that life gets better when action matches attention.

Kashmir provides a unique backdrop for this training.

Lanes and landscapes become places where discipline meets daily life. Households awaken for sehri and gather at iftar, mosques fill with devotion at night, and communities strengthen through shared practice.

Following these lessons beyond Ramzan allows people to organize work, family, prayer, and learning in a way that feels balanced and

purposeful.

Time gains meaning when attention guides action, and living with this focus brings achievement, satisfaction, and connection.

Ramzan transforms attention into action by building habits of waking early, acting on priorities, and focusing on tasks that matter. Fasting, prayer, and service teach that hours hold opportunity for growth. Families connect at meals, prayers mark the day, and neighbourhoods witness devotion.

These patterns train people to invest in life thoughtfully, teaching that

success comes from action, focus, and intention.

The month demonstrates that planning, dedication, and care in using hours strengthens both personal growth and social bonds.

Kashmiris who embrace Ramzan find the day ordered by purpose. Mountains and rivers create spaces for reflection, households foster connection, and the month provides direction.

Time becomes a tool to develop skills, strengthen ties, and pursue achievement. Ramzan proves that managing hours with focus trans-

LIVING WITH FOCUS DURING THIS SACRED MONTH TRAINS THE MIND TO VALUE HOURS AND TRANSFORM ACTION INTO GROWTH. Ramzan demonstrates that learning to manage time well makes life richer, work meaningful, and spiritual practice deep.

forms ordinary living into meaningful life.

Observing the month develops attention, balance, and the ability to make choices that enrich work, learning, faith, and family.

The month of fasting shows that structured practice turns fleeting hours into lasting impact.

Devotion, discipline, and attention build habits that extend beyond the month. People who apply these lessons experience clarity, growth, and strong relationships.

Living with focus during this sacred month trains the mind to value hours and transform action into growth.

Ramzan demonstrates that learning to manage time well makes life richer, work meaningful, and spiritual practice deep.

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

Fee Regulation Compliance FFRC Issues Final Notice To 660 Pvt Schools

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Committee for Fixation and Regulation of Fee of Private Schools (FFRC) has issued a final notice to 660 private schools across the Kashmir division for failing to submit mandatory documents related to the regulation and determination of their fee structures.

According to an official notice issued by the committee headed by Justice Sunil Hali (Retd.), several private schools have repeatedly failed to furnish the required files and documentation despite earlier communications from the authorities.

The committee said the continued non submission of documents raises serious concerns and amounts to a violation of statutory provisions governing fee regulation in private educational institutions.

The notice stated that under Section 20 C(3) of the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Act, 2002, the committee has the authority to restrain any private school from collecting fees from students until its fee structure receives formal approval.

It also referred to Rule 8(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Private Schools Rules, 2022, which mandates that no private school can revise or collect any fee without prior approval from the committee.

Terming the failure to submit documents as a wilful violation, the FFRC said such actions appear to bypass



regulatory oversight aimed at preventing the commercialization of education.

The committee has given the managements of these schools a final window of 15 days to submit complete fee regulation files to the FFRC office.

It warned that failure to comply within the stipulated period will result in an immediate restriction on the collection of any type of fee, including tuition, annual and transport charges, until further orders.

Parents and guardians have also been advised to verify whether a school's fee structure has been approved by the committee before making any payments after the expiry of the 15 day deadline.

The notice further said that strict punitive action may follow in case of continued non compliance, including suspension of the institution's recognition and imposition of fines ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 1,00,000 for repeated violations under the relevant provisions of the law. (inputs from agencies)

Amit Shah Unveils Mascots, Soft Launches 4 Digital Tools To Power Census-2027

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday soft-launched four digital tools that will drive the country's first fully digital Census, with the first phase starting April 1.

Shah launched the Houselisting Block Creator (HLBC) web application for digital mapping using satellite imagery, which will ensure standardised geographic coverage across the country; the HLO mobile application, which is a secure offline mobile app for enumerators to collect and upload houselisting data; a Self-enumeration (SE) portal that will for the first time allow users to submit their household information online before field operations; and core of the Census, the Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) – a dedicated digital portal engineered to orchestrate one of the largest administrative exercises in the world.

Shah also formally unveiled the mascots for Census-2027 – 'Pragati' (female) and 'Vikas' (male).

"These mascots symbolise equal participation of women and men in fulfilling the resolve to make India a developed nation by 2047. Through these mascots, information, objectives and key messages related to Census-2027 will be disseminated in an effective and citizen-friendly manner across diverse sections of society," a government statement said.

The four digital platforms



that will be at the centre of the Census exercise have been developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to facilitate enumeration operations across the country, it said.

In a list of firsts, the Rs 11,718 crore mega exercise for conducting the 16th head count of the country will include caste enumeration, a fully digital exercise offering citizens the option of self-enumeration.

Originally scheduled for 2021, the decadal exercise was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Census will be conducted in two phases – houselisting and housing census from April to September 2026, and population enumeration (PE) in February 2027.

The houselisting and housing census will systematically list all structures, houses and households throughout the country to provide a sound framework for the conduct of the population enumeration.

The set digital platforms include the HLBC web

application, which will provide officials with a web-map application, enabling them to digitally create houselisting blocks using satellite imagery, ensuring standardised geographic coverage across India.

The second crucial application is the HLO mobile application, replacing clipboards and carbon copies with handheld devices equipped with this secure, offline mobile application to collect and upload houselisting data.

"Only enumerators registered on the CMMS portal can access the application. The app enables direct field-to-server data transmission, eliminating traditional paperwork.

All houselisting data will be collected through this app, which can only be operated using registered mobile numbers. The application is compatible with Android and iOS platforms, and can be operated in 16 regional languages," the statement said.

The third digital platform is the Self-enumeration portal, which will, for the first time, give the citizens the option of

self-enumeration.

"The SE portal is a secure web-based facility that allows eligible respondents within a household to submit their household information online before field operations.

"Upon successful submission, a unique self-enumeration ID (SE ID) will be generated. This SE ID will be shared with the enumerator, based on which enumerator will be able to verify the information," the statement said.

The self-enumeration option will be available for a 15-day window preceding the 30-day houselisting and housing census.

At the heart of the exercise will be the CMMS – a dedicated portal engineered to orchestrate one of the largest administrative exercises in the world.

"The CMMS is a centralised, web-based digital platform designed to plan, manage, execute and monitor all census-related activities across administrative levels. Officers at sub-district, district and state levels can track enumeration progress, field performance and operational readiness in real-time through an integrated dashboard," the statement said.

The bespoke software backbone, designed to monitor the exercise in near real time, will allow 3.2 million field functionaries – enumerators and supervisors – to capture granular demographic, social and economic data from hundreds of millions of households using handheld devices.

JKBOSE Revises Syllabus For Classes 11, 12

No Change for Classes 9,10

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) on Thursday announced minor revisions in the syllabi for Classes 11 and 12 while keeping the curriculum for Classes 9 and 10 unchanged for the upcoming academic sessions.

According to an official notification issued by JKBOSE, there will be no change in the syllabi for Classes 9 and 10 for the Academic Session 2025 to 26 in the Kashmir Division and the Winter Zone areas of Jammu Division. The same syllabus will continue for the Academic Session 2026 to 27 in the Summer Zone areas of Jammu Division.

However, the board has introduced minor revisions in select subjects for higher secondary classes. For Class 11, changes have been made in the syllabi for Punjabi and Physical Education. For Class 12, revisions have been introduced in the subjects of Education and Environmental Science.

The board stated that question papers for Regular and Fresh Private candidates appearing in the annual examinations will be prepared according to the revised syllabi.

These changes will apply to examinations scheduled in October to November 2026 for the Kashmir Division and Winter Zone areas of Jammu, and February to March 2027 for the Summer Zone areas of the Jammu Division.

JKBOSE has made the updated syllabi available on its official website for students and other stakeholders. Officials said the step has been taken to ensure clarity and uniformity in the courses of study for the upcoming academic sessions.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Jhelum Flows Below

snow accumulation in the higher reaches of the valley.

"Early March generally witnesses a noticeable rise in the river level as snow in the mountains begins to melt gradually. This year the rise was brief and weak despite warm spells in February," Faizan said.

He said the situation is linked to a poor snowpack and unusual temperature patterns observed this winter.

"For the first time in history, Gulmarg has recorded 17.2 degrees Celsius in the first week of March, which is 13.7 degrees above normal and very close to the all time highest temperature of 18 degrees Celsius recorded there," he said. Meteorological Department data shows that day temperatures remained significantly above normal across Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

In Srinagar, the maximum temperature settled at 24.7°C, which is 11.7°C above normal, while Qazigund recorded 24.6°C, around 12°C above normal. Pahalgam recorded 20.8°C and Kupwara 23.7°C, both more than 10°C above seasonal averages.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded 32.4°C, which is 8.1°C above normal, while several other stations including Banihal, Batote and Baderwah also recorded temperatures more than 10°C above normal.

The Meteorological Department said no precipitation was recorded across Jammu and Kashmir in the last 24 hours, and the weather remained dry across the Union Territory.

Agriculture experts say the declining water level in Jhelum could affect irrigation during the crucial paddy nursery preparation period, which begins in April.

Farmers in south Kashmir districts said water availability during April and May is critical for sowing paddy nurseries.

"We depend on canals fed by the Jhelum and streams from the mountains. If water levels remain low, nursery preparation could be delayed," said Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, a farmer from Pulwama.

Officials in the irrigation department said the situation is being closely monitored.

"At present there is no immediate crisis, but the trend is not encouraging. If we do not receive adequate rainfall or late snowfall in the coming weeks, it could affect irrigation planning," an official said.

The Jhelum, which flows through the Kashmir Valley and sustains agriculture across several districts, depends heavily on winter snowfall and spring meltwater.

Faizan said the coming weeks will be crucial in determining whether the situation improves.

"If March brings normal rainfall, some recovery is possible. Otherwise this could be an early warning of a difficult water year for the region," he said.

Temps Likely To

could push the maximum temperatures several degrees above the normal range for this time of the year.

"The weather will remain mainly clear and dry during the coming days. As a result, a gradual increase in both day and night temperatures is likely. Maximum temperatures are expected to settle appreciably above normal," a MeT official said.

The forecast comes shortly after a spell of cold conditions witnessed across the region last week.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif

said the plains of Jammu and Kashmir could see heat wave-like conditions by the end of the week if the dry weather pattern continues.

"The plains across J&K are likely to witness a noticeable rise in temperatures. If the current trend continues, heat wave-like conditions may develop towards the weekend," he said.

The rising temperatures have raised concerns among officials and residents, particularly in low lying areas of the Jammu division and parts of the Kashmir Valley.

Authorities have advised people to take precautions and avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight during peak daytime hours. Residents have also been urged to stay hydrated as warmer conditions set in.

Officials said the impact of the dry and warmer weather on standing crops and orchards is also being monitored, as prolonged dry spells at this time of the year could affect early agricultural activity in the region. (KNS)

Why Has Dal Lake

nutrients accumulate and colour changes can occur," he said.

He said reduced precipitation and declining discharge from key inflow channels have significantly affected the lake this year.

"Earlier the discharge from major inflow channels was much higher. This year there has been a considerable reduction in inflow due to lower precipitation and climatic factors," Rafique said.

He also pointed to nutrient buildup from surrounding areas, including agricultural runoff, household waste and other pollutants entering the lake.

"When nutrient load increases in stagnant water, blooms can appear on the surface, which changes the colour of the lake," he said.

Officials said the green layer is mainly concentrated on the surface of the lake and is expected to reduce once water inflow improves.

Authorities plan to flush the lake by opening outflow channels when inflow increases, a process that helps remove stagnant water and improve circulation.

Despite the reassurances, lake dwellers say they want greater transparency and involvement in conservation efforts.

"We live here and depend on the lake. Authorities should take local stakeholders on board when making decisions about Dal Lake," one resident said.

Dal Lake, a major tourist attraction and a lifeline for thousands of families, has been under ecological pressure for decades due to pollution, encroachments and shrinking water circulation, making its conservation a continuing challenge for authorities.

President Announces

appointed as the Governor of West Bengal. Meanwhile, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Governor of Kerala, has been given additional charge to discharge the functions of the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

Among the Union Territories, Kavinder Gupta, who was serving as Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, has been appointed as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, has been appointed as the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

Further, Taranjit Singh Sandhu has been appointed as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

Tight Security,

senior officer said the measures have been taken as a preventive step to avoid mobilisation that could disturb public order.

"Further decisions will depend on the ground assessment after Friday congregation prayers," he said.

No Issue Can Be

conflict alone," he said. "Be it Ukraine or West Asia, we will continue to support the swift end of conflicts and every effort towards peace," Modi said in his media statement.

In the talks, the two sides also agreed to accord India-Finland relations in digitalisation and sustainability as a strategic partnership.

"This partnership, from AI to 6G telecom, from clean energy to quantum computing, will give momentum and energy to our cooperation in many high-tech areas," he said. Modi said the India-EU free trade agreement will bolster trade ties between India and Finland.

"This agreement will further strengthen trade, investment, and technology cooperation between India and Finland," he said.

Finnish President Stubb began a four-day visit to India on Wednesday with an aim to shore up bilateral cooperation across a wide spectrum of areas, including trade, investment and critical technology.

Speaks to Macron on West Asia

Modi on Thursday spoke to French President Emmanuel Macron and discussed shared concerns over the evolving situation in West Asia, and the need for a return to dialogue and diplomacy.

After his telephonic conversation with Macron, Modi said they will continue to engage closely and coordinate efforts towards the early restoration of peace and stability in the region.

"Spoke with my friend President Emmanuel Macron today. We discussed our shared concerns over the evolving situation in West Asia, and the need for a return to dialogue and diplomacy.

"We will continue to engage closely and coordinate efforts towards the early restoration of peace and stability in the region," Modi said in a post on X.

The conflict in West Asia began after the US and Israel launched military strikes on Iran on February 28, killing Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Following the military offensive, Iran has carried out a wave of attacks targeting Israeli and American military bases in several Gulf countries, including the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

In the last few days, the conflict has widened significantly with attacks and counter-attacks by both sides.

Prime Minister Modi spoke to eight leaders of West Asia since the beginning of the military conflict, before speaking to Macron on Thursday.

The prime minister has so far spoken to the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani; Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman; Crown Prince of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah; Bahrain King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa; Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Bin Salman; King Abdullah II of Jordan; President of UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; and Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In his phone calls with the West Asian leaders, Modi condemned the violation of their sovereignty and territorial integrity, emphasised the urgent need to restore peace and stability in the region through dialogue and diplomacy, and thanked them for their continued support to ensure the safety and well-being of the Indian community living in their respective

countries.

Around 10 million Indians live in the Gulf and West Asia; about 10,000 Indian citizens live, study and work in Iran, while more than 40,000 Indian nationals live in Israel.

Currently, the airspace of West Asia is almost closed. With flight services disrupted due to the military escalation, hundreds of Indians are stranded in Dubai, Doha and other key airports in the region.

A few flights have brought some of the stranded Indians back to the country in the last few days.

India Finally Condoles

visited the Iranian Embassy in New Delhi and signed the condolence book on behalf of the Government of India. Misri also held a brief interaction with Iran's ambassador to India, Mohammad Fathali.

"Sincerest condolences on behalf of the government and people of India. We pray for peace for the departed soul," Misri wrote in the condolence message.

Separately, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke with his Iranian counterpart Seyed Abbas Araghchi to discuss the evolving situation in West Asia. It was the second phone conversation between the two leaders since the February 28 strikes by the US and Israel on Iran.

India had earlier called for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the escalating tensions in West Asia but had not issued any direct statement on Khamenei's killing. The government's silence drew sharp criticism from opposition leaders, including Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, who said it raised serious questions about the direction of India's foreign policy.

Unlike in May 2024, when Jaishankar personally visited the Iranian Embassy to mourn the death of former Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi following a helicopter crash, the condolence message on Khamenei's death was conveyed this time by the foreign secretary.

Deadly Iran School

that the United States and Israel had launched coordinated strikes targeting cities and towns across the country.

Iranian Officials Condemn Attack

Iran's Minister of Education Alireza Kazemi addressed the tragedy on Tuesday, describing the incident as unprecedented in its brutality. "Such a crime has rarely occurred in the history of humanity," Kazemi said, offering condolences to the families of the victims and condemning what he called the "shameful silence" of international organisations.

Despite the destruction and loss of life, Kazemi stated that the Iranian nation remains "proud and upright", adding that the country would defend itself "with all its being" against what he described as the criminal actions of the United States and Israel.

Evidence Suggests Multiple Strikes

An investigation by Al Jazeera into the Minab school strike suggested that the attack was likely 'deliberate'.

Videos broadcast by Iranian state television showed large funeral processions for the victims, with thousands of mourners carrying photographs of the children while walking alongside vehicles transporting the coffins.

Many participants waved Iranian flags and chanted slogans denouncing the US and Israel. Meanwhile, the American broadcaster CBC News said its investigations team reviewed and verified several videos from the scene. The footage showed multiple distinct smoke plumes rising from the school complex, suggesting that

the location was struck more than once.

Satellite imagery released Wednesday by Planet Labs further supported these findings, revealing several impact craters within the school grounds.

Calls for International Investigation

Humanitarian and aid organisations have called for an independent investigation into the strike.

In a statement, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) accused the United States and Israel of violating international law governing self-defence and humanitarian conduct during armed conflict, specifically citing attacks on schools and hospitals.

"All alleged violations, including indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks, deliberate targeting of civilians or civilian infrastructure, and attacks on medical facilities and schools, must be promptly, independently, and transparently investigated," the organisation said.

The statement added that where evidence of war crimes or other serious violations is found, those responsible—regardless of rank or official position—must be held accountable under international law.

The United Nations also raised concerns about the strike. Ravina Shamdasani, spokesperson for the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, said the "devastating" attack could amount to a war crime if investigations determine that civilians were deliberately targeted or that the strike was carried out indiscriminately.

She called for a full and independent investigation into the incident.

Historical Context of Civilian Infrastructure Attacks

Human rights advocates argue that the tragedy in Minab is not an isolated event but part of a broader historical pattern of attacks on civilian infrastructure during armed conflicts involving U.S. and Israeli forces.

In 1970, Israeli Phantom jets bombed an elementary school in Egypt, killing 46 children. Israeli authorities initially claimed the facility was a military base. However, a captured pilot later admitted that the military had been aware the building was a civilian school.

In 1996, Israeli artillery shelled a United Nations compound in the Lebanese village of Qana, where hundreds of civilians had taken refuge during Israel's military campaign in southern Lebanon. The attack killed more than 100 civilians, including many women and children, and injured dozens.

Another widely cited incident occurred in 1991 during the Gulf War, when two U.S. "smart" bombs struck a civilian shelter in Baghdad, Iraq. The attack killed more than 400 people, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

More recently, critics have pointed to repeated strikes on hospitals, schools, and other public infrastructure during the Gaza conflict, which Israeli authorities have often justified by alleging the presence of Hamas fighters within or near such facilities.

Growing International Concern

Human rights groups say the events in Minab underscore the urgent need for independent investigations and greater international accountability regarding attacks on civilian infrastructure during armed conflicts.

As global humanitarian organisations continue to demand answers, the scale of the devastation and the high number of child casualties have intensified international scrutiny of the strikes and their legality under international humanitarian law. (Trans Asia News)

Not Everyone Can Get Govt Jobs: CM

Says Agriculture Offers Biggest Industry Potential in J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday highlighted the immense potential of agriculture and allied sectors in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that initiatives like the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKICP) are helping nurture a vibrant startup ecosystem and promote innovation driven enterprises in the region.

The Chief Minister was addressing the Startup Outreach Programme organised under JKICP at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu). The programme was jointly organised by the university and the Agriculture Production Department of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, Omar urged the youth to transition from being job seekers to job creators by harnessing innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture and allied sectors.

"When we decide which industry should be set up and where there is the greatest possibility of success, agriculture emerges as the most promising sector," he said.

Omar also noted that there exists a widespread misconception that Jammu and Kashmir's economy is driven solely by tourism.

"When I tell people that in our SGDP agriculture and horticulture are equally significant along with tourism, they get surprised. They have no idea how strong our agricultural ecosystem is," he said, adding that allied sectors such as fisheries and apiculture form a vast economic network.

Highlighting the limitations of government employment, Omar candidly told the students that it was unrealistic to expect that everyone would secure government jobs.

"If I say that every one of you will get a government job, within



a year I will prove myself wrong. Some will get jobs, but many will not. So the question is what will the rest do?" he asked.

He said that unlike regions endowed with resources such as coal, iron ore or oil, Jammu and Kashmir must build industries based on its existing strengths.

"If we had coal, iron ore or oil under the ground, perhaps we could have set up big factories here. But that is not our reality. We will have to build industries based on what we already have," he said, stressing that agriculture and allied activities offer the most viable path for sustainable economic growth in the region.

Omar said traditional agricultural practices alone may not be sufficient to sustain livelihoods and called for a shift towards value addition and modern agricultural entrepreneurship.

"There was a time when our youth were deeply connected with traditional farming, but gradually their focus shifted away because agriculture appeared uncertain due to weather disruptions and market challenges," he said.

Omar said programmes such as HADP, JKICP and Mission YUVA have been designed to transform agriculture into a modern, value added and technology driven sector.

"The land that we have will remain limited and agricultural land is shrinking compared to what existed twenty or thirty years ago. The answer lies in value addition, innovation and entrepreneurship," he said.

Referring to dairy production as an example, Omar said that

only six to seven percent of milk produced in Jammu and Kashmir undergoes processing.

"In states like Gujarat nearly ninety three percent of milk is processed and value added. When you convert milk into products like paneer or khoya, its value increases manifold," he said.

He also pointed to opportunities in sectors such as meat production, fisheries, honey, fruits, vegetables and floriculture.

Encouraging students to pursue entrepreneurship without fear of failure, Omar said innovation often involves risks and setbacks.

"You don't necessarily need a government job to succeed. What you need is intention, an idea and the passion to do something meaningful. After that, we as a government and institutions like this university are here to support you," he said.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister released four publications and felicitated two startups and two Farmers' Producer Organisations for their achievements. He also launched 808 new Kisan Khidmat Ghars aimed at strengthening grassroots level agricultural services across Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, Omar inspected an exhibition set up within the university premises and interacted with students, young entrepreneurs and representatives of Farmers' Producer Organisations, appreciating their innovative ideas and encouraging them to transform agriculture into a modern enterprise driven sector.

The event was attended by Ag-

Omar Concerned, Says Iranian Frigate Was Our Guest

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday expressed concern over the reported sinking of an Iranian warship, saying the vessel and its crew were guests of India for a multilateral naval exercise.

This comes after a major escalation in West Asia after a US submarine torpedoed and sank an Iranian warship in international waters off the coast Sri Lanka on Wednesday. The vessel was returning from the Milan naval exercise hosted by India.

Speaking to reporters here, Abdullah said the incident has caused anxiety within the Union Territory as many residents, including students, are currently in Iran.

"It is unfortunate that an attack was carried out on the Iranian warship. They were our guests and had come here for a naval exercise. While returning, it was attacked. In some way, our country is also being dragged into this situation. What will happen in the future is beyond my jurisdiction," he said.

The chief minister said the government is coordinating with the Centre to ensure the safety of Jammu and Kashmir residents in Iran. He added that the government is working to formulate a programme to bring them home safely. He also appealed for calm in the Union Territory amid the evolving situation.

The chief minister met with

members of civil society and religious leaders in Srinagar on Wednesday to ensure peace is maintained.

"The elements trying to disturb the atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir should not be allowed to take advantage of the situation," he said.

Responding to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's decision to file a nomination for the Rajya Sabha, Abdullah termed it an internal matter of the Bihar government and its allies. He mentioned Nitish Kumar's past association with the INDIA bloc and extended his best wishes for the nomination.

Commenting on the general elections in Nepal, held following the fall of the K P Sharma Oli-led government last year, Omar said the polls are essential for the functioning of a democracy.

Citizens in all 165 constituencies in Nepal began voting on Thursday morning under tight security. "As I have read in newspapers, a new leader has emerged there. Let us see what decision the people of Nepal take," he added.

The chief minister also highlighted the government's focus on promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in agriculture. He said that under flagship programmes like Mission Yuva, the government is working to develop a startup culture, noting that substantial funding has started flowing into educational institutions for these initiatives.

culture Minister Javid Ahmed Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu Dr B N Tripathi, Mission Director Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) Sandeep

Kumar, Director Research Dr S K Gupta and Registrar and Dean Faculty of Agriculture Dr Amit Kumar, besides university faculty, entrepreneurs, startup founders and students from various colleges across Jammu division.

Crime Branch Kashmir Arrests Fake Job Agent Promising Jobs

SRINAGAR: The Special Crime Wing (SCW) of Crime Branch Kashmir has arrested a long-evading fraudster accused of cheating several youth from Srinagar by promising overseas jobs, particularly in Armenia.

Officials said a special team of SCW tracked down and apprehended the accused, identified as Farhat Abbas Malik, son of Din Mohammad Malik, a resident of Tendla Chhipingal in Doda district. According to investigators, the accused had been evading arrest for several months in connection with FIR No. 02/2025 registered at Police Station SCW Crime Branch Kashmir.

Police said Malik allegedly lured unemployed youth by promising job placements abroad, collecting money from them under the pretext of arranging employment in foreign countries.

Following his arrest, the accused was produced before a competent court in Srinagar after the investigating team obtained transit remand from the Duty Magistrate Court in Faridabad, officials said. The Crime Branch said further investigation is underway to ascertain the extent of the fraud and identify other victims or possible accomplices.

Meanwhile, the Special Crime Wing advised the public, particularly unemployed youth, to verify the authenticity of job placement agencies and consultancies before making any payments.

According to KNT, Officials urged job seekers to remain vigilant and avoid falling prey to fraudulent overseas job offers. (Observer News Service)

Ceiling Crashes at Dooru Town Hall, Many Injured

ANANTNAG: Several Asha workers sustained minor injuries after the ceiling of the conference hall at Dooru Town Hall in south Kashmir's Anantnag district partially collapsed during a Programme on drug-free society organized by the Rural Development Department (RDD) on Thursday.

Officials said the programme was attended by employees from various departments including Education, Health and ICDS. Witnesses said that in the middle of the Programme, a portion of the ceiling suddenly collapsed with a loud noise, triggering panic among the participants present in the hall.

Some female employees reportedly lost consciousness due to the shock, while several others suffered minor injuries.

The injured employees were shifted to a nearby hospital where they received first aid and were later discharged, officials said. According to KNT, an official said that fortunately the ceiling did not fall directly onto the floor but remained hanging, which prevented what could have turned into a major tragedy. "Had the ceiling fallen completely, the consequences could have been serious," the official said. Authorities said an inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the incident. (Observer News Service)

Vendors Warned Against Overcharging During Ramadan

SOPORE: The Sopore administration on Wednesday intensified market inspections across the town to curb overpricing and ensure the sale of quality commodities during the holy month of Ramadan.

A joint enforcement team from the Tehsildar office Sopore, led by Tehsildar Sheikh Tariq, conducted inspections in several markets to check the quality of essential items and verify whether goods were being sold at government-prescribed rates.

The inspection squad included the Naib Tehsildar and officials from the Food Department, who examined shops and interacted with traders during the drive.

Officials said the aim of the exercise was to protect consumers from overcharging, hoarding and the sale of substandard or unhygienic products, particularly during the fasting month when demand for essential commodities increases.

Speaking on the occasion, Tehsildar Sheikh Tariq said the administration is committed to safeguarding public interests.

"The purpose of this drive is to ensure that goods sold to the public meet hygiene standards and are available at the correct prices. As Eid approaches, we want to make sure the common man does not suffer or get cheated in any way," he said.

The Tehsildar also warned traders against violating regulations, saying that strict legal action would be taken against shopkeepers found involved in hoarding, overpricing or selling substandard products. (Observer News Service)

Injured Musk Deer Rescued From LoC Fence in Gurez

BANDIPORA: An injured female musk deer was rescued by Wildlife Department officials after it was found entangled in a barbed wire fence along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Gurez sector of north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Thursday.

Wildlife officials said the animal was first spotted by local residents in the Shitalbagh area near a BRO camp in Gurez Valley, who noticed that the deer had become trapped in the fencing and appeared injured.

Residents immediately informed the Wildlife Department, following which a rescue team rushed to the spot and carefully freed the animal from the barbed wire.

Officials said the endangered deer had sustained minor injuries while trying to free itself from the fence along the LoC.

After the rescue, the animal was safely shifted to a veterinary facility in Dwar, where it received medical treatment from veterinary staff.

Following treatment, the musk deer was released back into its natural habitat in the nearby forest area, officials said.

Wildlife officials appreciated the timely action of the local residents, saying their prompt response helped save the life of the rare animal. The Himalayan musk deer, considered an endangered species, inhabits the high-altitude forests of the Himalayas, including parts of Kashmir, Gurez, Kishtwar and Himachal Pradesh. (Observer News Service)

Protest in Jammu as Health Dept Employees Decry Salary Cut

JAMMU: Employees of the Health and Medical Education Department staged a protest in Jammu on Wednesday, announcing plans to go on strike against a recent order that reportedly cuts salary equivalent to two and a half days.

The protesting employees expressed anger over what they described as a sudden decision by the Finance Department, saying the order was implemented without consultation or discussion with staff representatives. Holding placards and raising slogans, the employees said the decision had deprived them of salary benefits they had been receiving earlier, despite their duties extending to Sundays and official holidays.

"We, like other government employees, were receiving extra salary for two and a half days because we continue to work even on Sundays and other official holidays," one of the protesting employees said. He alleged that the Finance Department issued the order without debate, verification or discussion, affecting employees who regularly perform duties beyond normal working days. (Observer News Service)

Concluded Issue Cannot Be Reopened: HC

Quashes JMC's Order, Allows Shopkeepers To Reopen Shops After 2 Years; Orders Probe

M Ahmad

SRINAGAR: Observing that an authority cannot reopen issues settled by expert report pursuant to judicial directions, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on Monday quashed an order issued by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) directing a fresh safety audit of a building at Exchange Road.

A bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal set aside Order No. 41/2025 dated July 26, 2025, passed by the Commissioner, JMC, which had directed a private empanelled firm to conduct a fresh structural safety inspection of the building housing several shops.

The petition was filed by seven shopkeepers who have been running their businesses for decades from the ground floor of the building at 70, Exchange Road. They challenged the Commissioner's decision to order a fresh audit despite an earlier court-supervised technical report declaring the shops structurally safe.

The Court observed that in an earlier round of litigation (WP(C) No. 299/2025), it had directed the authorities to constitute an expert committee from the PWD (R&B) Engineering Wing to conduct a fresh inspection in the presence of all stakeholders, including tenants and landlords.

Pursuant to those directions, the committee submitted a detailed report on May 26, 2025, declaring the shops structurally safe, with minor repairs required in one shop. The report was prepared under the supervision of the Additional District Magistrate and had not been challenged before any forum.

Despite this, the Municipal Commissioner ordered a fresh audit by a private firm, citing contradictions between earlier reports.

The Court held that once it had directed reconsideration "strictly in light of" the PWD report, the Commissioner was bound to act within that mandate. Ordering a fresh audit without recording cogent reasons amounted to abdication of duty and an attempt to overreach the Court's directions.

The bench emphasized that courts must defer to expert technical opinions and that administrative authorities cannot sit in appeal over findings of a court-appointed expert body.

The Court took serious note of the hardship faced by the shopkeepers, observing that they had suffered pro-

longed closure of their establishments and loss of livelihood for nearly two years on the basis of an initial report declaring the building unsafe.

Referring to Supreme Court precedents, the Court underscored that eviction from commercial premises has a direct bearing on the right to livelihood under Article 21 of the Constitution and that indirect methods cannot be adopted to dispossess tenants where lawful civil remedies exist.

It held that declaring a building unsafe cannot be misused as a tool to bypass proper eviction proceedings.

In a significant direction, the Court ordered the Chief Secretary of the Union Territory to constitute an independent inquiry committee within two weeks to examine the circumstances leading to the initial "unsafe" report.

The inquiry will probe whether there was any collusion, undue influence, procedural violation or mala fide intent behind the earlier report. The committee has been directed to submit its report before the Registrar Judicial within six weeks.

If any officer of the PWD (R&B) or the Municipal Corporation was found responsible for issuing or endorsing a misleading report, the Court directed that such officer(s) shall be personally liable to pay Rs 10,000 each to the seven petitioners (shopkeepers) — totalling Rs 70,000 — towards compensation for loss of income and harassment. "The said amount to the tune of Rs. 70,000/- (Rs. Seventy Thousand) shall be recovered from the salaries of the delinquent officer (s) in equal proportion."

The Court further clarified that if the Commissioner himself was found to have acted in derogation of its binding directions, the entire cost liability shall be borne by him in accordance with law.

Allowing the petition, the Court directed that the shopkeepers be permitted to resume business in the shops declared safe. In respect of one shop requiring structural rectification, concerned landlords were directed to carry out the necessary repairs in accordance with the technical recommendations.

"Insofar as Shop No. 5 is concerned, the technical report indicates that it shall be fit for occupation only upon removal of the existing wooden plank roof and laying of an RCC slab," the court said and directed landlords to carry out the rectification expeditiously, strictly in accordance with the technical recommendations contained in the report.



MOVEMENT OF TRAFFIC at Jehangir Chowk signals a return to normalcy in Srinagar on Thursday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Climate Activists Press Green Agenda in Central Kashmir

Concerns raised over Karewa damage, tourist pollution and delayed Ring Road compensation.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

SRINAGAR: A group of climate activists and transparency advocates sat down with Budgam's new deputy commissioner on Thursday. They brought a gift — a cypress plant — and a heavy agenda.

Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat led the delegation from the J&K Climate Action Group and the JK RTI Movement to meet Athar Amir Khan, who recently took charge as the district's top administrator. The activists formally welcomed Khan and handed him a memorandum outlining their concerns about environmental damage across Budgam.

The meeting covered illegal earth mining and riverbed mining, plus the district's struggles with waste management. The delegation pressed Khan on several specific issues.

"Landowners along the Ring Road in Wathoora and Chadoora still have not received compensation, even though the land acquisition



collector prepared and sent the award paperwork to the National Highways Authority of India last November," Khan was informed.

The group also pushed for plantations on degraded land around Karewas, grazing rights for pastoralist communities, and a ban on plastic at three tourist spots: Yousmarg, Doodhpathri and Tosamaidan.

Dr. Bhat thanked Khan for his earlier work as SMC Commissioner, where he helped set up sewage treatment plants on the Doodh Ganga river. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah recently laid the foundation stone for these STPs, and the activists want to keep the pressure on.

"We urged the deputy com-

missioner to make sure the plant downstream, especially from Chadoora to Mochwa Baghe Mehtab, runs efficiently," Dr. Bhat said. "Around 63 crore rupees have been sanctioned for this work."

Khan promised to call a meeting with UEED officers soon and said he would seek advice from reputed national institutions to ensure better technology is used.

The delegation also stressed the need for proper environmental clearances before any earth mining or riverbed mining moves forward.

Besides Dr. Bhat, the group included Dr. Rouf Malik, Mir Mushtaq, Advocate Shakir Paray and Gulzar Ahmad.

Samson, Bumrah Star as India Reach Back-to-Back T20 WC Finals

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI- Sanju Samson's sublime fifty and Jasprit Bumrah's spell touched with unearthly genius on a batting beauty helped India secure a seven-run win over gallant England, as the defending champions powered to the T20 World Cup final here on Thursday.

Sanju Samson (89 off 42) overcame the Jofra Archer challenge through a slice of luck for his second successive fifty, firing India to a mammoth 253 for seven, the highest total in a knock-out game in the tournament's history.

It was an above-par total at Wankhede but Jacob Bethell (105 off 48) led England's fight-back with a sublime hundred after they lost three wickets in the powerplay for 68 runs.

In the end, critical contribution from Bumrah (1/33 in 4 overs) in the death overs allowed India to stop England at 246/7 in 20 overs.

India will now face New Zealand in the title clash in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Tom Banton (17 off 5) was the fourth wicket to fall but sixes kept coming, propelling England to 119 for four at the halfway stage, equalling India's mark after 10 overs.

Varun Chakaravathy was again the weakest link in the attack as he failed to find the right length on an unforgiving surface to leak 64 runs in his four overs.

Bumrah had got rid of the dangerous Harry Brook in the power play with slow cutter, and Axar Patel took a sensational backward running catch from the cover region.

With Will Jacks (35 off 20) and Bethell on the offensive in the middle overs, it was another brilliant work of fielding from Axar in the deep that saw the former's back, ending a 77-run stand off 39 balls.

Curran joined Bethell in the middle and the equation was



brought down to a gettable 45 off the last three overs, forcing Suryakumar Yadav to bring Bumrah for one final time in the game.

The Indian wizard delivered once again by conceding only six runs. With both Arshdeep and Bumrah not available, Shivam Dube was called upon to defend 30 in the final over.

England's hopes ended with

a heartbreaking run out of Bethell, who played a memorable innings.

Samson wins Archer battle with fair share of luck

After single-handedly taking India to the semifinals, a supremely confident Samson (89) bludgeoned the England bowling attack including Archer,

who had dominated his battle against the Indian opener in last year's bilateral series.

Having lost the toss at a ground with short boundaries, India had to put up a big total and Samson helped them do that after being dropped by Harry Brook on 15 off Archer in the third over.

England had already removed

Abhishek Sharma the over before and a Samson dismissal would have put India under pressure, but Brook dropped a sitter at mid-on, leaving Archer in disbelief.

That was all the luck Samson needed to make England pay, hammering seven sixes and eight fours in his sizzling knock.

Dismissed thrice by Archer last year when he did not have the answers for short balls into the body, Samson subdued the England pace spearhead with a flurry of pu ll shots.

He picked up length quickly and was aided by a wayward Archer who was too short in his opening spell of two overs.

His first maximum off Archer came via a pull over fine leg before the opener dispatched a slower ball off the pacer over deep mid-wicket for another maximum.

Samson shared a 97-run stand off 45 balls with Ishan Kishan (39 off 19) who too picked up the boundaries against an erring England bowling line-up. India raced

to 67 for one in the power play and maintained the onslaught to reach 119 for two in 10 overs.

Shivam Dube (43 off 25) was promoted to number four to maintain the left-right combination after Kishan fell to Rashid. Samson, at the other end, was equally menacing against the other bowlers including Curran and Jamie Overton.

Archer returned for his second spell only to get hammered by Samson again. The opener smashed him for a six over backward point before smacking Archer for another maximum over long-off.

Archer ended up leaking 61 runs in four overs as Tilak Varma (21 off 7) added to his forgettable night with three sixes in the 19th over.

England went with the off-spin of Jacks in the final over and Hardik Pandya (27 off 12) put him to sword with a couple of sixes. The last five overs yielded 76 runs, pushing India to an above par total.

J&K Ranji Win Shows Impact of Investment in Region: Jay Shah

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- ICC chairman Jay Shah on Thursday said Jammu and Kashmir's recent triumph in the Ranji Trophy reflected the impact of "sustained investment" in developing cricketing infrastructure in the Himalayan region. Jammu and Kashmir bagged their maiden Ranji Trophy title, holding eight-time champions Karnataka to a draw in which the former gained a 291-run first innings lead at Hubballi last week.

"Congratulations to the entire J&K team and the cricket fraternity for scripting a remarkable chapter in Indian domestic cricket. Their progress reflects the positive impact of sustained investment in grassroots cricket and infrastructure in the region," said Shah after meeting members of the victorious J&K outfit.

Shah had taken a special interest in developing the



cricketing landscape in the valley during his tenure as BCCI secretary, often visiting the region to assess the progress.

The J&K team acknowledged Shah's contribution to the development of cricket in the region.

"We sincerely thank Mr. Shah for taking the time to meet the team and for sharing his words of encouragement with the players as

they celebrate this historic achievement.

"The interaction highlighted the progress made by the team and the growing opportunities for players from Jammu & Kashmir in domestic cricket," the team said in a release.

Earlier, BCCI president Mithun Manhas had highlighted Shah's role in developing cricket in J&K.

"We are very thankful to

Jai bhai and his vision, the way he made this committee, keeping in mind the administration part, the cricketing part, and involving the right players.

"He was the first secretary in the history of J&K in 67 years to come to Jammu and see the facilities himself. Once he was there and he showed us his full support, things started moving in the right direction," he had said.

Premier League Ready? Wrexham Takes on World Champion Chelsea in The FA Cup

Associated Press

LONDON- Next up for Wrexham is world champion Chelsea.

While a place in the quarterfinals of the FA Cup is at stake when the teams face off at the Racecourse Ground on Saturday, for Wrexham it will be a timely gauge of just how "Premier League-ready" it is.

Speaking to industry experts last week, Wrexham CEO Michael Williamson said the Welsh club — owned by actors Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney — would be ready for the top flight of English soccer when the time comes. Even as soon as next season, just three years after it was playing non-league.

"What we've proven is that with our culture we're pretty damn good at being ready," Williamson told the FT Business of Football Summit.



Even with celebrity owners, huge financial backing and a global reach through the fly-on-the-wall documentary series "Welcome to Wrexham," it cannot be overstated just how remarkable the club's rise has been.

Back-to-back-to-back promotions have taken it from playing non-league games in a crumbling stadium to the second-tier Championship and in contention for the playoffs to the Premier League.

The prospect of playing the likes of Chelsea every

week is not just the hope for Wrexham's owners but the mission.

"They said that from day one and everyone laughed at them," Williamson said. "We know what we have to do. It'll be really difficult but we can do it because we've proven that we can, not just survive when we get promoted, but that we can actually thrive."

Wrexham's meteoric rise has meant it has constantly played catchup to try to keep pace with its on-field success. More than 60 play-

ers have been signed since the takeover was completed in 2021, with 16 joining last summer to build a squad capable of competing in a division with former Premier League champion Leicester and a host of clubs with very recent top flight experience.

Even still, the spending is nothing like that of England's top flight. Nathan Broadhead became Wrexham's record signing in August for a reported \$10 million. Before him, Sam Smith cost a reported \$2.7 million.

Compare that to Chelsea, which has spent close to \$2 billion under American owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital since buying the club in 2022. That money helped Chelsea win the Club World Cup last year — but it has not come close to winning the Premier League and it could miss out on qualification to the Champions League this season.

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