

6-Month Dry Spell

Is J&K Heading Towards A Water Crisis?

Valley Districts Record Sharp Rainfall Deficit | Experts Warn of Falling Water Levels, Power Stress



File Photo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing an alarming rainfall deficit for the sixth consecutive month, triggering fears of a looming water crisis, declining river levels and stress on hydropower generation across the Union Territory.

Fresh rainfall data for April has further deepened worries, with J&K recording 86.5 mm precipitation against the normal 99.6 mm, marking a 13 percent deficit.

"The clouds over Jammu and Kashmir seem to have forgotten their way home," independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif

said, warning that the prolonged dry spell was no longer just a seasonal anomaly but a sign of a deepening environmental concern.

He noted that precipitation levels have remained below normal since November last year, creating a six-month dry streak with no clear signs of recovery.

"This isn't just a matter of a few dry days; we are heading toward a genuine water crisis," he said, adding that residents in far-flung and vulnerable areas may face severe shortages if dry conditions continue through the coming months.

Faizan said | [More on P10](#)

Srinagar Logs Season's High At 31.7°C

Observer News Service

Kashmir witnessed an unusual spike in day temperatures on Saturday, with Srinagar recording the season's highest temperature at 31.7 degrees Celsius, which was 7.6 degrees above normal. Several other places across the Valley also recorded | [More on P10](#)

WHEN SOUTH KASHMIR DISTRICTS continue recording such massive deficits, it becomes clear that the water levels in streams and even the Jhelum are going to fall sharply this year."

2 Juveniles Among 4 Held In Katra Hotel Assault Case

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Police have arrested four accused and apprehended two children in conflict with law (CICL) from Haryana in connection with an armed assault case reported in Katra town of Reasi district, officials said.

The accused were allegedly involved in a violent attack at the R K Palace hotel in Katra on May 2, in which a man identified as Jaswinder Singh alias Sundri sustained serious injuries, they said.

A group of persons armed with sharp-edged weapons forcibly entered the hotel and allegedly assaulted the victim before fleeing from the spot. The injured was shifted to the Community Health Centre (CHC), Katra, for treatment, officials informed.

A case was registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Arms Act at the Katra police station, and an investigation was taken up on priority. According to officials, the accused escaped to Haryana after committing the offence in an attempt to evade arrest. Acting on specific inputs and using technical surveillance and human intelligence, a police team tracked and apprehended the accused from Haryana. The weapons used in the crime were also recovered. The arrested accused were identified | [More on P10](#)

Drug Addiction, Terrorism Two Faces Of Same Problem: LG Sinha

» Says 108 NDPS Cases Registered in Anantnag Since April II; Properties Worth Rs 3.5 Cr Razed » Calls for Whole-of-Society Fight Against Drugs; Assures Tough Action on Smugglers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said drug addiction and terrorism were "two faces of the same problem," asserting that narco-money was being used to fuel terror activities and radicalisation in Jammu and Kashmir.

The LG made the remarks while joining a padyatra in south Kashmir's Anantnag district as part of the "Drug-Free



J&K Campaign", where he called for a collective societal response against the growing drug menace.

Addressing a gathering, Sinha appealed to people to "break the silence" and join hands with the administration in the fight against drugs.

"The challenge of drug addiction can be eradicated only through a whole-of-society approach. From schools, colleges and families to sports grounds, villages | [More on P10](#)

Over 1 Cr Join Anti-Drug Campaign Across J&K: Govt

Agencies

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday said the ongoing 100-day "Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan" has

witnessed large-scale public participation and intensified anti-narcotics action across the Union Territory, with over one crore people taking part in awareness programmes and

646 persons arrested under the NDPS Act so far. According to official figures, a total of 2,16,123 awareness events have been conducted across Jammu | [More on P10](#)

Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani Named Next CDS

Vice Admiral Swaminathan To Head Navy

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Centre on Saturday appointed retired Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani as India's next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), while Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan was named the next Chief of the Naval Staff.



According to an official statement issued by the Defence Ministry, Lt Gen Subramani will take over as the country's senior-most military commander on May 30, succeeding General Anil Chauhan, who is retiring from service.

Vice Admiral Swaminathan, currently heading the Western Naval Command, will assume charge as Navy Chief on May 31, replacing Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.

The government said | [More on P10](#)

The River Took Away Our Futures'

Grief Engulfs Hajin After Triple Drowning

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A heavy silence hung over Hajin on Friday as thousands of mourners gathered to bid farewell to three young cousins who drowned in the River Jhelum while washing tent equipment, turning an ordinary day of work into a tragedy that has shaken the entire town.

The victims had gone to the riverbank

to clean tent material when one of them reportedly slipped into the fast-flowing waters. In a desperate attempt to save him, the other two jumped into the river, but the strong currents dragged all three away within moments.

What began as an act of brotherhood ended in unimaginable loss.

Among the deceased was Aadil Ahmad, a young father whose six-month-old child will | [More on P10](#)

Centre Fully Operationalises 4 Labour Codes

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: After a long wait of over five years, the central government has fully operationalised the four labour codes by publishing rules, ensuring minimum wage and universal social security for all workers.

The four codes, namely the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, came into effect from November 21, 2025.

The four codes were introduced to modernise and consolidate 29 labour laws into a simplified and contemporary framework.

An official told PTI that the rules under the | [More on P10](#)

Budgam Stray Dog Killing Triggers FIR, Divides Social Media

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police in central Kashmir's Budgam district have registered a case under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act after animal rights activists filed a complaint over a viral video showing a stray dog being beaten to death in Magam area, triggering sharp reactions and debate on social media over public safety and animal rights.

Officials said Magam Police Station registered FIR No. 57/2026 under provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 against persons seen in the viral video after a complaint was lodged by animal rights activists.

The video, | [More on P10](#)

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Registration & Preference Filling Closes	27 May 2026, 7:00 PM
First Merit List (Round 1)	30 May 2026
Round 1 - Admission & Fee Payment	1 - 6 June 2026
Second Merit List (Round 2)	9 June 2026
Round 2 - Admission & Fee Payment	10 - 15 June 2026
Spot Round (Leftover Seats)	18 - 25 June 2026
Start of Classwork - Winter Zone	15 June 2026
Start of Classwork - Summer Zone	15 July 2026

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- Class 10th & 12th Marks Cards
 - Recent Passport Size Photograph
 - Aadhaar Number
 - Domicile Certificate (if available)
 - Category Certificate (if any)
- Scanned PDF/JPG, max 1 MB each

REGISTRATION FEE

₹ 200 (non-refundable)

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DIPK-1186/26 Dated: 09.05.2026



Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: HSB Scholarship-cum-Admission Seats (SAS) Program 2026

Description: The HSB Scholarship-cum-Admission Seats (SAS) Program 2026 offers admission and tuition fee scholarships to deserving students planning to pursue an MBA in Product Management based on academic excellence and financial need. This initiative by Hari Shankar Singhania School of Business empowers students to pursue their dreams, ensuring that talent and ambition, not financial barriers, shape their future.

Eligibility: For HSB Management Program (MBA in Product Management)

Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 60% marks or equivalent grade, supported by official transcripts.

Valid entrance test score from CAT, XAT, GMAT, NMAT, GRE, MAT, or the HSB Entrance Test.

Minimum 60% in both Class X and Class XII examinations.

STEM background and Work experience preferred but not mandatory.

Prizes & Rewards: Selected students will be offered admission to HSB, along with scholarships of up to 100% for the MBA in Product Management Program.

Last Date to Apply: 26-05-2026

Application mode: Online

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/JHSCASP2

QR Code: <https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/hsb-sas-20261777960128.png>

Scholarship Name 2: JKLU Scholarship-cum-Admission Seats (SAS)

Final-year Class XII students may



Program 2026

Description: The JKLU Scholarship-cum-Admission Seats (SAS) Program 2026 offers admission and tuition fee scholarships to deserving B.Des/M.Des students based on academic excellence and financial need. This initiative by JK Lakshmiipat University empowers students to pursue their dreams, ensuring that talent and ambition, not financial barriers, shape their future.

Eligibility: For JKLU Design Programs (B.Des & M.Des)

Bachelor of Design (B.Des):

Minimum 60% aggregate in Class XII (including English and three other subjects, excluding internal marks contributing 50%+).

Marks from recognised Central, State, or AIU-approved foreign boards will be considered.

Foreign Nationals, PIOs, and Non-Resident Indians are eligible based on Class XII or equivalent marks.

Final-year Class XII students may

apply, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria.

All applicants must appear for the JK-DET entrance examination.

Master of Design (M.Des):

Minimum 60% marks (or equivalent CGPA) in a Bachelor's degree from a recognised university.

Students appearing for their final Bachelor's degree exam can also apply.

All applicants must appear for the JK-DET entrance examination.

Prizes & Rewards:

Selected students will be offered admission to JKLU, along with scholarships of up to 50% for the B.Des and M.Des program.

Last Date to Apply: 26-05-2026

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/JHSCASP1

QR Code: <https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/jklu-scholarship-cum-admission-seats-sas-program-20261777877143.png>

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that in the school records of my ward, a student of Grade 6th bearing Admission No. 1130 at GD Goenka School, the particulars have been wrongly recorded as under:

Name: Zoeya Suhaff

Father's Name: Arshad Ahmad Suhaff

Mother's Name: Jawahira Akhtar

Whereas, the correct and actual particulars are as follows:

Name: Zoeya Suhaff

Father's Name: Arshid Ahmad Suhaff

Mother's Name: Jawahira Akhtar

Now, the necessary correction is required to be made in the school records. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may convey the same to the Principal, GD Goenka School, Sadrabal Lal Bazar, Srinagar, within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-042010009314

issued in favour of SHABIR AHMAD DAR Parentage GHULAM MOHI UDDIN DAR

Whereas an application has been received by one SHABIR AHMAD DAR Parentage GHULAM MOHI UDDIN DAR wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as SHBAR AHMAD DAR Parentage GH MEHDI DAR Which needs to be changed as SHABIR AHMAD DAR Parentage GHULAM MOHI UDDIN DAR.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir
mcb

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

ATTENTION PLEASE

The candidate whose photograph is above reports that he / she has lost his / her qualification certificate/s have the following description:-

Roll no:-	344536
Class:-	SSE - 10th
Year & Session:-	BI-ANN - 2004
Registration No:-	GOENKA 3114038
Name:-	SHOWKAT AHMAD WANI
Father's Name:-	MOHD MAQBOOL WANI
Mother's Name:-	ZEEBA BEGUM
Date of Birth:-	07-03-1986
Residence:-	Nehalpora Pattan



Now the candidate has applied for issuance of Duplicate Qualification Certificate. Before the case will be processed under rules, if somebody have any kind of objection in this regard he/she shall approach the office of the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publishing of this notice after expiring date no objection shall be entertained.

(Besides, the loasted "QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE", bearing Serial no/s 2505395 is/are treated as "CANCELLED"

No:- F(Certs-I-DQC)B/KD/20

Dated

FKO Assistant Secretary, Certificates, KD.

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR HUMHAMA

SUBJECT: Application of BASHARAT AHMAD BHAT S/O LATE RAHID BHAT R/O BATHARA District BUDGAM for issuance of Legal Heir Certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The case of the above captioned applicant is under process for issuance of legal heir certificate. In this regard, report submitted by patwari concerned reveals that the applicant's Father namely Abdul Rehman Najar S/O Mohammad Jamal Najar R/O Narkara Tehsil & District Budgam has expired on 28-02-2026 (Death Certificate enclosed). The applicant's deceased Father has left behind the following legal Heirs:-

S. NO	NAME OF LEGAL HEIR	RELATIONSHIP WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION	MARTIAL STATUS
1	LATEEFA BANO	WIFE	70	HOUSE WIFE	WIDOW
2	AFROOZA BANO	DAUGHTER	45	HOUSE WIFE	MARRIED
3	BASHARAT AHMAD BHAT	SON	44	LABOUR	MARRIED
4	CHESPEEDA RASHID	DAUGHTER	42	HOUSE WIFE	MARRIED
5	SHAGUFTA RASHID	DAUGHTER	40	HOUSE WIFE	MARRIED
6	JAVAIID RASHID	SON	33	LABOUR	MARRIED

In this context, objections are invited from general public regarding the issuance of requisite certificate in favour of the applicant. If anybody has any objection, he/she may submit his/her objections in this office within 07 days during office hours. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

NAIB TEHSILDAR HUMHAMA
mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded in the Aadhaar Card as Farhan Ahmad Malik bearing Aadhaar No. 2688 4823 730, whereas his correct name as per the Birth Certificate record is Furqan Ahmad Malik.

Henceforth, the correct name of my ward shall be read and written as Furqan Ahmad Malik for all official purposes and records. If anybody has any objection regarding the above-mentioned correction, he/she may file the same before the competent authority within the stipulated period.

Fayaz Ahmad Malik
S/o Ali Mohammad Malik
R/o Mujgund, Kunzer, Baramulla
J&K UT

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of my ward has been wrongly entered as "Umar Ali" in Aadhaar records bearing Aadhaar No. 989 0580 5915. The correct name, as per the Birth Certificate record, is "Umer Ali Ahanger."

Henceforth, he shall be known and recognized by the correct name Umer Ali Ahanger for all official purposes. Any objection, if any, may be conveyed within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for public information that my name & parentage has been wrongly written as S BILAL AHMAD HAMDANI S/O S MOHD SHARIEF in my 10th class record bearing Registration No 10680 -KRP- IX-1 session 1984 (April) while my correct name & parentage is BILAL AHMAD & parentage SYED MOHAMMAD SHARIEF which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned JKBOSE within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name: BILAL AHMAD
S/O SYED MOHAMMAD SHARIEF
R/O ...KREERI

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Urfee Jan D/O Mohammad Yousuf Bhat R/O Ganowpora Shopian District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that my actual name and date of birth are URFFEE JAN and 03/07/2005. However, in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 7215 9053 4193, my name and date of birth have wrongly been recorded as URFFEE YAUSUF and 01/10/2004 due to a clerical error.

Now, I have applied before the concerned authorities for correction of my Name and Date of Birth in the Aadhaar records from URFFEE YAUSUF / 01/10/2004 to URFFEE JAN / 03/07/2005.

If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same before the concerned Aadhaar authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Urfee Jan
D/O Mohammad Yousuf Bhat
R/O Ganowpora, Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Date of Birth of my son, Aijaz Ahmad Ganaie, has been wrongly written in his school records as 12-12-2017 WHILE his correct DOB is 05-09-2018. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Concerned School within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

BMG

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
PUBLIC NOTICE..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Arshaan Tanveer Lone s/o Tanveer Ahmad Lone R/o Zangam Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 04/01/2023 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar Pattan
FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that in the school records of my ward, a student of Grade 9th bearing Admission No. 0048 at GD Goenka School, the particulars have been wrongly recorded as under:

Name: Qaswaa Suhaff

Father's Name: Arshid Ahmad Suhaff

Mother's Name: Jawahira Akhtar

Whereas, the correct and actual particulars are as follows:

Name: Qaswaa Suhaff

Father's Name: Arshid Ahmad Suhaff

Mother's Name: Jawahira Akhtar

Now, the necessary correction is required to be made in the school records. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may convey the same to the Principal, GD Goenka School, Sadrabal Lal Bazar, Srinagar, within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

ab



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Registration & Preference Filling Closes	27 May 2026, 7:00 PM
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Start of Classwork — Summer Zone	15 July 2026

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- Class 10th & 12th Marks Cards
- Recent Passport Size Photograph
- Aadhaar Number
- Domicile Certificate (if available)
- Category Certificate (if any)

Scanned PDF/JPG, max 1 MB each

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<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VbByAXd5q08WHz43oL2M>

DIPK-1185/26 dated: 09-05-2026

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION-IV,

Pampore Kashmir 192121,, t1md4.pampore@jk.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM / AMENDMENT-03

Subject: Amendments to e-NIT for "Augmentation of Grid Sub Station Zainakote from 220/132 KV, 450 MVA to 220/132 KV, 780 MVA by replacing old aged 06 Nos 50 MVA, 220/132 KV Auto Transformers (CG Make) by 06 Nos 220/132/11KV , 105 MVA +01x105 MVA Spare Auto transformers including allied works. (Srinagar, Kashmir UT of J&K)

Ref: 1. This office e-NIT No: TLMD-IV/e-NIT/16 of 2025-26, Dated:- 12-03-2026

The following amendments to the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) is hereby issued:

- CLAUSE-20.1 Technical Parameters of Power Transformer. Please read "...the make of OLTC shall be MR Germany/CTR/Easun MR..." instead of "...the make of OLTC shall be MR Germany/CTR..."
- CLAUSE-21.7 Technical Parameters of Power Transformer. Please read "...the Tan Delta of Bushing shall be less than 0.5%..." instead of "...the Tan Delta of Bushing shall be less than 0.25%..."
- CLAUSE 1.7.6: Flux density. Please read "...the maximum flux density in any part of the core and yoke at rated MVA, Voltage and frequency shall not exceed 1.5 Tesla and under 10 % continuous overvoltage condition it does not exceed 1.65 Tesla at any tap position..." instead of "...the maximum flux density in any part of the core and yoke at rated MVA, Voltage and frequency shall not exceed 1.5 Tesla and under 10 % continuous overvoltage condition it does not exceed 1.70 Tesla at any tap position..."

All other terms and conditions of the e-NITs shall remain unchanged.

No: TLMD-IV/487-92
DIPK-NB-424/26 Date: 09-05-2026

--sd--
Executive Engineer
TLMD-IV, Pampore

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION-IV,

Pampore Kashmir 192121,, t1md4.pampore@jk.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM -04

Subject: Corrigendum to e-NIT for "Augmentation of Grid Sub Station Zainakote from 220/132 KV, 450 MVA to 220/132 KV, 780 MVA by replacing old aged 06 Nos 50 MVA, 220/132 KV Auto Transformers (CG Make) by 06 Nos 220/132/11KV , 105 MVA +01x105 MVA Spare Auto transformers including allied works. (Srinagar, Kashmir UT of J&K)

Ref: 1. This office e-NIT No: TLMD-IV/e-NIT/16 of 2025-26, Dated:- 12-03-2026

The following corrigendum to the BOQ is hereby issued:
Due to an inadvertent error in the amount stated in words in the uploaded BOQ, it is clarified that only the total amount mention in figure by the prospective bidders shall be considered for evaluation.

All other terms and conditions of the e-NITs shall remain unchanged.

No: TLMD-IV/509-14
DIPK-NB-422/26 Date: 09-05-2026

--sd--
Executive Engineer
TLMD-IV, Pampore

Srinagar's Water Infrastructure Gets Major Upgrade Under AMRUT 2.0,

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Saturday conducted an extensive onsite inspection of key ongoing water supply infrastructure projects being executed under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 aimed at strengthening and augmenting the supply and quality of drinking water in the district.

The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Executive Engineer Water Works Division, Aijaz Rafiq, Executive Engineer I&FC, Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical, Javaid Ahmad, Executive Engineer UEED, Shabir Ahmad, Officers of PMU 2.0 and other concerned.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the progress of the ongoing construction of the 7 MGD Activated Carbon Chamber (ACC) at Water Treatment

Plant (WTP), Nishat, a significant infrastructure initiative designed to enhance water treatment capacity and ensure improved drinking water quality for the city. He also reviewed the progress of the 0.1 MGD Water Supply Scheme (WSS) at Ishbar Nishat, including its distribution and coverage components intended to address water shortages in tail-end habitations of the area.

While reviewing the progress of the 7 MGD Activated Carbon Chamber at Nishat, the DC was informed that the project is being executed on a turnkey basis at an estimated cost of Rs 3.66 crore and is scheduled for completion by 31 December 2026.

On the occasion, the DC stressed the importance of maintaining execution timelines and ensuring strict adherence to prescribed quality standards. He observed that the project would play a crucial role in addressing seasonal water quality concerns and enhancing the overall reliability of the city's drinking water supply system.



Tanzeela, a Master's student from Mir Behri, Dal is reviving wagu—traditional, eco-friendly mat. KO Photo Abid Bhat.

Overnight Road Accidents Leave Eight Injured Across City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Eight people sustained injuries, many of them critical, in three separate road traffic accidents reported overnight in Srinagar and adjoining areas, officials said on Saturday.

In the first incident, two persons were injured in a road accident at Dumail Crossing in the Narbal area during the night. Both injured persons were shifted to JVC Hospital Bemina for treatment.

The injured were identified as Mudasir Ahmad Sheikh, son of Mohd Ayoub Sheikh and a resident of Zanikote, Srinagar, and Muzammil Ahmad Dar, son of Shabir Ahmad Dar, also a resident of Zainakote.

According to KNT, Hospital sources said Mudasir Ahmad

Sheikh, 26, sustained severe head trauma and remains in critical condition. Muzammil Ahmad Dar, 23, suffered injuries to both legs along with head trauma and is also stated to be critical.

In another accident, two persons were injured after the driver of an Alto vehicle allegedly lost control near Astan Sharief Kirmani Abad, close to a petrol pump.

Officials said the injured persons were shifted to JVC Hospital Bemina in critical condition immediately after the incident. The vehicle involved in the accident bears registration number JK01M-9757.

Meanwhile, in a third road accident, police from Police Station Harwan shifted three injured persons to SKIMS Soura

after they were referred from PHC Dargah.

According to the police, the injured persons were travelling on a scooty when they were hit by an unidentified vehicle near Shalimar, resulting in multiple injuries.

The injured were identified as Hashim Rather, son of Ajaz Ahmad Rather, Shabir Ahmad Dar, son of Farooq Ahmad Dar, and Imraan Ahmad Lone, son of Nazir Ahmad Lone. All three are residents of Brein Nishat.

Hospital officials said Hashim Rather, 20, is stated to be normal so far, while Shabir Ahmad Dar, 32, is stable. Imraan Ahmad Lone, 24, remains in critical condition.

Police have taken cognizance of the incidents and further investigation is underway.

Youth Hold Key to Shape up Srinagar's Future: SSP Sandeep

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Asserting that youth hold the key to shape up Srinagar's future, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Dr G.V. Sandeep Chakravathy on Saturday said that sports play a vital role in shaping the character of youth, and games like cricket teach fighting spirit, discipline and teamwork.

Speaking at T20 Cricket Tournament organised by Srinagar Police under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) here, SSP Chakravathy, as per KNO, congratulated all participating teams and appreciated the enthusiasm shown by players during the tournament, saying such sporting events provide a constructive platform for youth and help channelise their energy in a

positive direction.

"Games like cricket teach us fighting spirit and teamwork. Srinagar's real future lies with its youth. Such tournaments are not only about winning or losing, but about learning discipline, unity and determination," the SSP Srinagar said.

He urged youngsters to continue the momentum created through sports and spread a positive message in society, especially against the growing menace of drug abuse.

"Our youth should become ambassadors of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and take this message to every locality and every household. Community participation and youth engagement are essential for building a healthier and drug-free society," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Javid Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul Majid bhat R/o Alibagh Hygam, have misplaced the number plate of my Motorcycle bearing Registration No. JK05B-5378 while travelling from Buchoo to Palhalln.

I am applying for a duplicate number plate from the concerned authorities. Any person having objection may contact the concerned department within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Vehicle Owner: Javid Ahmad Bhata
Vehicle Number Plate: JK05B-5378

fko

از نیابت بوئی

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب فاروق احمد شوشو ولد غلام سیلو برادر اجرائی EWS سرٹیفکیٹ بحق اولاد ان سوبان فاروق وحضرا فاروق

اشتیہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں سالانہ ایک درخواست بغرض EWS سرٹیفکیٹ بخش کی ہے

جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پڑواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں

ہے کہ سال 1980 میں رہائش پذیر ہے سال کا نمبر 15 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور کنبہ کی سالانہ

آمدنی زرعی غیر زرعی سے مبلغ 8000 روپیہ تک ہے سال کے پاس 15 ایکڑ سے کم

رقبہ ہے سال کا مکان رہائشی SQ Ground 200 سے کم ہے رقبہ میں تعمیر شدہ موجود

ہے سال کا رہائشی فلیٹ 1000 sq فٹ سے کم ہے سال کا مکان رہائشی از بیرون

میوہل حدود میں واقع نہیں۔ سال کے کنبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 8 لاکھ سے کم ہے سال، RBA

OBC, ST, زمرے میں نہیں آتا ہے۔

سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزیب یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد

مشتیہ اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض دولت ہذا کو دفتر ای اذقات کے دوران پیش

کریں۔ بعد گزرے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

FKO

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

احباب عزیزو اقربائے کرام۔

از قضاء الہی، یہ صد افسوس و الم کے ساتھ

یہ اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ ہمارے محترم و مکرم

حاجی محمد سلطان میر

(ساکن اسکندریہ، بیروہ)

کا وصال حق ہو گیا ہے۔ وہ اس دار فانی سے

رخصت ہو کر دار البقاء کی طرف چلے گئے ہیں۔

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کی مغفرت فرمائے، ان کی روح کو جنت الفردوس

میں بلند ترین مقام عطا فرمائے۔ آمین

فاتحہ خوانی مرحوم کے ایصالِ ثواب کے لیے فاتحہ خوانی

ہمورخہ 10 مئی بروز اتوار

ہمارے گھر واقعہ اسکندریہ میں انجام دی جائے گی۔

از طرف اقرباء، احباب و خاندان حاجی محمد سلطان میر

براداران حاجی محمد یوسف میر، خواجہ محمد اکبر میر

فرزندان امتیاز حسین میر، گلزار حسین میر، کامران علی میر

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4:00
ZUHR	12:27
ASR	5:19
Magrib	7:24
ISHA	8:57

HIJRI CALENDAR
22 Zil-Qadah
1447

- 1797 - 1st US Navy ship, the "United States," is launched
- 1801 - First Barbary War: The Barbary pirates of Tripoli declare war on the United States of America (1st US foreign war)
- 1804 - British Prime Minister Henry Addington resigns, replaced by William Pitt the Younger
- 1857 - Indian Mutiny against rule by the British East India Company begins with the revolt of the Sepoy soldiers in Meerut
- 1862 - Battle of Plum Run Bend, Tennessee
- 1864 - Battles at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia
- 1865 - Confederate President Jefferson Davis captured by Union troops at Irwinsville Georgia (US Civil War)
- 1871 - Peace of Frankfurt-am-Main concluded between France & Germany ends Franco-Prussian war
- 1872 - Victoria Woodhull becomes 1st woman nominated for US presidency by Equal Rights Party at Apollo Hall, NYC
- 1910 - Halley's Comet closest approach to Earth in 1910 pass
- 1915 - Canadian physician Cluny MacPherson first presents his gas mask invention to the British War Office
- 1917 - Atlantic ships get destroyer escorts to stop German attacks
- 1918 - HMS Vindictive sunk to block entrance of Ostend Harbor
- 1925 - To control demonstrations against foreigners, British troops in Shanghai fire into a crowd, leading to a boycott against British goods
- 1933 - Nazis stage public book burnings in Germany
- 1933 - Paraguay declares war on Bolivia
- 1940 - French troops arrive in Zealand/Brabant Netherlands
- 1940 - Nazi armies attack Netherlands, Belgium & Luxembourg
- 1940 - Winston Churchill succeeds Neville Chamberlain as British PM
- 1940 - World War II: The first German bombs of the war fall on England at Chilham and Petham, in Kent.
- 1942 - World War II: The Thai Phayap Army invades the Shan States during the Burma Campaign.
- 1944 - Chinese offensive in West-Yunnan
- 1945 - Allies capture Rangoon from the Japanese
- 1945 - Russian troops occupied Prague
- 1948 - 1st attack by Egyptian irregular forces at Kfar Darom Israel
- 1956 - French government sends 50,000 reservists to Algeria
- 1959 - Soviet forces arrive in Afghanistan
- 1967 - Stockholm Vietnam Tribunal declares US aggression in Vietnam/Cambodia
- 1968 - Vietnam peace talks began in Paris between the US & North Vietnam
- 1969 - Apollo 10 transmit 1st color pictures of Earth from space
- 1979 - Vivekananda (Sri Lanka) completes nonstop cycle ride of 187 hrs, 28 min, around
- Viagra Maha Devi Park, Colombo, Sri Lanka [From May 2]
- 1994 - Nelson Mandela sworn in as South Africa's 1st black president
- 1994 - Silvio Berlusconi forms Italian government with 5 neo-fascists
- 1995 - Britain lifts a 23-year ban on ministerial talks with Sinn Féin
- 1995 - In South Africa, 104 miners killed in an elevator accident
- 1996 - 2 US Marine helicopters collided during joint US & British war games
- 1996 - Excel Communications, Inc. becomes the youngest company ever to join the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), trading under the symbol (ECI)
- 2000 - India's population reaches 1 billion, baby girl Aastha born at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital chosen as symbolic billionth
- 2005 - A hand grenade thrown by Vladimir Arutyunian lands about 65 feet (20 metres) from U.S. President George W. Bush while giving a speech to a crowd in Tbilisi, Georgia, it malfunctions and does not detonate
- 2006 - Giorgio Napolitano is elected President of Italy, first former communist to become President
- 2016 - Indian fertility clinic announces that a 70-year-old woman has successfully gave birth to a baby boy
- 2017 - Apple becomes the first company to be worth more than \$800 billion

Rijiju: India's Muslim Population May Match Indonesia After Census

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai, May 9 : Union minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday said that the Muslim population in India is likely to be nearly the same as that of Indonesia after the Census.

"The Muslim population in the country is likely to be nearly on par with Indonesia's population. Once the Census (data) is out, it will be the likely outcome," the Union minister for Minority Affairs told reporters after a programme here.

As the last Census was conducted in 2011 and the decennial exercise could not be conducted in 2021, the population would have grown, he said.

"Whatever the numbers of whichever (community) are, all are Indians," Rijiju added.

Highlighting concerns over the declining population of the Parsi community, he stated that their numbers stand at around 52,000 to 55,000 in the country.

The Parsis are the smallest minority community in India and the government is working to protect them and ensure their numbers do not shrink further, he added.

Rijiju also dismissed claims that minorities are under threat in the country, alleging that some political organisations are trying to create fear among the Muslims and Christians.

All citizens are equal before the Constitution and no one is treated differently on the basis of religion or caste, the BJP leader said.



"The Muslim population in the country is likely to be nearly on par with Indonesia's population. Once the Census (data) is out, it will be the likely outcome

The Bharatiya Janata Party forming a government in West Bengal was also a victory for the country as it is a very sensitive state sharing border with Bangladesh from where a lot of illegal migrants enter, the minister said. The BJP winning the election in the state was a crucial development for national security, he added.

The party has long been raising concerns about illegal migration and the new state government would help address the issue effectively, Rijiju said.

The earlier Mamata Banerjee-led government did not implement certain central schemes, he claimed, citing the National e-Vidhan Application as an example, and added that the Union government would ensure their implementation now.

Modi to Attend Art of Living Event in Bengaluru



Press Trust Of India

Bengaluru: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the 45th anniversary celebrations of The Art of Living here on May 10, officials said on Saturday.

Founded in 1981 by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, The Art of Living has grown into a global volunteer-driven humanitarian and educational organisation with a presence in 182 countries, they said.

The PM is expected to land at HAL Airport at around 9 am and thereafter attend a felicitation programme organised by BJP functionaries, officials said.

According to a statement, PM Narendra Modi will participate in The Art of Living's 45th anniversary celebrations and the 70th birthday celebrations of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar at around 11 am.

"The PM will also inaugurate the newly constructed Dhyana Mandir at The Art of Living International Centre in Bengaluru, a dedicated meditation hall envisioned as a space for inner peace and holistic well-being," it added.

He will also launch The Art of Living's nationwide service initiatives, comprising year-long projects focused on mental well-being, rural development, nature conservation, and social transformation, it said.

Ahead of Modi's visit, the Bengaluru City Police have made elaborate traffic arrangements to ensure the smooth movement of the public.

The movement of all types of vehicles will be temporarily prohibited on the HAL Airport exit road from Old Airport Road to the DGCA office on both sides, according to the traffic advisory.



Iran Unveils Details Of 14-Point Proposal On Complete End Of War: Fars

Trans Asia News

Tehran: Iran has delivered a 14-point proposal setting out its terms for ending the war, according to Iran's Fars News Agency, as indirect exchanges with the United States continue through Pakistan, which continues to act as a mediator.

The report, citing informed sources, said message exchanges between Tehran and Washington have been taking place via Islamabad, despite the continued Iranian distrust of the US.

According to Fars, the diplomatic channel was activated following internal decision-making procedures and the approval of relevant Iranian authorities.

The agency said Tehran's proposal presents a "clear roadmap" to end an "imposed war" and asserts Iran's "red lines" within the framework of any potential agreement.

It added that the Iranian document is in response to the US nine-point proposal.

Iran's decision to continue engagement through Pakistan signals Tehran's determination and confidence in pursuing its national interests despite ongoing tensions with the United States, as per the report.

Tasnim confirms Iran's 14-point proposal

Tasnim News Agency also reported, citing informed sources, that Iran has submitted a response via Pakistani mediation to a nine-point US proposal, with Tehran's reply primarily focused on securing a complete end to the war.

According to the sources, Washington's proposal outlined a two-month ceasefire, while Iran argued that all key issues should be addressed within 30 days, emphasizing the importance of pursuing a comprehensive settlement rather than extending a temporary truce.

The Iranian proposal reportedly includes demands for guarantees against future military action, the withdrawal of US forces from areas near Iran, the lifting of the maritime blockade, the unfreezing of Iranian assets, and compensation payments. It also calls for an end to hostilities across all fronts, including Lebanon, as well as the establishment of a new framework for managing the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran is reportedly waiting for the official response from the United States regarding these proposals.

Iran submitted proposal to permanently end US-Israeli war: Deputy FM

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Kazem Gharib Abadi,

announced earlier today that Iran has submitted an official proposal aimed at bringing a permanent end to the US-Israeli-imposed war.

Gharib Abadi said the proposal was delivered to Pakistan, which is acting as a mediator in the process.

During a briefing in Tehran for resident foreign ambassadors on the contents of the initiative, the deputy FM stated that "the ball is now in the American court" regarding the choice between pursuing diplomacy or continuing the war.

However, he stressed that Tehran has consistently maintained its "pessimism and lack of trust" toward the United States and its sincerity in any proposed diplomatic process.

Final draft delivered

The diplomatic outreach coincided with Tehran submitting an updated proposal to end the war through Pakistani mediation. Iran's official news agency reported that a final draft of the negotiation framework was delivered to Islamabad, which has conveyed it to Washington.

The move follows an earlier Iranian proposal sent last week outlining Tehran's conditions for ending the war, also transmitted via Pakistan.

CIA admits Iran can withstand blockade for months, maintains 70% of its missiles: Report

Trans Asia News

Washington: The US spy agency admits Iran is able to withstand the effects of the US blockade for several months and also retains significant missile and drone stockpiles, casting doubt on US President Donald Trump's claim that Tehran needs the war to end immediately, a report says.

According to a report published by The Washington Post on Saturday, a new analysis by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) suggests that Iran is more resilient than expected and can brave the economic pain of the blockade until later this year.

The confidential report

was delivered to officials in the Trump administration earlier this week, four people familiar with the document told The Washington Post.

By storing parts of its oil in floating storage aboard tanker ships and decreasing the flows in its oil fields, it has enabled its wells to remain functional, one person said.

"It is nowhere near as dire as some have claimed," the source explained about Iran's economic situation. Iran is also able to sell its oil through overland routes by truck and rail, providing it with economic support, the report added.

"There is a belief they could begin moving some oil via rail

through Central Asia," one official said.

The CIA estimates that Iran could survive 90 to 120 days, and maybe longer, before facing more severe economic hardship, four people familiar with the analysis said.

It corroborates reports by The Independent last month, which suggested that Iran had around 120 days of availability of Iranian crude for China.

The analysis on April 15 predicted that Iran is unlikely to be impacted by the blockade anytime in the near future due to "substantial volumes already on the water," Kpler's senior crude analyst Johannes Rauball told The Independent at the time.

Israel Kills 20 More Civilians In Southern Lebanon

BASSEM MROUE

Beirut, May 9 (AP) Three Israeli drone strikes on vehicles just south of Beirut on Saturday killed six people while a series of airstrikes on southern Lebanon killed at least 13, including a man and his 12-year-old daughter, state media and the Health Ministry said.

The three drone strikes south of Beirut marked another escalation since a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah went into effect on April 17. Both Israel and Hezbollah have continued their daily attacks despite the truce.

On Wednesday night, Israel's air force carried out an airstrike on a southern suburb in which Israel said it killed a senior Hezbollah military official. It was the first strike near the capital since the ceasefire was reached.

Two of the strikes on Saturday took place on the highway linking Beirut with the southern port city of Sidon in which several people were wounded, while the third happened on a road leading to Lebanon's Chouf region killing three, the state-run National News Agency said.

An Associated Press journalist at the scene saw a dead body

Lebanon adding that three soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously, in one of the attacks. It added that Hezbollah fired drones inside Lebanon as well in which one hit an Israeli vehicle without inflicting casualties.

Hezbollah claimed several attacks inside Lebanon as well as firing a drone at an Israeli military post in the northern town of Misgav Am.

The latest war between Israel and Hezbollah began on March 2, when Hezbollah fired rockets into northern Israel, two days after the United States and Israel launched a war on Hezbollah's main backer, Iran.

Israel has since carried out hundreds of airstrikes and launched a ground invasion of southern Lebanon, capturing dozens of towns and villages along the border.

Later, Lebanon and Israel held their first direct talks in more than three decades. The two countries have formally been in a state of war since the founding of the state of Israel in 1948.

A new round of talks is scheduled to take place in Washington over two days starting Thursday.

A 10-day ceasefire declared in Washington went into effect on April 17. The ceasefire was



on the highway in the town of Saadiyat.

The Health Ministry said an Israeli airstrike on the southern village of Saksakiyeh killed at least seven, including a child, and wounded 15. The ministry said this was an initial count.

The agency reported strikes in southern Lebanon, including one on the village of Bourj Rahhal that killed three and another in Maifadoun that killed one.

The Health Ministry, meanwhile, said three Israeli drone strikes killed a Syrian man who was riding a motorcycle with his 12-year-old daughter in the city of Nabatiyeh.

The ministry said that after the initial strike, the man and his daughter managed to move away from the site only to be attacked again by the drone instantly killing the man. The girl then moved about 100 metres away and was hit again by the drone after she had been already wounded. The girl later died in a hospital, NNA said.

"The Ministry of Public Health denounces this barbaric targeting and the deliberate violence against civilians and children in Lebanon," the ministry said in its statement, adding that the strike marks an ongoing series "of grave violations of International Humanitarian Law."

The Israeli military said Hezbollah fired explosive drones into Israel near the border with

"The three drone strikes south of Beirut marked another escalation since a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah went into effect on April 17. Both Israel and Hezbollah have continued their daily attacks despite the truce.

later extended by three weeks.

In the Syrian capital of Damascus, Lebanon's Prime Minister Nawaf Salam held talks Saturday with Syria's interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa in which they discussed strengthening relations between the two neighbours and boosting security cooperation amid regional wars.

Speaking to reporters before heading back home, Salam said that Lebanon will not be used again to harm "our Arab brothers, on top of them Syria."

Salam was indirectly referring to Hezbollah's involvement in Syria's civil that broke out in 2011 by backing the five-decade Assad family rule that ended in December 2024.

NEWS MAKERS

JUSTIN SPIKE

Budapest (Hungary), May 9 (AP) Hungary's Péter Magyar took his oath of office on Saturday to become the country's new prime minister, ending Viktor Orbán's 16 years of autocratic rule.

Magyar's centre-right Tisza party defeated Orbán's nationalist-populist Fidesz in a stunning blow last month, gaining more votes and seats in Parliament than any other party in Hungary's post-Communist history.

The win, which gave Tisza a two-thirds parliamentary majority, will allow it to roll back many of the policies that gave Orbán a reputation among his critics as a far-right authoritarian.

In a speech to lawmakers in Hungary's Parliament after being sworn in, Magyar said he would not use his office to "rule" Hungary, "but to serve my homeland."

"I'm not standing here because I'm different from anyone else in the country," Magyar said. "I stand here because millions of Hungarians decided that they want change. And this trust that we have received is both a weight of honour and a moral obligation, but also a wonderful feeling."

Magyar has vowed to restore democratic

institutions and governmental checks and balances that were heavily eroded during Orbán's rule, and to clamp down on alleged corruption.

His government is expected to transform political dynamics within the European Union, where the former prime minister had upended the bloc by frequently vetoing key decisions, most recently concerning support for neighbouring Ukraine.

A Parliament without Orbán

On Saturday, Magyar, a 45-year-old lawyer who founded Tisza in 2024 after years as an insider in Orbán's party, entered the sprawling neo-Gothic parliament building alongside 140 of his party representatives.

Tisza now controls 141 seats in Hungary's 199-seat parliament. Orbán's Fidesz-KDNP coalition controls 52 seats, down from 135, while the far-right Mi Hazánk (Our Homeland) party holds six seats.

The 199 representatives took their oaths of office at around 11 am local time. Orbán was



not among them for the first time since Hungary's first post-Communist Parliament was formed in 1990.

Magyar earlier called on Hungarians to attend an all-day "regime-change" celebration on Kossuth Square outside Parliament to mark his inauguration and the end of the Orbán

era. Thousands had already gathered in the square as the new representatives were sworn in, many waving Hungarian and EU flags and wearing Tisza T-shirts.

As the crowd watched the proceedings inside Parliament on large screens, cheers erupted whenever Magyar appeared.

Hungary's new national assembly has 54 women lawmakers, most from the Tisza party — more than a quarter of the total and the most in Hungary's history.

One attendee, Andrea Szepesi, an economist from Budapest, said it was "about time" that more female lawmakers held seats in Parliament. Under Orbán's rule, there were fewer women in government than in nearly all of the EU's other 26 nations.

"Finally, women are able to participate in this new, beautiful democratic system and the flourishing of the country," she told The Associated Press.

Repairing relations with the EU

Magyar has promised to repair his country's ties with the EU, which Orbán had pushed to a breaking point, and to restore Hungary's place among Western democracies, whose standing had been called into question as Orbán drifted ever closer to Russia.

The EU flag was raised on the Parliament building's facade Saturday afternoon for the first time since Orbán's government removed it in 2014.

Unlocking about 17 billion euros (USD 20 billion) of EU funds for Hungary frozen during Orbán's time in office over rule-of-law and corruption concerns is among the incoming prime minister's top priorities.

The money is sorely needed to help jumpstart Hungary's struggling economy, which has stagnated for the past four years.

Another attendee of the celebration, 27-year-old web designer Áron Farsang, said he expects the new Tisza government to restore Hungary's democratic institutions and to "lead us back toward the European Union."

"I would also really like it if we could get rid of the Russian influence as soon as possible," he said. "I'm thinking about energy dependency and their general political style."

J&K United Shia Council Formed to Champion Community Rights



Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: A new socio-religious body, the "Jammu & Kashmir United Shia Council," was formally announced on Saturday, with its leadership stating that the organisation aims to safeguard the rights and interests of the Shia community while promoting unity, social reform and constructive engagement across Jammu and Kashmir.

The announcement was made during a press conference in Srinagar, where interim chairman Bilal Ahmad Haji described the formation of the Council as a "historic and significant step" for the community.

"This is not merely the establishment of an organisation, but the declaration of a collective vision and renewed sense of purpose," Haji said while addressing media persons.

He said the Council emerged after extensive consultations among scholars, intellectuals, jurists, educationists and members of the Shia community from different regions and backgrounds, who collectively felt the need for a strong and organised representative platform.

According to the leadership, the Council seeks to address issues concerning the community in religious, social, political, educational, economic and cultural spheres.

Haji said the Shia community of Jammu and Kashmir possessed a rich intellectual and cultural heritage rooted in "knowledge, sacrifice, faith and tolerance," adding that the changing socio-political environment required a unified body capable of articulating community concerns and aspirations effectively.

"The Council will work towards the protection, representation and advancement of the community's legitimate rights and interests," he said.

Describing the organisation as "a comprehensive movement rather than merely an institution," the interim chairman said the Council would focus

on strengthening unity within the community, promoting sectarian harmony and peaceful coexistence, ensuring transparency in the management of Shia Auqaf (religious endowments), and encouraging educational and social upliftment.

He added that guiding the younger generation towards a "positive, constructive and purposeful direction" would remain one of the key priorities of the organisation.

General Secretary Tanveer Ahmad said the Council would function as an inclusive platform and would not represent "any individual, faction or vested interest."

"It is intended to serve as the collective voice of the community, and its doors remain open to all those committed to sincerity, integrity and public service," he said.

The office bearers announced that the Council's central office would be based in Srinagar, while its organisational structure would extend to district, tehsil, locality and village levels to ensure broader grassroots participation and outreach.

The leadership said the organisation would operate through a "transparent, accountable and participatory framework" and remain closely connected with people at the grassroots level.

They also announced plans to establish an advisory council comprising scholars, lawyers, social workers, educationists and experts from various fields to provide policy guidance and formulate research-based recommendations aimed at community welfare and development.

"Our objective is to create a platform where vision is supported by strategy, and where collective wisdom guides meaningful action," the leadership said.

The Council further asserted that it would pursue a constructive and democratic approach in addressing community issues, stressing its commitment to dialogue, constitutional methods and peaceful engagement rather than confrontational politics.

Family Support Key to Fighting Drug Addiction: Experts

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Emotional support from families can play a decisive role in helping people overcome addiction, experts said, stressing that recovery is not possible through medicines and counselling alone.

As concerns continue to grow over the rising number of drug addiction cases in Jammu & Kashmir, mental health professionals and doctors working in de-addiction centres have underlined the importance of compassion, understanding and active family participation in the rehabilitation process.

Speaking to KNO, Samreena Jan, a counsellor at an Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) in South Kashmir, said individuals battling substance abuse often need emotional reassurance more than anything else during their recovery journey.

She said patients who receive consistent encouragement, care and acceptance from their family members tend to show stronger commitment towards sobriety and are less likely to relapse.

"Family support creates emotional stability for recovering addicts. When a person feels accepted rather than judged, it becomes easier for them to regain confidence and continue treatment sincerely," she said.

Jan added that while professional counselling, medication and rehabilitation programmes are essential, long-term recovery largely depends on the environment a patient returns to after treatment.

According to her, many recovering addicts struggle to reintegrate into society because they continue to face criticism, taunts and mistrust from their own relatives and community members.



She warned that such behaviour often becomes one of the major causes of relapse. "In many cases, relapse is not due to treatment failure but because recovering addicts are constantly reminded of their past mistakes and made to feel unwanted. A judgmental attitude only pushes them deeper into isolation and addiction again," she said.

The counsellor urged families and society to adopt a compassionate and supportive approach towards those trying to rebuild their lives after addiction.

Dr Aadil, a medical officer at ATF Shopian, said opioid addiction, especially heroin abuse, continues to dominate the cases reported at treatment facilities in Kashmir.

"Nearly 90 to 95 per cent of patients visiting our centre are heroin users," he said, adding that out of around 650 registered patients at the ATF in District Hospital Shopian, almost all are male.

Dr Aadil said the role of parents and guardians extends far beyond simply bringing patients to hospitals or rehabilitation centres. He advised parents to remain actively involved in their children's daily lives by observing behavioural changes,

monitoring social circles and paying attention to unusual activities or possessions.

"If parents notice sudden behavioural changes, withdrawal from family interactions or suspicious habits, they should immediately seek professional help instead of ignoring the signs," he said.

The doctor further said that treatment facilities are providing free medical care, counselling and rehabilitation support to addicts, while family counselling sessions are also being organised to educate relatives about handling addiction with patience and empathy.

"These sessions help families understand that addiction is a medical and psychological condition, not merely a moral failing. Supportive behaviour from loved ones significantly improves recovery outcomes," he added.

Experts believe that involving families in the recovery process not only strengthens the patient emotionally but also helps relatives cope with the social and psychological challenges associated with addiction.

They said collective efforts by families, healthcare professionals, educational institutions and society are essential to tackle the menace.

J&K to Receive 200 E-Buses for Tourism, Pilgrimage in Eco-Sensitive Areas

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is set to receive 200 electric buses under the PM E Drive Scheme, a major push towards sustainable and eco-friendly public transport in the Union Territory.

According to KNO, Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H. D. Kumaraswamy conveyed the approval in an official communication addressed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The proposal for the allocation of electric buses was submitted by the Jammu and Kashmir government following a request made by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the letter states. The 200 e-buses are to be deployed for tourism and pilgrim-



age activities in the ecologically sensitive and hilly regions of Jammu and Kashmir. The Union Minister said the move would help advance the objectives of green mobility and reduce vehicular emissions in environmentally sensitive areas.

The communication further mentions that CESL has been directed to include 200 electric buses for Jammu and Kashmir while issuing the next tender under the PM E-Drive Scheme.

Ganderbal Residents Urge Admin to Remove Russian Poplar Trees

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Residents across several areas of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district are facing growing health concerns due to pollen released by Russian poplar trees, with locals alleging that authorities have failed to address the issue despite repeated pleas.

Residents from Ganderbal, Nagbal, Gund, Cherwan, Hayan, Palpora, Ninhama and Kangan, said that the pollen from Russian poplar trees has triggered severe respiratory problems, including allergies, breathing difficulties and asthma-related complications, particularly during the spring season.

Muhammad Sahil, a resident of Kangan, said that patients suffering from allergies and pre-existing respiratory ailments are the worst affected. "The administration must immediately remove the Russian poplar trees and replace them with non-allergenic alternatives," he urged.

Health expert Dr Zakira said pollen allergy remains one of

the major causes of respiratory illnesses during the pollination season. "A significant number of patients visiting hospitals during this period suffer from pollen-related allergies and respiratory distress," the doctor said, adding that despite existing guidelines, little progress has been made on the ground.

Advocate Mudaris said that despite legal directions issued in 2015 for the removal of Russian poplar trees, the authorities have failed to implement the orders. He termed the issue a serious public health concern and called for urgent intervention.

Another resident, Saliq, said the pollen has severely affected asthma and allergy patients, leading to worsening symptoms and increased health complications.

Residents have demanded immediate action from the administration to cut down the Russian poplar trees and replace them with safer alternatives to reduce health risks and public suffering.

Motorcyclist Killed After Accident in Pampore Area

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A 28-year-old motorcyclist died after a road accident in Seerbagh Shalina area of Pampore on Saturday, officials said.

Officials said the deceased was identified as Ghulam Hassan Sofi, son of Mohammad Sultan Sofi, a resident of Seerbagh Shalina.

According to officials, the victim was riding a motorcycle when

he allegedly lost control and skidded off the road in the area.

He was shifted to Sub-District Hospital Pampore, where doctors declared him brought dead.

The body was later brought to SMHS Hospital Srinagar for radiological examination and other medico-legal formalities.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident and further investigation has been initiated. [KNT]

'Diabetes, Hypertension Main Causes of Kidney Failure in Kashmir'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Senior urologist Dr Saleem Wani on Saturday said diabetes and hypertension have emerged as the leading causes of kidney failure in Kashmir, while warning that smoking, substance abuse and delayed diagnosis are contributing to the growing burden of kidney and bladder-related diseases in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking with KNO, Dr Wani said uncontrolled diabetes and hypertension are the primary reasons behind rising kidney failure cases, followed by stone diseases and other structural disorders affecting kidneys, ureters and bladder.

"Diabetes and hypertension are lifestyle diseases and are the number one causes of kidney failure. If these diseases are kept under control and lifestyle modifications are adopted, there are high chances of preventing complications," he said.

He stressed the importance of effective glycaemic control, blood pressure regulation and salt restriction to reduce the risk



of kidney damage.

"The diabetes treatment should be done under proper medical supervision. Patients should keep their blood pressure under control and follow dietary precautions," he advised.

Dr Wani said the long-term effects of uncontrolled diabetes often damage multiple organs, including the kidneys, eyes and heart, adding that patients should regularly consult nephrologists, ophthalmologists and cardiologists for timely monitoring.

"After several years, diabetes starts affecting the kidneys, eyes and heart simultaneously; therefore, regular check-ups become very important," he said.

The urologist expressed concern over the increasing trend of

cigarette smoking and substance abuse among youth in Kashmir, saying both are becoming major public health threats. "Smoking and substance abuse go side by side and become the cause of very dangerous diseases," he said, while urging people to support anti-drug campaigns and avoid tobacco use.

Linking smoking directly with bladder cancer, Dr Wani said cigarette smoking remains the single biggest risk factor behind the disease.

"We treat and operate many patients, but even after treatment, some continue smoking, because of which the toxic effects remain in the body and the disease progresses further," he said.

He stressed that early diagnosis remains the key to cancer prevention and treatment, saying awareness about symptoms is essential for timely detection.

"The symptoms of bladder cancer include blood in urine and a burning sensation during urination. If a smoker notices blood in urine, he should immediately consult a doctor as it can be an early sign of cancer," he said.

Samagra Shiksha, Other Initiatives Transforming School Education in Shopian

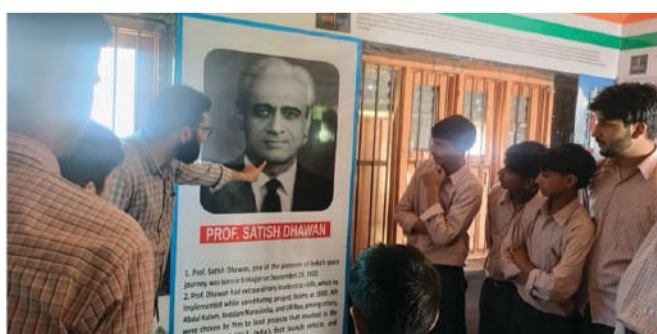
Observer News Service

Srinagar: School Education Department Shopian has emerged as a leading example of educational transformation during the financial year 2025-26 by undertaking wide-ranging initiatives focused on quality education, digital learning, inclusive development and student welfare.

Through sustained efforts under various flagship programmes and schemes, the department has significantly strengthened educational infrastructure, improved literacy outcomes and enhanced access to learning opportunities for all sections of society.

The district has witnessed remarkable progress in infrastructure upgradation, smart learning initiatives and welfare support for Children With Special Needs (CWSN), reflecting the Government's commitment towards equitable and modernised education.

As part of digital transformation initiatives, 42 schools were



strengthened under Smart School interventions. Further enhancing digital education, 25 schools were covered under the Smart Class Project at an estimated cost of Rs 45 lakh. The project included installation of smart boards, computers, IT infrastructure and modern teaching-learning equipment aimed at making classrooms more interactive, technology-enabled and student-friendly.

Besides, 74 smart stands were installed across schools to facilitate smart learning practices. Under the Kindergarten ini-

tiative, 130 schools were covered with an estimated expenditure of nearly Rs 2 crore for development of child friendly learning spaces and activity-based foundational education infrastructure.

Special focus was also laid on tribal education through establishment of 4 Smart Tribal Schools including UPS Amshipora, Nagbal Tullihalan, Mizpora and Shalidoora.

These schools were provided with smart classroom facilities, uniforms and other educational support to improve learning outcomes and educational accessi-

bility in tribal areas.

The department also recorded notable achievements under Samagra Shiksha. During the Talaash initiative under ULLAS, a total of 23,137 learners appeared in FLNAT-III examination, enabling the district to achieve 100 per cent literacy milestone.

In the field of inclusive education, extensive efforts were made for the welfare of Children With Special Needs (CWSN). Assessment-cum-measurement camps were conducted across the district for identification of support of specially-abled students.

Under the IED component of Samagra Shiksha, 182 aids and appliances were distributed among 146 CWSN students as per their assessed requirements. Additionally, financial assistance amounting to Rs 7,12,500 was distributed among 518 CWSN beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer mode under various components including transport allowance, escort allowance, reader allowance and stipend for girls.

20-Year-Old Booked Under PSA for Repeated Criminal Activities in Jammu

Observer News Service

Jammu: District Magistrate Jammu Rakesh Minhas has ordered the preventive detention of an alleged habitual offender from the Janipur area under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA), citing repeated involvement in criminal activities allegedly affecting public peace and order.

Officials identified the accused as Veer Vikrant Singh, a resident of Paloura in Janipur area of Jammu. According to officials, the detention order was issued after a dossier was submitted by Jammu Police through the office of the Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu, detailing the accused's alleged criminal history and activities.

Acting under Section 8(1)(a) of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978, the District Magistrate directed that the accused be placed under preventive detention in view of what authorities described as a con-

tinuing threat to public order.

Following the issuance of the detention warrant, the accused was shifted to District Jail Udhampur, where he has been lodged under PSA provisions.

Police officials said the accused, despite being around 20 years old, had accumulated a significant criminal record and was allegedly involved in multiple FIRs registered at police stations including Bakshi Nagar, Janipur and Nagrota.

Authorities alleged that the cases against him included unlawful possession and use of weapons, armed assaults involving swords and hockey sticks, criminal intimidation, robbery, and incidents of firing outside residential houses.

Officials claimed that his activities had created fear among residents in several localities and had repeatedly disturbed public order in parts of Jammu district.

According to police sources, the accused allegedly continued to engage in criminal activities

even after securing bail in earlier cases.

Officials said this pattern of repeated involvement in criminal cases despite legal action prompted authorities to invoke preventive detention laws.

"The detention became necessary to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of peace and stability," an official said.

According to KNT, Police officials maintained that preventive detention under the PSA was invoked after assessing the nature of allegations, the frequency of criminal cases, and the perceived impact on public order.

The Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act allows authorities to detain individuals preventively in cases linked to activities considered harmful to public order or security of the state.

Officials said further legal proceedings in the pending criminal cases against the accused would continue separately under relevant provisions of law. [KNT]

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KO VIEW

Ghost Fleet

An editorial on how the Iran conflict signals a shifting global order
In 1905, when the Japanese fleet defeated the Imperial Russian Navy in the Strait of Tsushima, the outline of a new world came into view. The vanquishing of a European power by a nominally inferior Asian state effected more than a strategic realignment. It caused a foundational rupture in imperial common sense, which had long posited the supremacy of the West as an immutable law of world order.

Reflecting on the shock of this reversal, Mohandas Gandhi, then an unknown lawyer in South Africa, correctly predicted that "so far and wide have the roots of Japanese victory spread that we cannot now visualise all the fruit it will put forth". The true harvest of this "fruit" – what we would now call decolonisation – came later in the twentieth century. But before that, the underdog's triumph at Tsushima triggered an interior revolution – the psychological emancipation of those long relegated to the status of 'backward' peoples – and galvanised leaders from Ataturk to Nehru, for whom the secrets of Western power were not objects of envy and adoration, but tools for collective strengthening.

The news of this triumph reverberated across the world. Passing through the Suez Canal shortly after Russia's collapse, Sun Yat-sen was congratulated by Arab lawyers who, exuberant at the news from the Pacific, mistook the Chinese revolutionary for a Japanese citizen. In that moment of solidarity lay the significance of Tsushima: the outcome transcended mere geopolitical reordering, and instead marked the onset of a world revolution in moral and political consciousness. The secrets of Western military and economic power could be learned, and then deployed against the West itself.

The catastrophic failure of the American-Israeli war on Iran seems certain to inaugurate another revolution in global consciousness. The most powerful nation in world history has suffered a strategic defeat – a modern Tsushima in the Strait of Hormuz.

Unlike at Suez, where the feebleness of old Europe was brusquely corrected by the rising American hegemony, Hormuz erupts in a landscape where the West's moral and material "soft power" has been incinerated in the ruins of Israel's genocide in Gaza, and undermined by the spectacle of blatant white supremacism and risible incompetence in Washington. The emotional and psychological consequences of this collapse of post-historical illusion are profound.

The danger of this present moment lies in the fact that while the West's narrative has collapsed, its capacity for violence remains. The American-Israeli axis, shorn of its moral pretensions, can still inflict enormous physical harm, yet this power no longer carries the weight of authority, since the world increasingly no longer sees its own future in the mirror of America's present.

The war on Iran, designed to satisfy the maximalist fantasies of an Israeli partner and collapse the Islamic Republic, has achieved neither. Instead, the survival of the Iranian state against the full spectrum of US coercion has clarified the outlines of a post-American world.

The material strength of the American empire remains immense. But what cannot be recovered is the plausibility of the American story: the overarching narrative of the US as a model for all of humanity; the rational centre of human progress around which the world was destined to orbit.

There is no denying the historical novelty, the sheer originality, of the US – a country founded to rid citizens of the

weight of history and orient them towards the future. And so the global disaffection with America today is arguably a more extensive and traumatic event than the European Romantics' disillusionment with revolutionary France, or the twentieth-century loss of faith in communism. Millions of people around the world came to invest their faith in the American dream; the dissolution of this ardently imagined homeland leaves a great part of humanity spiritually and ethically adrift.

Beyond Washington's military and economic primacy, the essential element of America's post-Cold War hegemony has been its paramount ability to narrate and describe the world: to legislate the meaning of global events according to its own precepts. The Holocaust and the defeats of Nazism and Communism remained its landmarks of world history even as the growing power of countries like China and India affirmed that decolonisation was the defining event of the twentieth century. Even as the numerical majority of the world's people and the growing economic power of later-developing nations began to shift the balance, the dominance of Anglophone intellectual life persisted as a kind of authorial seigniorage, which denied most of humanity the permission to narrate history as it unfolded.

For the past four decades, this prerogative – exercised by an Anglo-American intellectual and political establishment – ensured that Washington's interests passed for common sense. This uncontested jurisdiction to cast itself as the sole arbiter of progress was the peak of Western exceptionalism – what Reinhold Niebuhr described as the tendency to "regard the highly contingent achievements of our culture as the final form and norm of human existence".

For two generations of unbudging Atlanticist commentators, the "rest of the world" appeared only as a deviation from the path to modernity. A state like Iran could never be understood on its own terms – as a resilient formation with a long civilisational history and own internal logic – but only as a pathological resistance to inevitable convergence with the Western model.

The West had steadily deprived itself of the vocabulary to describe places, whether China or Iran, that sought modernisation outside the liberal-capitalist mould. It is striking to consider the mutual bewilderment of observers as different as V. S. Naipaul and Michel Foucault, who both failed to comprehend the 1979 revolution. Where Naipaul saw Islamic "rage" and "anarchy", and Foucault saw a "political spirituality", a more lucid analysis would have discerned a secular commitment to the sovereignty of the nation-state. The Iranian revolutionary project was a deliberate appropriation of the West's most influential idea – revolution – and the modern state's most potent administrative and technical forms. Understanding Tehran required less attention to the hagiography of the Battle of Karbala and more to the empirical metrics of female literacy and scientific publication – the indices of a society adopting the techniques of its adversaries while rejecting their tutelage.

The danger of this present moment lies in the fact that while the West's narrative has collapsed, its capacity for violence remains. The American-Israeli axis, shorn of its moral pretensions, can still inflict enormous physical harm, yet this power no longer carries the weight of authority, since the world increasingly no longer sees its own future in the mirror of America's present. There is no successor hegemon waiting to provide a fresh universalism, but a post-American future is becoming imaginable. In its place emerge the rudiments of a consciousness liberated from the vanities of the West: one that can make intelligible a freshly revealed world, and transmute the widespread despair of our age into intellectual excitement and rejuvenation.

The world's majority is steadily moving off the marked-out paths of the Atlanticist map, ceasing to look for guidance from people who are themselves lost. In this new configuration, the terminus of history isn't any single Western capital; the road has returned to the sea.

It is here, in the cold waters of the contemporary passage, that the ghost of the Baltic Fleet finally meets its modern successor, not in a single naval engagement, but in the lost illusions that once sustained the imperial ego.

One hundred and twenty years later, the anti-imperialist consciousness that flickered to life at Tsushima has returned as the default setting for the twenty-first century. – Equater, London

Pedagogy Without Restraint

From leaked chats to collapsing classroom authority, Kashmir's educational institutions are confronting a deeper crisis driven by social media, emotional dependence, and institutional neglect.



Mohammad Arfat Wani

A disturbing design has settled into educational life in Kashmir and far beyond it.

Hardly a week passes without reports of harassment inside campuses, leaked chats between students and teachers, emotional manipulation through social media, drug abuse inside colleges, or public scandals that leave institutions scrambling to protect their image.

These controversies spark outrage for a few days, then disappear into the noise of the next one. The deeper crisis keeps growing.

Educational institutions once stood as places where young people learned discipline, restraint, character, and intellectual seriousness. Teachers occupied a position that commanded respect because society viewed them as custodians of judgment and moral clarity. Classrooms cultivated habits that prepared students for public life and personal responsibility.

That foundation has weakened under the pressure of a culture driven by digital exposure and emotional excess.

Smartphones and social media transformed the emotional world of young people within a single generation. Students now grow up inside a system built around instant attention, constant comparison, and algorithm-driven validation.

Every emotion seeks expression, and each interaction demands visibility.

Private experiences turn public within seconds. Digital life rewards impulsive behaviour and emotional display far more than patience, maturity, or restraint.

Many students spend hours online every day while experiencing profound emotional isolation in their real lives. Endless digital interaction created a strange form of loneliness where people remain permanently connected and emotionally detached at the same time. Educational institutions still operate as if this psychological transformation never happened.

Schools, colleges, universities, and coaching centers continue focusing almost entirely on examinations, grades, placements, rankings, and institutional branding. Emotional lit-



eracy receives little attention. Ethical conduct receives ceremonial speeches instead of serious engagement. Counseling systems remain weak despite rising anxiety and emotional instability among students.

This gap between institutional culture and social reality created dangerous consequences inside classrooms.

Communication between teachers and students once remained confined to academic settings. Digital culture erased those boundaries. Conversations now continue through messaging apps, social media platforms, video calls, and private chats at every hour of the day. Familiarity deepens quickly inside these spaces because digital communication encourages emotional dependence and personal disclosure.

Every interaction may begin innocently. Emotional closeness gradually develops through constant accessibility. Professional distance weakens, favouritism enters the picture, secrets emerge, emotional dependency grows stronger, and ethical judgment loses clarity.

Educational spaces then become vulnerable to manipulation, exploitation, and public scandal.

Social media intensified this collapse of boundaries. Screenshots circulate within minutes. Rumours spread faster than facts. Edited videos destroy reputations overnight. Public outrage now functions as instant punishment even before any investigation begins.

Teachers and students both live under constant emotional exposure and public suspicion.

Teachers themselves face enormous pressure inside this environment. Earlier generations associated teaching with prestige, authority, and moral influence. Many educators today work under fear of accusations, online humiliation, administrative

pressure, and public backlash. Classroom discipline itself became controversial in many institutions because every disagreement risks escalation into digital controversy.

Authority weakened gradually as educational spaces lost their ethical center.

Campus culture also changed under the influence of celebrity lifestyles, algorithm-driven entertainment, and addictive digital consumption. Vaping, drug use, violence, and compulsive dependence on screens have entered many educational environments around the world. Attention spans continue shrinking while emotional volatility continues rising. Popular culture now teaches students more about relationships, identity, and behaviour than families or institutions ever could.

Families themselves struggle under economic pressure, emotional exhaustion, fractured communication, and excessive screen dependence. Parents spend less time guiding children through emotional and moral development. Social media influencers now occupy a larger role in shaping attitudes than elders, teachers, or community leaders.

Commercialized education deepened the crisis further.

Many institutions chase rankings, infrastructure, marketing campaigns, and admissions growth while treating emotional development as secondary. Students graduate with technical qualifications and professional ambitions while lacking emotional maturity, ethical discipline, and psychological stability.

This reality deserves honest discussion without descending into moral panic or blanket condemnation.

Countless teachers continue serving students with sincerity, professionalism, and personal sacrifice despite difficult working conditions. Millions of

students still approach education with seriousness, humility, and genuine commitment. Their efforts deserve recognition because they preserve the remaining credibility of educational life.

Still, society cannot ignore the larger deterioration taking place inside classrooms and campuses.

Educational decline never begins with falling grades alone. Civilizations weaken when respect disappears from human interaction, when emotional restraint loses value, and when knowledge separates itself from wisdom. A society suffers profound damage when institutions produce intelligent individuals who lack ethical judgment and self-control.

History offers countless examples of teacher-student relationships that produced philosophers, scientists, reformers, physicians, poets, and visionaries whose work advanced human civilization. Those relationships succeeded because they rested upon discipline, ethical seriousness, intellectual rigour, and mutual respect.

Modern education increasingly struggles to preserve those foundations.

Technological advancement continues accelerating at astonishing speed. Human beings possess greater access to information than any previous generation in history. That progress means little when emotional instability, moral confusion, and compulsive digital behaviour dominate educational culture. Societies flourish through wisdom, restraint, and ethical clarity as much as through innovation and technical skill.

Kashmir understands the value of education deeply because generations treated learning as a path toward refinement of intellect and character. That tradition needs protection before emotional excess and digital chaos consume what remains of institutional credibility.

Classrooms need knowledge, young people require guidance, and society needs moral seriousness. Educational institutions that fail to defend those principles risk producing generations equipped for professional success and utterly unprepared for responsible human conduct.

That contradiction threatens the future far more than any technological disruption ever will.

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Kashmir's Poplar Problem

A phased "Cut One, Plant Two" mission led by panchayats can clear Kashmir's air, protect public health, and create rural jobs without damaging the valley's green cover.



Dr. Ashraf Zainabi

Every spring, Kashmir enters the same cycle. Streets fill with drifting fress-famb from female Russian poplars, hospitals see rising cases of allergies and breathing distress, and families struggle through weeks of coughing, irritation, and asthma flare-ups. Public debate then swings between emotional calls for mass cutting and endless bureaucratic hesitation. Neither path solves the problem.

Kashmir already has the tools to fix this crisis. What it lacks is a clear village-level plan with timelines, accountability, and public participation.

Suppose a revenue village contains nearly 3,000 poplar trees. Around 1,000 among them may consist of female Russian poplars that release the cotton-like fress-famb during spring. Managing those trees does not require a giant administrative machine or expensive outside intervention. A local panchayat can handle the task through a phased and disciplined approach.

A five-year roadmap can gradually remove the problem while protecting Kashmir's green cover. The first two years should focus on aggressive pruning during March and April. Each village can organize a week-long pruning mela before the pollen season peaks.

Cutting the branches before seed dispersal would sharply reduce the amount of fress-famb floating through the air.

Pruning alone, however, cannot serve as the final answer. A parallel replacement plan must begin immediately. Around 200 female poplars each year should give way to safer alternatives such as male poplars, bot-te-fress, willow trees, and fruit-bearing species suited to Kashmir's ecology. This transition would preserve tree cover while removing a major source of seasonal illness.

Such a strategy protects both public health and environmental stability. New plantations would strengthen soil, improve shade cover, absorb carbon, and support biodiversity without turning spring into a season of respiratory distress.

Responsibility for nurturing the replacement trees can remain with the households that own the land. That simple measure would improve survival rates and create a direct sense of ownership within communities.

Kashmir possesses one major advantage that many regions lack: a deeply rooted Panchayati Raj system. Panchayats understand village realities far better than distant offices issuing circulars from Srinagar or Jammu. Local bodies know which areas contain high concentrations of female poplars, which households depend on them economically, and which sites require immediate intervention.

Empowering panchayats would make this campaign practical and enforceable. These bodies can identify and tag female Russian poplars, coordinate pruning before peak spring weeks, supervise felling operations, organize plantation drives, and monitor survival rates of newly planted trees. Declaring the first week of April as an annual

pruning and protection mela would also turn the campaign into a structured public movement instead of a temporary reaction.

Panchayats already supervise sanitation drives, MGNREGA works, and rural development projects. Adding environmental management to that portfolio fits naturally within their existing role.

Kashmir does not need to invent a new financial structure for this campaign. Labour wages can come through MGNREGA. District green funds and CAMPA resources can support plantation drives and sapling procurement. Public and private sector CSR funding can strengthen logistics and transportation. Climate action grants from national and international agencies can further support long-term ecological transition.

Performance-based incentives would also strengthen the effort. Panchayats showing strong plantation survival rates and efficient implementation should receive public recognition and small development grants. Healthy competition between villages could push the campaign forward far more effectively than administrative warnings ever could.

This issue also holds a major employment dimension. Rural Kashmir faces a persistent shortage of stable work opportunities for young people. A planned ecological transition could create thousands of seasonal and long-term jobs linked to tree cutting, transportation, nursery development, plantation work, and monitoring.

Self-help groups, school eco-clubs, and local NGOs can become active partners in this process. Schools can treat plantation drives as civic education. Youth groups can monitor sapling growth. Women's self-help groups can help run village nurseries and aware-

ness campaigns. Such participation would build environmental awareness through action rather than statements.

Public messaging matters deeply here. Many people still see every tree as untouchable regardless of its impact on public health. Kashmir needs a broader social understanding that removing a hazardous species and planting safer alternatives serves the larger public good. Mohalla committees, mosque imams, teachers, and media voices can help build that understanding at the community level.

This campaign stands for breathable air, safer neighbourhoods, healthier children, and cleaner public spaces. Families dealing with asthma, allergies, and chronic respiratory illness would experience direct relief. Children would attend school more regularly during spring. Elderly residents would move outdoors more comfortably. Drains and streets would remain cleaner during peak fress-famb weeks.

Kashmir therefore faces a simple choice. It can continue living through annual outrage followed by administrative paralysis, or it can adopt a phased ecological transition led by its own villages.

A planned "Cut One, Plant Two" mission gives the valley a practical path forward. That approach protects public health, creates rural employment, strengthens local governance, and restores ecological balance.

Spring in Kashmir should bring blooming orchards, open windows, and fresh air. A serious public policy can make that possible again.

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Liberation of the Soul

Seven nights of grave-digging lead three disillusioned Kashmiri youths from desperation and delusion toward exhaustion, death, and terrifying revelation.



Jamsheed Rasool

Junaid and I shared more than a first initial. We shared intuition. His was clouded.

We had failed the government job test three weeks prior. Incurably broke in the specific way that sons of fathers still paying their bills are — not hungry, but hollowed. Dependent in a way that had stopped being comfortable and started being a verdict.

It was in this condition — rawly, specifically, recently humiliated — that we had walked to the edge of that forest in a frontier Kashmir district and encountered the old man.

He appeared to be a majzub, a mendicant whose mind had unravelled at some point and whose tongue had, in the unravelling, been cut loose from all ordinary obligation to sense. Under normal circumstances his words would have passed through us like wind through a broken window. But he had spoken of liberation with a sudden, jarring clarity that landed differently on men who had just been told, in various ways, that their souls were currently worth very little on the open market.

"Dig a fresh grave for me every night for seven nights," he commanded, his eyes holding something that was not quite sanity but was adjacent to conviction. "I will pray loudly within the earth. By the seventh dawn, I will give you a wazeeffa to liberate your very souls."

He gambolled into the brush, chanting about the unseeable, the unheard. We looked at each other. No words passed. Something else did — a current, a silent referendum through the secretariat of three exhausted subconscious minds. We followed him into the forest.

He was squatted beneath a pine tree at the heart of it, rocking on his haunches. As we approached, he looked up and fixed his gaze on Ruhail — directly, unblinking, the way a compass finds north.

"Seven nights, seven graves. Nothing more, nothing less. And the souls of three handsome men shall be liberated!"

We stepped aside. Junaid spoke first. His jaw was tight. "I am out," he said.

"Look at us," I turned to face him. My arms moved. They always move when I am arguing — a habit from college theatre that I have never successfully retired. "We failed the test, Junaid. The girls are leaving. We are nothing."

"We are nothing now," he said. "Dead men are also nothing."

"Famous dead men aren't."

He looked at me. He looked at the trees. He looked at Ruhail.

Ruhail was still watching the old man. He had the expression he gets — had always gotten, even in school — when he believes something is happening specifically for him. His big, coy eyes were wide. His back was very straight. The old man's gaze had done something to him.

In our group, Ruhail was the embodiment of average in almost every measurable category — curly hair, short stature, lean frame, grades that cleared the bar by the narrowest of margins, a romantic history that was long on effort and short on outcome. He was not the person strangers single out in a crowd.

The old man had singled him out. "I am in," Ruhail said. His thin voice reached for weight and almost found it. "Seven days. Toast of the town."

Junaid looked at the ground. He looked at his hands — the hands that had, three weeks ago, clicked submit on an examination form and received, in return, a two-line SMS.

"Fine," he said.

Two to one. The vote was carried. Shopping the next morning had the driven, slightly unhinged quality of men with a purpose they cannot fully explain. A bel, a heavy gaiti, seven sets of white shroud cloth, and a rusted tin roof requiring — the old man had been insistent, almost offended by the possibility of approximation — exactly 786 holes punched through its midsection.

The village shopkeepers looked at the assembled items and then at us.

Junaid smiled. He has always been able to do this — produce a smile that arrives before the explanation and makes the explanation feel unnecessary. "A gift," he said. "For our grandparents."

The shopkeeper looked at the shroud cloth. "They are very old," Junaid added. The shopkeeper looked at the pickaxe. "Very old," Junaid said again, and paid. The seven sites had already been earmarked —

The First Night

The earth gave nothing freely. First the topsoil — pine needles, roots, a tangled resistance. Then the kachi mitti, heavy clay that clung to the shovel like wet cement. Then the kankar: calcified limestone clusters, each strike sending vibrations up the shoulder, into the neck, behind the eyes. We rotated. One man below, two above. No corpse waiting meant no sanctity, no hushing of tongues. Junaid cursed my theatrical ambitions. I mocked Ruhail's digging, which resembled a man stirring porridge. Ruhail cursed us both in a voice thin with exhaustion. The mountain air turned our



sweat to ice. We kept going.

Then the lahad — and here the real work began. Not a simple Mussayi trench, body lowered, earth replaced, done. The lahad demanded more: the main shaft first, then at the base of the western wall, a side-chamber carved sideways into the clay. A grave within a grave. A niche to shield the old man from the earth's direct weight while he prayed. We crouched in the pit's suffocating dark, scraping horizontal into the clay, muscles beyond complaint, fingernails filling with the forest's cold heart — layer by layer, the topsoil's tangle, the clay's grip, the limestone's stubbornness, the hollow's slow emergence, the level floor, the niche's fragile ceiling coaxed into holding.

By the time it was done, we had stopped speaking entirely.

The old man descended without ceremony. He folded himself into the lahad with the ease of a man whose body had rehearsed this, in sleep, many times before. The tin roof went over the opening.

Then the praying began.

Not the mosque's measured recitation. Not the tahajjud's pre-dawn murmur. This was loud, rhythmic to a beat with no name, Arabic words knotted around something older — or something the old man had invented so completely it had become old. The sound came up through the earth like groundwater. It pressed against the soles of our feet. Ruhail's eyes went wide, Junaid said nothing. The forest pressed in. The dark was absolute. The chanting was the only human sound in it, and it was coming from underground, and we stood above it and listened and did not sleep.

When the first pale light came he emerged — smoothly, unhurried, a man stepping out for the morning newspaper. He looked at us. Nodded once. Satisfaction and contempt in the same gesture. Walked away without a word.

We filled the grave. Walked back. Slept without dreaming — the sleep of men who have briefly touched something they do not understand and are not sure they want to.

The Second Night

The second site was steeper. The clay was darker, wetter. Within two feet the shovel began pulling up stones the size of fists, each one thrown clear by hand. Ruhail's back gave trouble by the second hour. He dug through it. The grimace became permanent, etched in like a new feature he had been born with and simply had not noticed before, Junaid's blisters hadn't healed. He wrapped his palms in strips torn from his shirt and continued without mentioning it.

The abuses of the first night had been energetic, almost festive. Tonight the swearing was quieter. More sincere. The kind of insults men exchange when they are genuinely, specifically annoyed with each other rather than performing it for an audience that no longer exists.

The old man prayed. The sound came up through the hillside at an angle. We sat against pine trees and fought sleep. Ruhail lost around two in the morning and had to be prodded awake by Junaid, which he denied fiercely and without credibility for the remainder of the night.

At dawn the old man emerged, nodded, left. "Two down," I said. Nobody responded.

The Third Night

Something had changed in the quality of our silence. Not the silence of shared adventure. The silence of men privately reconsidering a decision they can no longer raise aloud.

My hands had built callus over the blisters. I gripped the gaiti and felt wood as though through a glove. Ruhail's lower back was in open revolt. Junaid, who had always moved with fluid carelessness, now moved like a man whose joints were filing formal complaints with management.

The lahad took longer. The forest at midnight had stopped being atmospheric. It was cold, dark, full of roots.

"Your mother must be proud," Junaid said, watching me hack at a buried root. "Famous grave digger."

"At least I am digging," I said. "Twenty minutes you have leaved on that handle."

Ruhail said nothing. Ruhail had stopped

saying things.

The old man prayed. I calculated the hours of sleep I had lost, then stopped, because the sum had become its own kind of grief.

After midnight, Junaid looked at me across the dark.

"How famous," he said, "did you say we'd be?" I didn't answer. He didn't expect me to.

The Fourth Night

Rain.

Not the cooperative rain of films. This was the Kashmiri mountain variety — cold, vertical, indifferent to narrative. It turned excavation into something between digging and drowning. The kachi mitti became paste. Each shovel load was a separate negotiation with gravity. The pit walls threatened to slump and we shored them with branches jammed sideways into the clay, buying ourselves another hour of structural goodwill from the earth.

Nobody swore. Nobody spoke. Communication contracted to gestures — a pointed finger, a chin tilt, a hand extended for the tool.

When Ruhail's back gave out and he sat at the pit's edge and could not get up, neither Junaid nor I said anything unkind. We divided his share without discussion.

"My grandmother digs faster," Junaid said, to the clay, to the rain, to nobody.

"Your grandmother," I said, "has more sense than to be here."

We kept digging.

The old man went in. The tin roof was placed. The prayers came up through the wet earth — muffled, indistinct, present. That same arrhythmic chanting with no beginning we could locate, no end we could predict.

I fell asleep upright against a tree. I woke to find Junaid asleep against the other side of it, our backs to each other in the rain, two exhausted parentheses enclosing nothing.

Only Ruhail was awake. Standing over the grave, arms at his sides, water running off his hair, his big eyes fixed on the perforated tin. Seeing something none of us could name.

The old man emerged at dawn. He looked at us — soaked, hunched, small in the grey morning. Something moved across his face. Not pity. Closer to recognition.

He walked away without the nod.

The Fifth Night

We didn't speak of quitting. But quitting had moved into the house of our thoughts and begun arranging furniture.

My shoulders had stopped aching in the ordinary sense. They had descended to a deeper register — a permanent low hum, present whether I dug or stood still, slept or woke. The new silence, Junaid's blisters had opened, re-formed, opened again. He had stopped looking at his hands. Ruhail moved with the economy of a man rationing himself against an uncertain supply.

The fifth site was furthest. Forty minutes through a trail that was barely a trail. We stood at the unmarked earth and the same thought crossed all three minds simultaneously, readable in the set of our shoulders, the angle of our necks —

We have to put this whole night into that ground.

"I hate you both," Ruhail said, pleasantly, to the trees.

"Noted," said Junaid.

"Likewise," I said.

We picked up the tools.

The old man went in. The sound was fainter here, or perhaps our exhaustion had padded itself between us and the world. Ruhail was gone before ten. Junaid lasted past midnight. I sat alone before dawn, the perforated tin at my feet, the underground prayers moving up through the soles of my shoes, and thought about fame for the first time in days.

It had been the whole point, once.

It felt now like something read in a book set in someone else's youth.

Dawn. The old man emerged. He sat at the edge of the pit before standing — the first time we had seen him pause — and looked at us with eyes that seemed to contain weather systems.

"Two more," he said. First words since the forest.

We nodded. The wazeeffa was coming. Liberation waited, theoretically, on the other side of two more nights — the same promise,

slightly smaller, like a light seen from a greater distance. Still, technically, a light.

I tried to remember what my voice sounded like deployed in enthusiasm.

I couldn't find it.

The Sixth Night

There is a quality to the exhaustion of the sixth sleepless night that language was not designed to carry. Not tiredness. Closer to transparency — the feeling that the self has grown thin, that light would pass through you if anyone cared to shine it. The hands move. The legs walk. The gaiti rises and falls. But the person directing these actions has receded somewhere behind the eyes, watching from a great interior distance, issuing instructions that arrive late.

The sixth site was flat. The soil was sandier, more cooperative. We noted this and continued. The lahad was carved. The old man descended. The tin roof was placed.

We did not arrange ourselves. We did not find positions of strategic wakefulness. We lowered ourselves to the forest floor and slept — all three, around the grave, while the old man prayed beneath us. His chanting came up through the earth and passed through our sleeping bodies like a frequency, working on us in ways we wouldn't understand until much later. If at all.

I woke before dawn. Suddenly, completely — the way you wake when a sound has stopped rather than begun. The forest was silent. The chanting had stopped.

I looked at the tin roof.

"Junaid," I said. "Ruhail."

They woke. We looked at each other. The forest offered nothing.

"Is he finished?" Ruhail asked.

Nobody answered. Nobody wanted to be the one.

Dawn pressed itself through the pines like a rumour. Thin. Reluctant. The old man did not emerge.

We lifted the tin roof.

He was there.

Eyes closed. Hands folded at the chest. Face arranged — no, settled — into that particular stillness that is not sleep, has never been sleep, will never again be confused with sleep by anyone who has seen it once. The body had decided something in the night. It had decided quietly, without theatre, without summoning us. It had simply — stopped.

We stood above him. Three young men and a hole and a man who was no longer a man in the way that mattered.

Then Ruhail did something. We did not speak of it afterward but I have not forgotten it. He began to stammer — low, broken, the syllables catching in his throat — the chants. The ones that used to rise from below when the old man was inside and living and praying in the dark and making the 786 holes sing. Broken. Halved. Wrong in his mouth. The way a child mispronounces a word it has only ever heard and never read. He was trying to call something back. We all understood this. We let him finish.

The forest did not respond.

We filled the sixth grave. The silence already said everything with a precision none of us could match.

We still had the seventh site.

The Seventh Night

We returned. Why? Obligation. Inertia. Something that had once been faith and was now merely its shape — the outline of a door where the door had been removed.

The seventh spot. The old man's bare footprint still pressed into the soft earth. One week ago. Before all of it. He had looked down and said: here. As though the ground had already agreed.

We dug. Slowly. Without speaking. Without the energy to invent speech. The lahad carved into the western wall — same dimensions, same angle, same mechanical patience. Our hands knew it now. Junaid worked. Ruhail worked. I worked. The forest watched and did not offer an opinion.

We lowered nothing.

There was no one to lower. We placed the tin roof over the opening regardless. All 786 holes. The thin moonlight falling through each one, making its small

cold point on the earth below. We stood in our positions. The positions we had held for six nights. We waited.

No sound came. No chanting. No arrhythmic prayer threading up through roots and stone. The pine forest does not wait for anyone. It does not hurry for anyone. It was doing neither now.

We sat on the ground around the empty grave. Three young men. A week of holes. A man whose name we never learned. A wazeeffa that was going to liberate our souls, make us famous, make us something. Ruhail's back had bent from it. Junaid's hands would need weeks. I had not thought about fame in so long I would have had to sit down and deliberately teach myself to want it again.

When the light came, we filled the seventh grave.

Nothing was said on the walk out. The trail was ours now — carved into us the way the lahad dimensions were carved — and we moved through the dark forest without phones, without torches, by the body's memory alone.

Which is either an achievement.

Or simply what happens to people who have been doing the same terrible thing for long enough.

We were found at the forest's edge the following afternoon by two constables on routine patrol, sitting on a fallen log, too tired to have gone home, not yet sure what home was on the other side of all this. Someone in the village had reported us — the shovel, the pickaxe, the shroud cloth, the old shopkeeper who had never believed Junaid's story about grandparents. There was also the matter of six freshly disturbed patches of earth scattered across a government forest, and the seventh, most recently.

The police station in the district headquarters was a low building with flaking paint and fluorescent lights that buzzed with the determined frequency of insects. We were brought in separately for questioning and reunited in a corridor after what felt like several hours, though our sense of time had been unreliable for days.

It was in this corridor, waiting on a wooden bench, that we first saw the room at the far end.

The door was ajar.

Yellow light came through the gap. We looked. A man hung upside down from a ceiling hook, ankles bound, arms hanging loose below his head. One shoe was missing. The other was still laced. His shirt had fallen over his face. His trousers were dark and wet and the smell hit us before anything else did — urine, stale and cold, the smell of a man who had stopped caring about such things because he had been given larger things to stop caring about.

Blood had run from his nose into his hair. It had dried there. More was coming. A thin line of it crossed his forehead and dropped, slowly, from the crown of his head to the floor where a small dark stain had collected on the concrete. Still growing. Which meant he was alive.

He made a sound. Not words. The attempt at words. Something that had once been a name or a plea and was now only the breath behind it. His fingers opened and closed. That was all he could manage. Fingers. Opening. Closing. A man reduced to that.

We stood in the corridor.

Nobody moved toward the door. Nobody moved away from it. The smell reached us fully now and we let it because there was nothing else to do. One of us would go in next. We all knew which room this was and what it was for and we had known since they brought us here. But knowing is one thing.

The fingers opened. Closed.

The drop fell.

We waited in the corridor and did not look at each other and did not speak about what we were going to do when they called our names.

The officer who had been processing our statements walked toward us down the corridor, unhurried, his boots making the soft, flat sound of authority on a stone floor. He was a broad man with a grey moustache and the air of someone who has outlasted every situation he has ever encountered. He stopped in front of us and looked at the three of us in turn, the way a man looks at something he is deciding how much trouble it represents.

Then he glanced back toward the open door, at the upside-down figure in the yellow light, and something moved in the corner of his mouth that was almost, but not quite, a smile.

"Don't worry," he said. He had a voice that had been used outdoors for most of its life. He tucked his thumbs into his belt and regarded us with calm, professional patience.

"Like his soul," he said, "yours too will be liberated soon."

He held our gaze for a moment — long enough for the words to settle, long enough for their full geometry to be felt — and then turned and walked back down the corridor, his boots resuming their unhurried rhythm on the stone, leaving us on the bench in the buzzing fluorescent light.

The three of us sat very still.

We looked at each other.

Nobody laughed. But it was, we would all agree later — much later, in the way that things become funny only when they are far enough away to see whole — the funniest thing that had ever happened to any of us.

— The author is a senior scribe and short story writer from Srinagar with more than 15 years of experience in media, education, and corporate sectors. His work, published in various outlets, focuses on the human stories and changing dynamics of his homeland. He can be reached at jamsheeddar85@gmail.com.

'Difficulty In Processing Emotions Related With Disruption To Daily Activities Due To Pain'

Press Trust Of India

People who struggle with identifying and describing emotions could experience more disruption to daily activities from pain due to an increased psychological distress, a new study has found.

Researchers, led by those at the US' Johns Hopkins Medicine, looked at how alexithymia, or a difficulty recognising and expressing emotions, can affect pain outcomes.

Chronic pain, in which pain persists beyond the immediate recovery period of three months, is often a result of psychosocial factors, including one's emotional response to pain and cognitive processes such as coping mechanisms.

"Alexithymia had a significant indirect effect on pain interference through psychological distress," authors wrote in the study published in the journal Health Psychology.

The researchers related elevated levels of alexithymia in patients with chronic pain with a worse pain severity, physical interference, depression and anxiety.

Evidence suggests that alexithymia can be targeted and reduced in chronic pain treatment, they added.

"Prior studies have shown that alexi-



thymia tends to be higher in people who have chronic pain. However, we did not know whether alexithymia leads to worse pain, or whether worse pain leads to alexithymia. We also have not had a good understanding of why these two distinct processes were related," senior author Rachel Aaron, associate professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, said.

More than 1,450 patients with mixed

chronic pain conditions across the US were surveyed and monitored.

Patients having a higher alexithymia at the study's start were found to develop a greater psychological distress a year later.

An increased distress predicted a greater pain interference after two years, which meant that pain had a larger impact on daily functioning and quality of life.

Results also showed that alexithymia and distress did not significantly increase

how intense pain felt for the participants.

Pain interference also did not predict a later alexithymia, which supported evidence that difficulties in emotional processing are a risk factor, not a consequence, of worsening pain outcomes, the researchers said.

"Greater difficulties identifying one's own feelings can lead to greater symptoms of psychological distress, including symptoms of depression and anxiety," Aaron said.

"This in turn can lead to greater difficulties managing chronic pain. These findings highlight the role of considering alexithymia in psychological treatment for chronic pain, and how it might lead to psychological distress, to improve pain outcomes," the author said.

The researchers said the study highlights psychological distress -- especially anxiety and depression -- as a key intervention target, particularly for people who have difficulty identifying and expressing emotions.

Further, the study provides new evidence that how people experience and process emotions plays a crucial role in how chronic pain shapes their lives over time and addressing psychological distress may be one of the most effective ways to improve long-term outcomes, they added.

Study Of Seasonal Pollutant Trends Key To Tackling Air Pollution: Data

Press Trust Of India

A decade-long analysis of air quality data shows that pollutants in Indian cities, including the national capital, follow sharply different seasonal patterns, underscoring the need to study each pollutant separately rather than relying on broad air quality trends.

A new public dashboard developed by research and advisory think tank Envirocatalysts compiles daily air quality records from the Central Pollution Control Board since 2015, enabling users to track long-term trends across pollutants such as particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and ozone.

"To truly curb air pollution, we must track multiple pollutants across diverse timelines. The variations of each pollutant are the fingerprints that expose underlying sources and factors, allowing us to move beyond broad data toward targeted action," said Sunil Dahiya, founder and lead analyst of Envirocatalysts, explaining that understanding the complicated seasonal patterns of each pollutant is necessary to study air pollution overall.

For example, a detailed analysis of the PM2.5 levels in Delhi from 2015 onwards shows a trend of spikes during the winter months, as in from October to February, with the level going down from March, following a seasonal pattern induced not necessarily by emission load reduction but by meteorological conditions dispersing the pollutants faster and farther. A similar trend can be seen for PM10.

However, when a pollutant like NO2 is considered, a pattern is seen where higher concentrations are observed during the summer months compared to winters.

NO2 shows relatively lower levels in the first few months of the year, similar to ozone.

The pollutant ozone shows a peak in the summer months, reaching a peak in May.

Dahiya said, "Studying the patterns through the dashboard, which compiles all the data in one place, in easy-to-understand visualisations, tries to bring complex data to all stakeholders to be able to contribute better in efforts to clean the air."

According to the Indian National Ambient Air Quality Standards and World Health Organization guidelines, the Indian standard for PM2.5 is 60 µg/m³ and 40 µg/m³ annually. The WHO safe limit is 15 µg/m³ and 5 µg/m³.

Compared to this, an analysis of the data shows that Delhi recorded a monthly average of PM 2.5 between 153-240 µg/m³ in January from 2015-2026. The level remained between 171-230 µg/m³ for the month of December. This went down significantly in the middle of the year, when monsoon approaches.

The monthly average for July over the years remained around 30-66 µg/m³ and 25-59 µg/m³ for August.

For PM 10, the Indian standard is 100 µg/m³ and an annual level of 60 µg/m³; while the WHO standard is 45 µg/m³, and 15 µg/m³.

Similar to PM 2.5, PM 10 also shows a massive spike in winter months. The monthly average for January over the years remained around 240-446 µg/m³; and for December remained around 262-336 µg/m³. For July and August respectively, the monthly averages went down to 75-148 µg/m³ and 56-173 µg/m³.

However, when a pollutant like ozone is considered, the monthly average remained relatively low for January, 31-55 µg/m³, as compared to the WHO safe limit of 100 µg/m³. Ozone, however, sees a gradual spike in the summer months.

For April, the monthly average over the years remained around 67-122 µg/m³ and for May, it remained around 67-101 µg/m³.

When another pollutant like NO2 is considered, the monthly average for January remained around 40-64 µg/m³, as compared to the Indian standard of 80 µg/m³, and 40 µg/m³. The WHO standard is 25 µg/m³ and 10 µg/m³.

Study suggests mechanism by which physical movement could be linked with brain's cleansing process

Press Trust Of India

A study has suggested a mechanism by which performing a physical behaviour can trigger a movement of the cerebrospinal fluid -- a clear liquid that circulates in the brain -- which may then carry away waste that can interfere with normal brain function.

Functions of the cerebrospinal fluid include removing waste, cushioning the central nervous system from shocks, and delivering nutrients. The colourless fluid is part of the lymphatic system.

"Our research explains how just moving around might serve as an important physiological mechanism promoting brain health," said author Patrick Drew, a professor of engineering science and mechanics, neurosurgery, biology, and biomedical engineering at The Pennsylvania

State University in the US, said.

Drew added, "In this study (in mice), we found that when the abdominal muscles contract, they push blood from the abdomen into the spinal cord, just like in a hydraulic system, applying pressure to the brain and making it move."

"Simulations show that this gentle brain movement will drive fluid flow in and around the brain. It is thought the movement of fluid in the brain is important for removing waste and preventing neurodegenerative disorders. Our research shows that a little bit of motion is good, and it could be another reason why exercise is good for our brain health," the corresponding author of the study published in the journal Nature Neuroscience said.

The researchers said even small actions, such as bracing your core before standing up or taking a step, can create

the 'pumping' effect.

An October 2025 research, published in the journal Alzheimer's and Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association, suggested that problems with the brain's waste clearance due to an impaired movement of the cerebrospinal fluid could contribute towards developing dementia, a neurodegenerative disorder.

The team observed moving mice and found that the brain shifted just before the animals moved, immediately after the abdominal muscles tightened to initiate motion.

Further, they applied a gentle, controlled pressure to the abdomens of lightly anaesthetised mice.

The level of pressure was lower than what a person experiences during a blood pressure test, yet it still caused the brain to move, the researchers said.

"Importantly, the brain began moving

back to its baseline position immediately upon relief of the abdominal pressure. This suggests that abdominal pressure can rapidly and significantly alter the position of the brain within the skull," Drew said.

To understand how the brain's movement influences the flow of the cerebrospinal fluid, the team created computer simulations of fluid motion. They also developed imaging techniques for conducting experiments with live mice.

The researchers treated the brain like a sponge and simulated how fluid travels through spaces of different sizes, similar to the folds of the brain or the pores of a sponge.

"Keeping with the idea of the brain as a sponge, we also thought of it as a dirty sponge -- how do you clean a dirty sponge?" Francesco Costanzo, professor of engineering science and mechanics at The Pennsylvania State University, said.



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Global Energy Spike Hits Oil Firms, Losses Touch ₹30,000 Crore A Month

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- About Rs 700-1,000 crore loss per day. Rs 30,000 crore every month. India's state oil companies are quietly absorbing a massive financial hit to keep petrol, diesel and LPG prices unchanged even as global energy markets face a turmoil that is bigger than all previous crises combined.

While countries from Japan to United Kingdom have raised petrol and diesel prices by up to 30 per cent since the start of the West Asia conflict, fuel prices in India continue at two-year-old levels.

The war disrupted India's import of 40 per cent of crude oil (raw material for making petrol and diesel), 90 per cent cooking gas LPG and 65 per



cent natural gas (used to generate electricity, make fertilizer, turned into CNG and piped to household kitchens for cooking), but state-owned oil companies have maintained uninterrupted fuel supplies with no rationing or shortage at any point in the last 10 weeks.

But this has come at a cost - Rs 30,000 crore under-recovery or loss every month for the three oil marketing companies

- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The under-recoveries - the gap between input costs and realised retail prices - rose sharply in March/April before tapering a bit. Daily under-recoveries during April were es-

timated at about Rs 18 per litre on petrol and Rs 25 per litre on diesel, translating into average losses of Rs 700-1,000 crore a day for OMCs, they said.

At a news briefing on developments in West Asia, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said prices in the international markets, on which India relies to meet 88 per cent of its oil needs, have been volatile and supplies impacted.

Crude oil prices which were around USD 70 per barrel two months ago, are now at USD 120, she said. "It has been government's endeavour to keep prices stable so far and that there is no price increase for consumers," she said. "This has hit finances of OMCs... monthly under-recoveries are of the order of Rs 30,000 crore."

Train, Skill Students For Future-Ready Jobs: Dy CM

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Saturday stressed the need for skilling and training the students for future-ready jobs to ensure better livelihood opportunities and sustainable growth for the youth.

He made these remarks during his visit to various Government Polytechnic Colleges and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in Srinagar conducted to take first-hand appraisal of academic activities, infrastructure resources and facilities being provided to the students enrolled under different skill development programmes.

During the visit, the

Deputy Chief Minister inspected the Government Polytechnic College, Gogji Bagh; Government Polytechnic College for Women, Bemina and ITI Bemina. He reviewed the functioning of the institutions, ongoing training programmes, laboratory facilities and infrastructural requirements.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the concerned authorities to equip the laboratories and workshops with modern gadgets and machinery to ensure seamless practical training for the students. He underlined the need for introducing market-oriented courses and aligning skill development programmes with the present and future industry demands.

Underscoring the importance of industry exposure,

he called for establishing linkages between the educational institutions and reputed industries to facilitate training, internships and placement opportunities for the students. "The need is to provide market access and suitable platforms to our talented students for showcasing products and skilled work they produce," asserted the Deputy CM.

During interaction with the students, the Deputy Chief Minister urged them to avail benefits available under Mission YUVA and become self-reliant entrepreneurs.

"Under Mission YUVA, youth can avail loans up to Rs 10 lakh without mortgage or guarantor requirements. Work hard, utilize these opportunities and become successful entrepreneurs," he said.

CBI Raids 17 Mumbai Locations In Reliance ADA Probe

Press Trust of India

New Delhi- The CBI on Saturday conducted searches at 17 premises in Mumbai in connection with three cases registered against Reliance ADA Group companies Reliance Telecom Limited, Reliance Commercial Finance Limited and Reliance Home Finance Limited and their directors, officials said.

"These searches are being conducted at the residential premises of directors of the above-mentioned companies as well as at the office premises of intermediary companies whose accounts were used for diversion of bank funds," a spokesperson for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said in a statement.

No immediate reaction was available from the companies.

The CBI got a search warrant issued from a special court in Mumbai on Friday.

The searches have led to the seizure of incriminating documents, the officials said.

The total quantum of the alleged loss suffered

by banks and the Life Insurance Company (LIC) of India in these cases is Rs 27,337 crore, they added.

"Searches have also revealed that multiple intermediary companies were operating from same address. The investigation is continuing," the statement said.

The federal agency has lodged seven cases against the Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group based on complaints from various public sector banks and the LIC in connection with alleged frauds involving thousands of crores of rupees.

The CBI had conducted searches at 14 locations in the last few months, immediately after the registration of these cases.

The agency has arrested two senior executives of RCom - joint president D Vishwanath,

who was the overall in-charge of the group's banking operations, and vice-president Anil Kalya, who had actively supported Vishwanath in managing the banking operations and payments and utilisation of funds - on April 24.

RBI Officers Seek Governor's Intervention To Correct Promotion Policy



Press Trust Of India

Mumbai- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officers' union has written a letter to RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, seeking his intervention to correct the promotion policy and restore a time-bound system.

RBI officers across various regional offices and the central bank's headquarters in Mumbai staged protests on Friday (May 8, 2026) against recent policy changes that link promotions to vacancy availability, replacing the earlier time-bound promotion system.

Reserve Bank of India Officers' Association (RBOA), in a letter dated May 8, expressed disappointment and anguish over the decision of the central bank to proceed with the revised promotion policy without adequately considering the serious concerns, objec-

tions, and constructive suggestions repeatedly placed by the association on behalf of the officer community.

The revised policy, in its present form, has caused widespread dissatisfaction, frustration and demoralisation among officers across cadres and grades, it added.

Citing past interactions with officers at various regional offices, it said that you [Governor] had indicated the possibility of a few time-bound promotions.

However, the final policy has not only failed to address the structural stagnation prevailing across grades but has also disregarded the core concerns repeatedly highlighted by the association, it pointed out.

According to an estimate, about 8,000 officers working at the RBI are going to be impacted by the change in the promotion policy.

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Out-sourcing of Two No Double Bed Room Huts at Drung on "As Is Where Is Whatever Basis" through GeM Portal for a period of 05 years
Reference: GDA/F-159/2025/1841 Dated: 14/08/2025

In pursuance of the decision taken by the Outsourcing Committee of Gulmarg Development Authority, for and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, bids are hereby invited from reliable, resourceful, and experienced persons/firms through the GeM Portal for **Outsourcing Two No Double Bed Room Huts at Drung**, on an "As Is, Where Is, Whatever Is Basis" for a period of **five (05) years**, subject to satisfactory performance and adherence to the terms and conditions prescribed herein.

AUCTION SCHEDULE

SN	Particulars	Date/Amount
1.	PQ(Pre-Qualification) Submission Start Date	11-05-2026 10:00 AM
2.	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission End Date	20-05-2026 04:00 PM
3.	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Assessment Date	22-05-2026 05:00 PM
4.	EMD Start Date	23-05-2026 10:00 AM
5.	EMD End Date	01-06-2026 04:00 PM
6.	EMD (Bid Security) Amount (To be pledged to Accounts Officer Gulmarg Development Authority)	₹ 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only)
7.	Bid Submission/ Auction Start Date	2-06-2026 10:00 AM
8.	Bid Submission/ Auction End Date	3-06-2026 01:00 PM
9.	Minimum Opening Bid Amount (Per annum with 10% escalation for each successive year)	₹ 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Only)

PRE-QUALIFICATION(PQ) CRITERIA (TO BE UPLOADED ON GEM-PORTAL)

- GST Registration Certificate
- PAN/ Adhaar Card
- Valid Character Certificate duly certified by concerned Police Station/ Tehsildar/ ADC Concerned
- Certificate of Registration for Hotel or Restaurant if any duly issued by the Tourism Department/any Govt. Agency competent to issue one and/or Relevant qualification (Degree/Diploma/Certificate Course) in the Hospitality sector and/or having experience in the Hospitality sector with documentary Proof be uploaded.

SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- The minimum reserve bid for the asset is fixed at **₹5,00,000 (Rupees Five Lakh only)** per annum, for a contract period of **five (05) years**, subject to satisfactory performance by the bidder and on-time payment of dues. A **compound escalation of 10%** shall apply for each successive year. The bid amount shall be deposited annually in advance before the commencement of each allotment year.
- The asset is auctioned on **"As is Where is Whatever is"** basis. All prospective bidders must physically inspect the asset before participating in the e-bidding process. No claims regarding major deficiencies, rectifications, or alterations in the asset shall be entertained thereafter.
- No structural alteration, addition, or expansion** to the footprint and bulk of the structure beyond the existing plinth area and height of the structure shall be permitted under any circumstances.
- Any repairs or renovation** shall be carried out only after obtaining prior written approval of the competent authority and technical vetting by the R&B Department. Unauthorized modification shall invite termination of the contract without notice.
- All repairs, including electrification and sanitation**, shall be carried out by the bidder at their own cost after obtaining departmental approval.
- The bidder shall independently arrange any additional furniture, electrical backup, and standard crockery/cutlery for service operations.
- The bidder shall ensure that the shop front, counters, furniture, and display boards are kept clean, orderly, and visually appealing. Use of plastic flexes, loud music, or cluttered displays is prohibited.
- The bidder shall not encroach upon or obstruct pedestrian movement, ski paths, or access to the ski lift under any circumstances. Seating, queue lines, and temporary counters must remain within the demarcated area allotted by GDA.
- The bidder shall use only **eco-friendly and biodegradable** cups, plates, spoons, and packaging materials. Use of single-use plastics, polythene, or thermocol shall be prohibited.
- The bidder shall maintain and operate the asset in a professional, hygienic and aesthetically pleasing manner. Any structural facelift, cladding, or modifications shall be carried out only by the advice and design of a recognized architect and upon obtaining written permission from this authority.
- Failure to maintain the premises in sanitary, operational, or secure condition as required under the contract shall attract a penalty of **₹5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only)** per day without prejudice to the Authority's right to terminate the contract.
- The bidder shall make independent arrangements for staffing, stationery, and all other operational needs. Only professionally qualified and trained personnel shall be employed by the bidder for service delivery.
- The bidder shall provide uniforms and ID/name plates to the staff. The bidder shall be vicariously liable for any misconduct or unlawful acts by his/her staff.
- The bidder shall ensure courteous and satisfactory service. Any complaints of misbehavior or substandard service shall attract penal action including cancellation of the allotment and termination of agreement.
- All equipment must be eco-friendly and shall be installed only after prior approval.
- The bidder shall make adequate arrangements for the safe disposal of solid and liquid waste and shall ensure compliance with all pollution control/environmental protection norms.
- The bidder shall be solely responsible for the security and maintenance of the property, lawns, and landscape, if any. No departmental staff shall be posted for the same.
- The premises shall be subject to inspection by authorized officials of GDA. In case of unsatisfactory performance, the contract may be cancelled summarily.
- The bidder shall coordinate with Tourism Department staff, if any, stationed at the site for smooth operation.
- Sub-letting** of the premises is strictly prohibited. In case of premature vacation, a three-month prior notice and payment of full lease amount for the remaining year is mandatory.
- Daily cleaning, sweeping, and general upkeep shall be maintained by the bidder. Any failure may result in enforcement of remedial action at the bidder's risk and cost.
- The bidder shall **prominently display approved rates** for all services within the premises particularly at the entrance.
- The bidder shall maintain proper record of all collections made from users, including issuance of **printed or digital receipts** for each transaction for tax purposes. The bidder shall also provide a facility for online and **cashless payments**, including UPI, QR code, etc approved by the Government, to ensure convenience for users.
- Guest registration, maintenance of visitor records including identity verification as per legal requirements, and compliance with applicable laws such as Registration of Tourists Act, Police Verification Rules, and taxation obligations shall be mandatory. Digital registration and submission of accommodation data to the designated authority shall also be ensured.
- The bidder shall be solely responsible for the safety, upkeep, and maintenance of the asset throughout the contract period. The bidder shall ensure adequate safety measures, including availability of first aid and fire-fighting equipment.
- Any proven case of negligence or poor performance shall lead to immediate termination of contract without notice.
- Provision and upkeep of heating systems appropriate for winter conditions shall be ensured. The use of open fires, high-emission fuel, or any heating equipment that may pose a safety hazard or cause environmental degradation shall be disallowed without specific written permission.
- A **gestation period of 45 days** or as deemed fit by the Authority or actual commencement of operations (whichever is earlier) shall be allowed.
- Upon expiry of the lease, GDA shall retake possession of the premises without any further notice. In case of overstay beyond the contract period, charges shall be levied at **₹10,000 per day** for the first 10 days and **₹20,000 per day** for the next 10 days. Thereafter, legal proceedings for eviction shall be initiated.
- The bidder shall **insure the property** in the name of the Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority, through a Nationalized Insurance Company. The premium shall be borne by the bidder, and the insurance certificate must be submitted within two weeks from the day of allotment.
- The bidder shall operate the double-bedroom hut strictly for the purpose of visitor accommodation and related hospitality services. Any conversion of the premises into a restaurant, bar, or retail outlet beyond the approved scope shall be strictly prohibited.
- Room interiors, furnishings, bedding, and sanitary facilities shall be maintained to tourism-grade standards. Minimum hospitality standards (such as linen change, cleanliness turnaround time, water supply, heating, and lighting) shall be adhered to at all times, subject to inspection by GDA or Tourism Department officials.

- No permanent branding, hoardings, or exterior signage, except the approved nomenclature plate with the GDA logo, shall be affixed. Ensuring harmony with the natural aesthetics and alpine character of Gulmarg shall be paramount.
- The bidder shall obtain and renew licenses/permissions from competent authorities, wherever applicable.
- Any damage to the structure, furniture, utilities, or landscape shall be restored by the bidder at their cost prior to handing back possession. Restoration charges, if not complied with voluntarily, may be recovered from the security deposit or by legal recourse.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- Only eligible bidders who uploaded all relevant documents and submitted an EMD in the form of a CDR for the amount mentioned above and pledged to the Accounts Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority, shall be permitted to participate.
- The participant in the e-bid must apply in their individual name or in the name of a registered firm as reflected in the uploaded PAN and GST certificates to be uploaded on GeM Portal.
- No serving employee of any Government Department or Public Sector Undertaking shall be eligible to participate in the bidding process.
- The successful bidder shall deposit the Successful Bid Amount i.e., **full amount upfront within seven (07) calendar days** of the issuance of Letter of Intent, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited. In case of the due date of payment is a Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday, the due date for payment will be considered as the next working day.
- The successful bidder shall **execute a formal agreement** with the department within seven (07) days from the date of issuance of the Letter of Allotment, on a Non-Judicial Stamp Paper, along with an undertaking to comply with all terms and conditions. All expenses related to the preparation and execution of the agreement shall be borne by the bidder.
- The bidder has to pay GST @ 18% of the offered bid.** All other applicable taxes including, Income Tax, Labour Cess, and any other taxes as may be levied under the law shall be paid by the bidder on his own under an intimation to this office. The bid amount is exclusive of these statutory dues.
- Electricity, water charges and other **ancillary charges shall be borne by the bidder** as per actual consumption and prevailing tariffs.
- Bids deemed anomalously high**, aimed at disrupting the auction process, may be rejected and such bidders may be blacklisted.
- Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, GDA reserves the right to summarily disqualify/reject any or all bids at any stage of the Auction or after the Auction is completed on grounds of non-compliance with eligibility conditions, misrepresentation, non-compliance with the relevant Auction Rules, non-compliance with any other pre-condition prescribed for participating in the Auction or any matter that may, in the opinion of the Authority, be contrary to general public interest without assigning any reason to the bidders.
- GDA reserves the right to **halt the e-bidding process at any stage** if any irresponsible bidding or attempts to disrupt the auction process were observed. Such intimation shall be issued through the "Marquee Message" on the GeM portal.
- The Bidders and their respective employees, agents and advisers shall observe the **highest standard of ethics** during the tender process and subsequent to the issue of the allotment and during the subsistence of the Agreement. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, or allotment order or the Agreement, the Authority may reject a Bid, withdraw the allotment order, or terminate the Agreement, as the case may be, without being liable in any manner whatsoever to the Bidder, Qualified Bidder, or the Successful Bidder, as the case may be, if the Authority determines that the Bidder has, directly or indirectly or through an agent, engaged in Corrupt, Fraudulent, Coercive, Undesirable or Restrictive Practice in the tender process. In such an event, the Authority shall be entitled to forfeit and appropriate the EMD or deposited amount as damages, without prejudice to any other right or remedy that may be available to the Authority.
- Bidders with **outstanding dues or history of defaulting on payments** shall not be eligible to participate in the auction.
- If the bidder abandons the contract midway, or if the agreement is cancelled due to non-compliance or non-payment, the EMD/CDR shall be forfeited.
- Any damage to Government property** shall be recoverable at double the cost assessed by the R&B Engineering Wing. Violations will lead to contract cancellation.
- The department reserves the right to **use the premises for official purposes/events**, without payment of rent to the bidder.
- The bidder shall comply with all departmental and statutory directions issued from time to time concerning law and order, sanitation, environment, and public interest.
- Conditional offers or proposals in deviation from tender terms shall be summarily rejected.
- Any dispute arising between the parties shall be referred for **arbitration** to the Director, Tourism Kashmir (Chairman Outsourcing Committee GDA), who shall act as sole arbitrator. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding.
- The Gulmarg Development Authority reserves the right to **terminate the contract** at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason, by giving 30 days' written notice to the Allottee. In such a case, no claim for compensation or damages shall be entertained.
- No extension shall be granted under any circumstances**, including natural calamities or any Force Majeure events. The asset shall be re-auctioned upon contract completion.
- The Gulmarg Development Authority shall not be responsible or held liable for any kind of loss to the revenue sustained by the bidder due to **Force Majeure** events, including by reason of war, or hostility, acts of the public enemy, civic commotion, sabotage, Act of State or direction from Statutory Authority, explosion, pandemic or epidemic, quarantine restriction, strikes and lockouts, fire, floods, natural calamities or any act of GOD etc, that are beyond the control of GDA.
- Though adequate care has been taken in the preparation of this notice, the Bidders should satisfy themselves that the auction notice is complete in all respects and intimation of discrepancy, observed if any, should be given to the office three days prior to the PQ Submission end date otherwise it shall be presumed that the bidders are satisfied that this notice is complete in all respects.
- The issuance of this notice does not imply that the Authority is bound to select or shortlist a Bidder as the Preferred Bidder or to appoint the Preferred Bidder as Successful Bidder thereof.
- GDA reserves the right to verify all statements, information and documents submitted by the Bidder in response to this notice and the Bidder shall, when so required, make available all such information, evidence and documents as may be necessary for such verification. GDA may, in its sole discretion, share/ disclose all statements, information and documents submitted by the Bidder in response to this notice to any governmental authority for their verification. Any such verification or lack of such verification by the Nominated Authority shall not relieve the Bidder of its obligations or liabilities hereunder nor will it affect any rights of the Nominated Authority thereunder.
- Gulmarg Development Authority or its employees make no representation or warranty and shall have no liability to any person, including any Bidder under any law, statute, rules or regulations or tort, principles of restitution or unjust enrichment or otherwise for any loss, damages, cost or expense which may arise from or be incurred or suffered on account of anything contained in this notice or otherwise, including on account of the accuracy, adequacy, correctness, completeness or reliability of this notice and any assessment, assumption, statement or information contained therein or deemed to form part of this notice or arising in any way from participation in this auction process.
- Following issue of this Notice, GDA has the discretion to publish further information and to amend the Notice from time to time either on its own or in response to any clarification requested. All such amendments will constitute a part of the Notice and shall be binding for compliance on the bidders.

No: GDA/F-37/2025-26/525-28

Dated: 09/05/2026

DIPK-NB-435/26
dated:09-05-2026

Tariq Hussain (JKAS)
Chief Executive Officer
Gulmarg Dev. Authority

2025 Leh Violence

Judicial Inquiry Nears completion, 93 Witnesses Examined

Press Trust Of India

Leh: Joint Secretary of the Judicial Inquiry Commission probing the Leh violence in September, Rigzin Spalgon, on Friday said 93 witnesses have been examined until the third session of the inquiry.

He expressed hope that the ongoing session would likely be the final phase of the probe.

The three-member commission, headed by former Supreme Court judge B S Chauhan, was appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs on October 17 last year to look into the circumstances that led to a law and order crisis in Leh on September 24, 2025.

It was also tasked to review actions taken by police during the situation, and assess the events resulting in the loss of four lives, including that of a 1999 Kargil war veteran, in police firing.

While four individuals were killed and 80 others were injured

in police firing, the protesters had set the BJP office on fire, and burnt private and public cars.

Retired district and sessions judge Mohan Singh Parihar serves as judicial secretary and Advocate Himanshu Sharma acts as counsel to the commission.

The commission was formed after the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance -- which had been jointly spearheading the agitation demanding Sixth Schedule status and statehood to Ladakh -- rejected the magisterial inquiry ordered by the L-G administration into the September 24 violence and urged the Centre to order a judicial inquiry into the violence.

The Judicial Inquiry Commission has extended the deadline for recording statements and submitting evidence several times, following a formal request from the Leh Apex Body,

KPs Protest; Seek Rehabilitation Policy, Fresh Job Package

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Displaced Kashmiri Pandits on Saturday staged a protest demonstration in Jammu, demanding the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive rehabilitation policy for the community in Kashmir Valley and the announcement of a fresh employment package for 15,000 educated displaced youth under the prime minister's special package.

Carrying placards and raising slogans in support of their demands, including return and rehabilitation, employment opportunities and proper political representation, the protesters assembled outside the Press Club here under the banner of Youth All India Kashmiri Samaj (YAIKS).

The protest was led by YAIKS president R K Bhat, who said the community had once again taken to the streets to press for its long-pending demands.

Bhat appealed to the Narendra Modi-led government to facilitate the return of Kashmiri Pandits to their "motherland" after nearly 37 years of displacement.

"We believe Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's vision must ensure justice and rightful rehabilitation for Kashmiri Pandits. We appeal to the prime minister to formulate a comprehensive return and rehabilitation package in the Valley for the entire community," he told reporters here.

He said the community had faith in the prime minister, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and the Union Territory administration.

"The Kashmiri Pandit community has hit the streets from today. This is the same organisation that, in 2010, motivated Kashmiri Pandit youth to return to the Kashmir Valley. Even today, that movement continues in another form," Bhat said.

He urged the government to place a concrete rehabilitation proposal before the community, saying it should include employment opportunities for youth, provisions for overage aspirants and relief holders, besides restoration of rights and livelihoods lost during displacement.

Calling for a dignified and collective return of displaced families, he said strong resolutions should be passed reflecting

the intention to rehabilitate Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley.

Bhat said around 15,000 Kashmiri Pandit youth were ready to return to the Valley if proper compensation, infrastructure and employment support were ensured.

He also demanded the implementation of court rulings delivered in favour of displaced Pandits in different cases and sought employment for affected families willing to return.

"This peaceful protest is meant to convey our concerns. In the coming days, it can become a major movement, though it will remain peaceful. Every displaced person must be rehabilitated in Kashmir," he said.

Referring to the prime minister's employment package, Bhat said only around 6,000 Kashmiri Pandits had so far been rehabilitated in the Valley and questioned the government over the future of the remaining displaced population.

"If the government can provide jobs to five or six thousand people, why can't it discuss the complete rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits?" he asked. The organisation also thanked

the Centre and the Delimitation Commission for reserving two assembly seats for displaced Kashmiris and advocated a mechanism for conducting elections for these seats under government supervision to ensure democratic representation within the community.

He also appreciated the Centre's decision to provide representation to Kashmiri Pandits in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly through nominated members, but demanded the creation of a proper mechanism to ensure effective implementation of such measures.

Bhat criticised the government over NFSA and said the displaced community considered itself a single entity and opposed any attempt to create separate classifications among Kashmiri Pandits. "We are a displaced community, though the government termed us migrants. Until Kashmiri Pandits return to their homeland with dignity, no one has the right to redefine our status," he said.

In a memorandum, the YAIKS urged the Government of India to comprehensively review and redesign the prime minister's return, relief and rehabilitation

package for Kashmiri Pandits.

The organisation demanded 15,000 additional government jobs under the prime minister's package for unemployed, displaced youth, including Left-Over Candidates (LOC), and sought compensation for overaged youth and displaced traders for decades-long loss of livelihood.

The YAIKS also demanded enhancement of relief assistance for relief holders from the existing Rs 108 per day per person to Rs 500 per day, stating that the current amount was inadequate to meet present-day survival needs.

Among other demands, the organisation called for the constitution of an Apex Committee for Kashmiri Pandits under the chairmanship of the Union Home Minister to deliberate on a comprehensive return and rehabilitation policy, besides seeking a parliamentary or assembly resolution on the issue.

The group also advocated community-level internal elections under government supervision to prevent manipulation by vested interests.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Is J&K Heading

the crisis extends beyond drinking water and could significantly impact rivers, streams and electricity generation.

"Our streams and rivers are running well below their normal levels, which directly translates to a massive hit on electricity generation," he said.

The forecaster warned that the current dry spell is compounding a longer pattern of climatic stress in the region.

"The real danger lies in the fact that this isn't an isolated bad year. We are coming off seven consecutive winters of below-normal precipitation. We have been spending our water savings without replenishing the bank," he said.

Calling for urgent intervention, Faizan said authorities must begin preparing immediately rather than waiting for shortages to intensify.

"The government needs to wake up to this reality and start preparing now. We cannot wait for the crisis to reach our doorsteps to start planning," he added.

The district-wise rainfall data for April paints a grim picture, particularly for Kashmir Valley and parts of south Kashmir.

Shopian recorded the steepest rainfall deficit at 67 percent, receiving only 33.9 mm rainfall against the normal 102.1 mm. Kathua followed with a 60 percent shortfall, while Anantnag recorded 46 percent below-normal precipitation.

Kulgam and Pulwama registered deficits of 39 percent and 38 percent respectively, while Srinagar witnessed a 32 percent shortfall after receiving 63.8 mm rainfall against the normal 93.9 mm.

Budgam recorded a 34 percent deficit, Kishtwar 26 percent, Ganderbal 23 percent, while Bandipora and Baramulla both recorded a 13 percent shortfall.

"When south Kashmir districts continue recording such massive deficits, it becomes clear that the water levels in streams and even the Jhelum are going to fall sharply this year," Faizan warned.

However, a few districts in Jammu division and north Kashmir recorded surplus rainfall during April.

Samba registered the highest surplus at 96 percent, followed by Rajouri (+46%), Reasi (+40%), Jammu and Udhampur (+15% each), Poonch (+14%), Kupwara (+4%), Ramban (+2%) and Doda (+1%).

The uneven rainfall distribution has once again highlighted growing concerns around climate variability in the Himalayan region, with experts warning that erratic weather patterns and prolonged dry spells are becoming increasingly frequent across Jammu and Kashmir.

Srinagar Logs

temperatures significantly above seasonal averages amid prevailing dry weather conditions.

According to data, Sopore emerged among the hottest places in Kashmir at 32.1°C, while Qazigund recorded 31.0°C, Kupwara 29.5°C, Kokernag 28.6°C and Pahalgam 25.2°C.

Tourist destination Gulmarg recorded 23.0°C, while Beerwah in Budgam registered 28.7°C and Aalosa in Bandipora recorded 30.3°C.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded 35.1°C, while Katra settled at 32.0°C. Banihal recorded 30.0°C, Bhaderwah 28.8°C and Batote 24.6°C.

Officials from the Meteorological Department said the weather is expected to remain generally dry till Saturday evening, with chances of brief showers at a few places during evening and night hours.

However, the MeT department has forecast a change in weather conditions from May 11 to May 13.

During the period, Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness generally cloudy weather with one or two spells of light to moderate rain and thundershower at many places.

The department has also predicted hail-storm activity, thunder, lightning and gusty winds with speeds of 40 to 50 kilometres per hour at a few places during the forecast period.

Officials said day temperatures are expected to fall by 3 to 5 degrees Celsius at many places between May 11 and May 13 due to the anticipated wet spell.

In view of the expected weather change,

farmers have been advised to continue farm operations till May 10.

Drug Addiction

and theatre stages, every corner of Jammu and Kashmir must raise its voice against drugs with firm resolve," he said.

Linking narcotics to militancy, the LG alleged that Pakistan was smuggling drugs into Jammu and Kashmir "by design" and said proceeds from the trade were being used to finance terrorism.

"Drug addiction and terrorism are not separate challenges but two faces of the same problem. While drugs are destroying the future of our youth, terror outfits are using that money to buy weapons and spread violence," he said.

Sinha said authorities had intensified the crackdown against drug networks in Anantnag district, claiming that 108 NDPS cases had been registered there since April 11.

"A decisive blow is being dealt to the drug smugglers' network in Anantnag. Narcotics properties worth Rs 3.5 crore built from drug money have been reduced to dust. Twenty-two vehicles have been seized, eight driving licences and vehicle registrations cancelled, while 13 drug stores have been sealed for violating the law," he said.

The LG asserted that "not a single smuggler will be left untouched" and said the entire machinery involved in drug trafficking would be uprooted.

He directed the police and civil administration to cover every panchayat in Anantnag over the next 71 days and focus particularly on vulnerable areas as part of the anti-drug campaign.

Highlighting the role of society, Sinha said women and youth were the biggest strength in the fight against drug abuse and urged families, youth clubs and local communities to help rehabilitate addicts and prevent young people from falling prey to narcotics.

He also appealed to sportspersons, teachers and religious leaders to dedicate the coming weeks to awareness and rehabilitation efforts under the "Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan."

On the occasion, the LG laid the foundation stone for sports infrastructure projects worth Rs 20.60 crore in Anantnag district, including facilities at Jablipora, Chaki-Kamal Monghal, Nilandrusu and Harmohalla Ranbirpora.

"These sports facilities will channel the energy of youth in the right direction and strengthen discipline and sportsmanship," he said.

Sinha also felicitated youth icons and distributed sports kits among young participants.

As part of the programme, local artists staged traditional Baand Pather, Nukad Natak and mime performances to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage youth participation in building a drug-free society.

Over 1 Cr Join Anti-Drug

and Kashmir under the campaign, involving participation from educational institutions, community groups, law enforcement agencies and government departments.

The awareness drive included padyatras, school and college programmes, village-level campaigns, youth engagement activities, seminars, rallies, sports events and cultural programmes aimed at sensitising people about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

Officials said the campaign adopted a "whole-of-government" approach involving departments of health, social welfare, police, education, information and other agencies to tackle drug addiction, rehabilitation and narcotics trafficking simultaneously.

As part of the enforcement drive, Jammu and Kashmir Police registered 614 FIRs under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and arrested 646 persons during the campaign period. Authorities said 435 drug peddlers were apprehended and 160 drug hotspots identified across the Union Territory.

The police and enforcement agencies also seized narcotic substances including 3.8 kg heroin, 32.92 kg charas and 222.31 kg ganja.

Illegal poppy cultivation spread over 21 marlas of land was also destroyed during the operation.

Officials said stringent measures were taken

against properties linked to drug trafficking networks.

Thirty-seven houses associated with drug peddlers were sealed or demolished, while immovable properties worth around Rs 25.97 crore were seized or attached.

Additional properties worth Rs 3.70 crore were demolished and movable assets worth Rs 1.67 crore seized.

The administration also acted against alleged misuse of transport and pharmaceutical channels linked to narcotics activities. During the campaign, 252 driving licences and 111 vehicle registrations were cancelled. Authorities also suspended 104 drug store licences and cancelled two others.

The health department said its Addiction Treatment Facilities treated 44,602 patients during the campaign, including 44,263 OPD cases and 339 indoor admissions. A total of 148 patients were cured and discharged after treatment.

Social Welfare Department-run rehabilitation centres received 441 patients and conducted counselling sessions for 742 individuals, while police-run counselling and rehabilitation centres registered 451 patients and counselled 786 persons. Officials said 138 individuals had successfully recovered through the police-supported rehabilitation programme.

Authorities said surveillance and preventive measures were also intensified, with inspections conducted at 3,067 chemist shops and 977 schools and hospitals.

Around 2,815 CCTV cameras were installed at vulnerable locations to strengthen monitoring and enforcement efforts.

The administration reiterated its commitment to making Jammu and Kashmir drug-free through sustained enforcement, public participation and rehabilitation support.(KNO)

Centre Fully

four codes are now notified in the official gazette of the government, and with this, the process of full implementation of the labour codes is complete.

He explained that though the labour codes became law of the land on November 21, 2025, certain explanations were not provided due to the absence of rules.

The draft rules were published on December 30, 2025, to seek feedback from stakeholders and were notified after legal vetting.

The publishing of rules under the four codes was necessary to make the new laws fully operational.

The codification of 29 existing labour laws into the four labour codes was undertaken to address long-standing challenges and make the system more efficient and contemporary.

The codification aims to enhance ease of doing business, promote employment generation, ensure safety, health, and social & wage security for every worker.

Since labour is a concurrent subject, the appropriate governments, the Centre and states, are required to notify the rules under the four codes to enforce them fully across the country.

The enforcement of the codes will mark the next transformative step -- broadening worker protection, easing business operations and promoting a pro-worker labour ecosystem.

The provisions of the labour codes include a mandatory appointment letter, free health check-ups for workers aged 40 years and above, and equal work, pay and opportunity for women working in different shifts.

The new legal framework also mandates the establishment of a National Reskilling Fund, which will be utilised for reskilling workers who lose their jobs.

The rules also capped the weekly working hours at 48 hours.

"The number of hours of work which shall constitute a normal working day for an employee whose wage period is other than on a daily basis shall be so fixed that the total number of weekly working hours shall not exceed forty-eight hours," according to the rules.

The rules also provide for at least one weekend off or rest day to workers and payment of overtime for working beyond working hours.

Budgam Stray Dog

widely circulated on social media platforms, shows a stray dog attacking a man while passersby attempt to rescue him.

In the footage, the dog is allegedly seen biting the man on the left side of his abdomen as people nearby try to separate the animal from the victim.

According to eyewitnesses and local residents, some persons present at the scene allegedly struck the dog during the intervention, resulting in the animal's death.

The incident sparked strong reactions from animal rights activists, who termed the killing an act of cruelty and sought legal action against those involved.

Following the complaint, police initiated legal proceedings and registered the FIR at Magam police station.

However, the registration of the case also triggered strong reactions from sections of the public, particularly on social media, where many users defended the actions of the men seen in the video.

Several users argued that the intervention appeared aimed at saving the victim from a violent dog attack and questioned whether those attempting to rescue a person should face criminal proceedings.

The injured man, while speaking to reporters after the incident, reportedly displayed visible bite marks on his body and questioned the filing of the FIR against those who came to his rescue.

He said the passersby intervened only to save him from the attacking dog.

Many social media users reacting to the viral video also referred to previous incidents in which stray dogs allegedly mauled children and injured residents in different districts of Kashmir.

Some users further questioned the response of animal rights activists, alleging that such groups often remain silent when people are attacked or killed in stray dog incidents.

Animal rights activists, however, maintained that cruelty against animals cannot be justified and called for lawful and humane mechanisms to address the growing stray dog issue.

Grief Engulfs

now grow up without knowing him. He leaves behind his wife, three sisters and a family that depended almost entirely on his earnings.

"They went there only to work and support their families. None of them knew they were walking towards death," a relative said quietly, his voice breaking with grief.

As news of the incident spread through Hajin, panic gripped the area. Residents rushed towards the riverbanks while rescue teams and local volunteers launched frantic efforts to retrieve the bodies.

By evening, grief had consumed the town.

The most painful scenes unfolded when Aadil's body was brought home. His sisters broke down inconsolably, crying out his name as mourners struggled to hold them back.

"He was our only brother... now who will look after us?" one of them screamed before collapsing near the coffin. "I will shoulder his coffin myself."

Inside the small family courtyard, women wept uncontrollably while neighbours stood in silence, unable to offer words strong enough to comfort the grieving family.

Relatives said Aadil had already endured years of hardship. After losing his mother long ago, he had taken responsibility for the household at a young age and worked tirelessly to support his sisters and family.

"He carried the burden of the whole family on his shoulders," a relative said. "Everything in that house depended on him."

Another victim had recently gotten engaged and was preparing for his wedding, making the tragedy even more devastating for the family and community.

On Friday morning, thousands of people attended the funeral prayers for the trio. As the coffins were carried through the streets of Hajin towards the graveyard, emotional scenes unfolded across the town.

Men struggled to hold back tears while women watched helplessly from windows and doorsteps as three young lives were laid to rest side by side.

Residents described the incident as one of the darkest tragedies Hajin has witnessed in recent years.

"The river did not take away just three boys,"

an elderly mourner said softly. "It destroyed dreams, families and futures." (inputs from

KNS)

Lt Gen NS Raja

Lt Gen Subramani will also function as Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs under the Defence Ministry.

Widely regarded as an expert on Pakistan and China, Lt Gen Subramani is currently serving as military adviser to the National Security Council Secretariat after retiring as Vice Chief of Army Staff in July last year.

Officials said one of his primary responsibilities as CDS will be to push forward the military theatreisation plan aimed at creating integrated theatre commands and enhancing synergy among the Army, Navy and Air Force.

The theatreisation model has been one of the key defence reforms initiated after the creation of the CDS post in 2019.

Lt Gen Subramani has had a military career spanning more than four decades, serving across varied operational terrains and conflict zones.

Commissioned into the 8th Battalion of the Garhwal Rifles in December 1985, he has held several key command, staff and instructional appointments during his career.

He served as Vice Chief of Army Staff from July 2024 to July 2025 and earlier headed the Army's Central Command.

The officer has also commanded the 16 Garhwal Rifles during counter-insurgency operations in Assam under Operation Rhino, an infantry brigade in Jammu and Kashmir and the 17 Mountain Division in the central sector.

He later went on to command two Corps formations, including one of the Army's premier strike corps along the western front.

The Defence Ministry said the officer possesses "deep understanding of operational dynamics" along both India's western and northern borders.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy and Indian Military Academy, Lt Gen Subramani has also studied at the Joint Services Command and Staff College in the United Kingdom and the National Defence College in New Delhi.

He holds a Master's degree from King's College London and an MPhil in Defence Studies from Madras University.

Meanwhile, Vice Admiral Swaminathan is expected to continue the Navy's ongoing modernisation and force expansion plans after taking charge.

Commissioned into the Indian Navy in July 1987, the Flag Officer specialises in communication and electronic warfare and has held several major operational and administrative assignments during his naval career.

He has commanded missile vessels INS Vidyut and INS Vinash, missile corvette INS Kulish, guided missile destroyer INS Mysore and aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

After being promoted to Vice Admiral rank, he served as Chief of Staff of the Western Naval Command, Controller of Personnel Services and Chief of Personnel at Naval Headquarters before becoming Vice Chief of the Naval Staff.

A recipient of the Param Vishist Seva Medal, Ati Vishist Seva Medal and Vishist Seva Medal, Vice Admiral Swaminathan holds multiple academic degrees, including qualifications in telecommunications, defence studies, strategic studies and international studies from institutions in India, the United Kingdom and the United States.

2 Juveniles Among

as Akshay (aged 21), Sahil (21), Suraj (26) and Rahul (aged 23) - all belonging to Katra.

The juveniles involved in the case were also apprehended, but their identities were withheld in accordance with the Juvenile Justice Act.

Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi Mukund Tibrewal said that district police remain committed to maintaining peace, law and order, and ensuring the safety and security of citizens and pilgrims visiting the holy town of Katra.

Further investigation is underway, police added.

Dortmund Overtake Frankfurt, European Hopes Fade

AP
Dortmund (Germany): Eintracht Frankfurt's hopes of securing European football next season were dealt a potentially fatal blow when it gave up an early lead and lost at Borussia Dortmund 3-2 in the Bundesliga.
Young striker Can Uzun silenced the home crowd with less than two minutes gone when he put the visitor ahead after excellent work inside the box from Mahmoud Dahoud on Friday.
However, Dortmund scored twice on the eve of halftime to take control.
Serhou Guirassy's superb finish from a Julian Ryerson cross levelled the score after 42 minutes and Nico Schlottterbeck put Dortmund ahead in first-half stoppage time.
Samuele Iñacio made it 3-1 with his first goal for the club,

when he volleyed in a cross from Max Beier.
Jonathan Burkardt got one back for Frankfurt three minutes from time but it was too late.
With Bayern Munich already crowned champion and Dortmund having secured one of the four guaranteed Champions League spots, the home side had little to play for.
However, the win guaranteed it second place in the Bundesliga, taking it out of reach of Leipzig.
The result, though, was a sore one for Frankfurt, one of three teams in with a chance of seventh place and the one available Conference League playoff spot.
The loss handed the momentum to Freiburg, which can guarantee seventh with a win at Hamburg on Sunday.
Freiburg has 44 points and Eintracht has 43 having played a game more.

Young Athletes Shine In Kashmir Cross Country Run

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR— Hundreds of young students from Foundation World School, Illahi Bagh displayed enthusiasm, endurance and sporting spirit on Saturday as they participated in a cross country run organised at the scenic campus of the University of Kashmir, in an initiative aimed at promoting fitness and holistic development among children.
The event, held for students from UKG to Grade 3, brought together school officials, university dignitaries and local administrators, underscoring growing emphasis on integrating physical education with academic learning in schools across Kashmir.
Students took part energetically in the run, with organisers describing the programme as an effort to instill discipline, teamwork and healthy lifestyle habits among children from an early age. Participants were seen navigating the university grounds amid cheers from teachers and school staff.
Among the dignitaries attending the event were Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Registrar of the University of Kashmir; Prof. Pervez Ahmad; Dr. Shahid Ali Khan; and Mr. Ashiq Hussain.

The school's leadership team was also present, including Mr. Nisar Ahmad Mir, Ms. Zia Nisar, Mr. Faizan-ul-Islam, Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Koul, Mr. Junaid Kochak and Ms. Syed Asma Hamid.
Speaking at the event, Chairman Mr. Faizan-ul-Islam praised the students for their energetic participation and highlighted the importance of sports and outdoor activities in shaping well-rounded personalities.
He also commended the school's Physical Education Department for organising the event and appreciated the Ideation Team, teachers and support staff for ensuring smooth coordination and execution.
Registrar Prof. Naseer Iqbal lauded the initiative, saying such programmes help introduce children to the values of fitness, exploration and discipline beyond classroom education.
"We appreciate Foundation World School, Illahi Bagh for taking this meaningful initiative to promote physical fitness and holistic development among its students," Iqbal said, adding that the University of Kashmir remained a place of "learning, inspiration and discovery" for young learners.

Mohun Bagan Held to a 1-1 Draw by FC Goa

PTI

Margao, May 9: FC Goa and Mohun Bagan Super Giant played out a fiercely contested 1-1 draw in their Indian Super League match here on Saturday.
Jamie MacLaren (55th minute) opened the scoring for the visitors early in the second half, but substitute Ronney Willson Kharbudon (67th) struck back shortly after to rescue a crucial point for the Gaurs.
The draw ensures both heavyweights share the spoils in a fascinating tactical battle, with the Mariners dominating possession and the hosts thriving on swift counter-attacks.
FC Goa goalkeeper Bob Jackson was awarded the Player of the Match for his outstanding and confident performance between the sticks.
Mohun Bagan SG moved to second in the table with 21 points from 10 matches, while FC Goa remain in fourth with 20 points.
The dropped points mean East Bengal FC remained at the top of the table.



The match began with Mohun Bagan attacking from right to left, immediately dictating the tempo and monopolising the ball in the opening exchanges.
A wary start saw the visitors' Robson flagged offside in the third minute, before Lalengmawia Ralte fizzed an early strike just over the crossbar.
Despite seeing very little of the ball, FC Goa maintained a highly compact defensive shape to frustrate the visitors, with 21-year-old goalkeeper Jackson looking extremely confident early on.
Mohun Bagan continued to dominate possession early on, establishing themselves as favourites against a Gaurs side happy to sit deep.
Liston Colaco and Jamie MacLaren combined down the right flank in the 10th minute, but the latter's cutback found no takers inside the penalty box.
Soon after, Abdul Rabeeh decided to take the game into his own hands in the 12th minute, showcasing his individual brilliance by twisting and turning past multiple defenders in white before taking a slightly heavy final touch that allowed Vishal Kaith to collect the ball.
As the rain slowly intensified in Goa around the 28th minute, a more measured approach took over, with nothing to separate the two sides.
Robson smashed a cross-cum-shot from the right flank in the 31st minute that flew past a diving Jackson but found no takers.
The Mariners controlled the midfield but struggled to penetrate FC Goa's resolute backline, managing their first shot on target in the 35th minute through Tekcham Singh.
The Green and Maroon Brigade kept on attacking as Colaco came close again in the 37th minute, taking a touch and turning before curling a tame effort just past the far post.
FC Goa ended the half on the front foot, with Muhammed Nemil and Sangwan whipping in crosses while Udanta Singh attempted to shimmy into the box from the left flank.
However, they were unable to break through and went into half-time with the score at 0-0.
Seeking a breakthrough after failing to truly threaten the young Goan keeper, the visitors made a double substitution at half-time, bringing on Jason Cummings and Manvir Singh to inject fresh attacking impetus.
The changes immediately paid dividends, with Cummings letting one fly from a tight angle in the 50th minute, but Jackson raised his arm to make a confident stop.

At the other end, Pol Moreno unleashed a grounded effort in the 53rd minute that took a slight deflection before being stopped by Aldred right in front of goal.
Five minutes later, the Mariners finally broke the deadlock following a defensive lapse.
Experienced defender Sandesh Jhingam failed to receive the ball, allowing it to roll into the path of a lurking MacLaren.
The forward calmly slotted the ball past Jackson, who had come off his line but could not deny the attacker, giving Mohun Bagan a 1-0 lead with his ninth goal of the season.
In response, FC Goa turned to their bench in the 61st minute, introducing Daniel Lalhimpuia, Mohammad Yasir, and Ronney Willson Kharbudon in a triple substitution.
The tactical switch proved to be an absolute masterstroke for the home side.
Drazic provided a precise assist for Kharbudon on the right flank, and the substitute made an instant impact in highly fortunate circumstances.
A cross from the 23-year-old floated unexpectedly towards the goal, and a back-tracking Vishal Kaith couldn't reach the ball as it found the back of the net.
The strike gave Kharbudon his first ISL goal and levelled the score at 1-1.
The equaliser shifted the momentum, and FC Goa began to create more dangerous opportunities despite their lack of overall possession.

Pakistan 179-1 After Abbas' Five-Wicket Haul vs Bangladesh



AP
Dhaka, May 9: Pakistan clawed back into the first cricket test against Bangladesh on stellar performances by pacer Mohammad Abbas and opener Azan Awaiz.
Bangladesh began Day 2 at 301-4 and tried to extend its domination, but Abbas' sensational 5-92 dismissed the hosts for 413.
Azan, who made his international debut with this match, hit an unbeaten 85 to steer Pakistan to 179-1 at stumps on Saturday.
Fellow debutant Abdullah Fazal was on 37.
Azan and his senior opening partner Imam-ul-Haq showed resolve in negating the early threat of Bangladesh pacers and put on a century stand.
Offspinner Mehidy Hasan gave Bangladesh the only success by trapping Imam-ul-Haq leg-before for 45, ending the 106-run opening stand.
Fazal, also playing first international match, initially struggled against the pacers.
But when he broke the deadlock in 19th delivery, his first scoring shot was a boundary through a fierce cut over point region.
He then negotiated Bangladesh bowlers with ease. But Taskin Ahmed created a chance when Fazal poked a wide delivery to gully where Shadman Islam failed to hold onto the catch.
Abbas was instrumental in denying Bangladesh's control, bowling relentlessly outside the off stump to induce mistakes early in the morning session.
"When the conditions allow lateral movement, Abbas bowls very well," Imam-ul-Haq said of Abbas. "He constantly hits the right areas and asks questions from the batsmen."
"Azan has played many first-

class matches and scored thousands of runs. That experience reflected in the way he handled pressure."
Mushfiqur Rahim, who began the day at 48, nudged Shaheen Shah Afridi for a single in the third over of the morning to raise his fifty from 114 balls.
The milestone marked his 42nd fifty-plus score in tests, the most by a Bangladesh batter, surpassing Tamim Iqbal's tally of 41.
He and Litton Das appeared set to take Bangladesh in strong position before Abbas produced a beauty to dismiss the latter for 33, ending 62-run third wicket stand.
Das became the first Bangladesh batter to cross the 2,000 mark in the World Test Championship.
Abbas followed Das' wicket by sending back Mehidy Hasan Miraz (10) and Tajul Islam (17) in quick succession, leaving Mushfiqur to dig deep.
Shaheen Shah Afridi, who complemented Abbas with 3-113, ended Mushfiqur's resistance just three balls after the lunch session, dismissing him for 71.
Abbas removed Ebadot Hossain for a duck with a bouncer to complete his sixth five-wicket haul.
Taskin Ahmed hit a 19 ball-28 to take Bangladesh past 400.
"It would have been better if we had scored another 50 runs," Bangladesh assistant coach Mohammad Salahuddin said. "As a bowling group we were wayward today. In test cricket, you need to know where to bowl to create pressure."
Earlier on Day 1, skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto struck a sublime century – a 130-ball 101 – and Mominul Haque made 91 to put Bangladesh in command.
The second and final test begins on May 16 in Sylhet in eastern Bangladesh.

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