

May Snow In Highlands; Rain Lashes Valley

Houses Damaged in Bandipora; Lightning Kills 69 Livestock In Pahalgam



After days of soaring temperatures, overnight showers turned Srinagar pleasantly cool, with clouds and calm waters setting the mood across the city.

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Upper reaches of north Kashmir's Bandipora district, along with Drass and Zojila areas, received fresh snowfall on Thursday even as moderate to heavy rainfall lashed several parts of the Valley, disrupting normal life and triggering flood-like situations in some areas.

Officials said the snowfall in the remote Tulail Valley near the Line of Control followed a sharp drop in temperatures overnight, covering mountain slopes and residential areas in a fresh layer of snow. Similar weather conditions were reported from Drass and

along the Zojila axis, with locals describing the snowfall as unusual for the second half of May.

Meanwhile, heavy rains accompanied by thunderstorms affected several districts, including Srinagar, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Baramulla and Kupwara. While the rainfall brought relief from rising temperatures, it also caused waterlogging and temporary disruptions to traffic movement in many areas.

In Bandipora, heavy rainfall created a flood-like situation near Darul Uloom Rahimiya along the Srinagar-Bandipora road, where water and mud entered | [More on P6](#)

Nutrition Of Young Generation Will Shape Our Future: LG

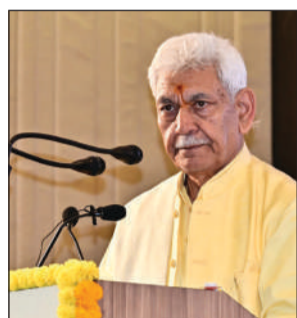
Lays foundation stone of Akshaya Patra's centralized kitchen in Katra

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said the nutrition of the younger generation will shape the future of the nation as he laid the foundation stone of Akshaya Patra's centralized mid-day meal kitchen in Katra.

Once operational, the facility will provide around 5,000 nutritious meals daily to school children.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor called for stronger collaboration between the government and social organisations to



empower the younger generation and ensure that no child is deprived of healthy food.

"We must ensure that school children receive balanced, nourishing meals. Every child deserves access

to healthy food and we need to make sure no child is left behind," he said.

Sinha said the legacy of a society rests on three questions: what are we creating, what are we preserving, and what are we handing over to future generations. He said another important question must be added to that list: "What are we feeding our children?"

"The nutrition of our young generation will shape our future," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that a hungry child cannot learn and a school that cannot | [More on P6](#)

New Katra Helipad To Enhance Pilgrim Travel, Safety: LG

Observer News Service

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday inaugurated the state-of-the-art Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Helipad at Village Hutt in Katra, saying the integrated aviation facility will enhance heli connectivity, safety and convenience for pilgrims visiting the holy shrine.

Full story on [kashmirobserver.net](#)

NHAI Plans 4-Lane Katra-Kulgam Corridor

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: National Highways Authority of India has floated a tender for the preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed four-laning of the Katra-Reasi-Mahor-Gulabgarh-Nandimarg-Kulgam corridor in Jammu and Kashmir.

The proposed corridor is aimed at strengthening road connectivity between the Jammu and Kashmir regions by linking the route with National Highway 44.

According to the tender notice, the scope of work includes consultancy services for preparation of the DPR for the highway project.

The bidding process has commenced, while June 22, 2026 has been fixed as the last date for submission of bids. Technical bids are | [More on P6](#)

Anti-Drug Drive 7 Peddlers, Terror Associate Held Across Kashmir Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday said it arrested seven drug peddlers, a terrorist aide and seized several vehicles involved in illegal mining in multiple operations carried out across Kashmir as part of the ongoing "Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan".

A Police official said that huge quantities of contraband substances, including charas powder, heroin and poppy straw, were recovered | [More on P6](#)

'Sympathy Cannot Override Life Risk' HC Rejects Minor Rape Survivor's Abortion Plea

KO Correspondent

Srinagar: Observing that sympathy alone cannot be a ground for issuance of directions by a constitutional court when such directions may potentially endanger the life of the person concerned, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Thursday declined permission for



termination of pregnancy (MTP) of a minor rape survivor at an advanced gestational stage of nearly 27 weeks, holding that the procedure posed a serious threat to her life and future reproductive health.

While expressing deep concern for the welfare of the victim, a bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal observed that constitutional courts cannot disregard the | [More on P6](#)

LPG Refill Woes Mount In Kashmir Amid eKYC Rush

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: LPG consumers across Kashmir are facing difficulties in getting their gas cylinders refilled as distributors witness a heavy rush for mandatory eKYC verification of connections.

The move has led to long queues at distribution centres, while many consumers are also struggling with the self-eKYC process introduced for booking refills.

Several consumers said the process has become difficult due to limited smartphone

access, technical issues and privacy concerns linked to mobile applications required for verification.

"I have an LPG connection and now I have to download two apps and complete the eKYC process. These applications ask for several phone permissions, which raises privacy concerns," said Yawar Ahmad, a consumer from Srinagar.

Many women consumers, particularly beneficiaries under the Ujjwala scheme, said the process was not practical for people who | [More on P6](#)

Celebrate this EID with Big Rewards and Bigger Smile

J&K Bank Credit Card Cashback Offers



10% CASHBACK

up to ₹1000 each, separately on J&K Bank POS and Soundbox/QR payments made using J&K Bank Credit Cards

Minimum Transaction Value ₹1000

OFFER VALID TILL MAY 30, 2026



CALL US AT 1800 890 2122
LOG ON TO <https://jkb.bank.in>
FOLLOW US ON [social media icons]

#Badee EID Bada Offer

DIPK-NB-560/26 Dated: 21.05.2025

Silverlines x Fortofino

PRESENTS

J&K

JEWELLERY EXHIBITION

CUM SALE

YOU ARE INVITED TO EXPERIENCE TOP JEWELLERY BRANDS UNDER ONE ROOF

21st - 24th May

2026

11 AM - 8 PM

RADISSON COLLECTION HOTEL & SPA RIVERFRONT SRINAGAR



DIAMOND | GOLD | SOLITAIRES

10,000+ DESIGNS | NATURAL DIAMONDS | BRIDAL COLLECTIONS

RSVP

750 81 9 1111

T&C APPLY



Scientists Develop Lightweight Chest Patch To Track Hidden Stress

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have developed a wearable polygraph system designed to sense underlying stress hidden deep within the body. The lightweight, bandage-like device, described in a paper in the journal Science Advances, gently adheres to the chest, where it simultaneously measures heart activity, breathing patterns, sweat response, blood flow and temperature. Together, the signals capture a real-time, whole-body view of stress, the researchers, from the US' Northwestern University and Sungyunkwan University in the Republic of Korea, said. "Sometimes, the body manifests signs of stress before a person is consciously aware of it. Even if people don't realize how much pressure they are under, stress is quietly affecting their health," lead researcher John A. Rogers, professor of materials science and engineering, biomedical engineering



and neurological surgery at Northwestern University, said. Rogers added that an exposure to prolonged stress can be harmful, especially for pregnant mothers, children and critically ill patients, and ability to measure stress could empower people to take stress-relieving actions with direct benefits to health. "Importantly, we aimed to design a device, conceptually like a polygraph system, that operates on the basis of biophysical body responses, without requiring access to chemical biomarkers found in body fluids," Rogers said.

Current approaches to a continuous monitoring of a psychophysiological state involve polygraphy and polysomnography, which the researchers said rely on "cumbersome, wired" sensors that are limited in real-world utility and burden patients, particularly vulnerable populations such as infants. The device is made from combining tiny sensors into a single, soft device, all of which together continuously track multiple physiological signals, produced as a response when the body senses stress. A built-in motion sensor

and miniature microphone capture subtle mechanical and acoustic signals from the heart and lungs, while other sensors detect skin temperature and heat flow associated with near-surface blood circulation, and changes in the skin's electrical conductivity caused by sweat gland activity -- a well-known marker of stress, the researchers said. The device can continuously track multiple physiological signals at once and could help clinicians detect stress and potential discomfort in patients -- including infants or elderly who may be unable to communicate, they said. Data is wirelessly transmitted to a smartphone, smart watch or tablet, where machine learning algorithms analyse patterns associated with stress in real time. The team added that the device may also help diagnose sleep disorders without cumbersome in-laboratory equipment, monitor mental health over time and even sense early warning signs of medical complications.

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 Mohammad Azhaan Reshi s/o Muzafar Ahmad Reshi R/o Kanloo tehsil pattan with verified date of birth 22/12/2020 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.

Sd/- Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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 Muzamil Ahmad Tantray s/o Mushtaq Ahmad Tantray R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 06 /08/2024 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.

Sd/- Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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 Faisal Hussain Rather s/o Anayat Hussain Rather R/o Budibugh tehsil Singpora with verified date of birth 17/02/2023 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..

Sd/- Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the general public that the name, date of birth and father's name of my brother namely Shoiab Ahmad Paswal S/O Gulam Qadir Paswal R/O Kathohallan Keller, Shopian have been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar records as "Sahib Hussain Paswal", D.O.B: 05/05/2015 and father's name "Gulam Qadir Paswal" instead of the correct particulars as "Shoiab Ahmad Paswal", D.O.B: 25/12/2016 and father's name "Gulam Qadir Paswal" as per school records.

Now, I have applied for correction of the same before the concerned authority. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same before the concerned Aadhaar authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly spelled in my birth certificate as Sahil Abbas Mir S/o Mohd Afzal Mir While my correct name is Sahil Abbas Mir S/o Mohammad Afzal Mir. 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 MC Magam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Sahil Abbas Mir S/o Mohammad Afzal Mir bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Basharat Ahmad Mir, F/o Mir Isa Basharat, R/o Umer Colony B, Lalbazar, Srinagar, hereby declare that the parentage particulars recorded in the Birth Certificate of my son are incorrect.

Incorrect father's name recorded as "Basharat Ahmed Mir" shall be read and corrected as "Basharat Ahmad Mir".

Incorrect mother's name recorded as "Farha Mir" shall be read and corrected as "Farah Rashid".

If anybody has any objection regarding the above corrections, he/she may contact the concerned department within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

Basharat Ahmad Mir F/o Mir Isa Basharat R/o Umer Colony B, Lalbazar, Srinagar

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC THE JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

CERTIFICATES-KD, NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR

ATTENTION PLEASE

I have passed /appeared in SSE (Class 10th,) under Roll No. 213455 Session Year June 1994. Through the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the Institution against my name as JAVID MOHI-UD DIN instead of JAVID MOHI UD DIN DAR.

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

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

Name: JAVID MOHI UD DIN DAR, Fathers Name: GH MOHI UD DIN DAR, Mothers Name: AZI BEGUM Date of Birth: 01-04-1977. Residence:- HANJIAN. MOBILE: 7006966834 mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420080004089 issued in favour of FIRDOUS AHMAD SHEIKH Parentage ABDUL KHALIQ SHEIKH Whereas an application has been received by one FIRDOUS AHMAD SHEIKH Parentage ABDUL KHALIQ SHEIKH wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as FIRDOUS AHMAD SHEIKH Parcentage AB KHALIQ SHEIKH Which needs to be changed as FIRDOUS AHMAD SHEIKH Parentage ABDUL KHALIQ SHEIKH. Also the Date of Birth of Licensee is entered as 01-03-1989 which needs to be changed as 01-02-1988.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, ANSHU SHARMA R/O H.NO. 401 A, LOHARIAN DIGIANA, JAMMU have applied for enlistment of Contractor registration If any person has any objection in this regard, they may submit their objections (if any) in writing to the office of Chief Engineer, CID wing JKSPDC Bemina Kashmir or Secretary Technical PWD (R&B), Civil Secretariat Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter

ab

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

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

This office has received a written application from Javid Ahmad Lone S/o Khazir Mohammad Lone R/o Zaloor , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Mohammad Ibrahim Lone Born on 05-03-2021 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar Executive Magistrate Bomai fko

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (MACADAM WORKS)

NIT No: 10 /R&B of 2026-27

Dated: 20-05-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

| S. No | Name of Work | Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lacs) | Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees) | Earnest money (In Rupees) | Time of completion | M.H of Account | Class of Contractor | Project Authority | Tender Call |
|-------|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1 | Macadamization of Baderkoot road. | 39.23 | 1100/- | 78460/- | 20 days | C&T 2026-27 | A/B | R&B Deptt. | 1st |
| 2 | Macadamization of Chontipathri Alapathri inner links. | 39.57 | 1100/- | 79140/- | 20 days | C&T 2026-27 | A/B | R&B Deptt. | 1st |
| 3 | Macadamization of Dhoiwan inner links incl. green valley colony. | 38.57 | 1100/- | 77140/- | 20 days | C&T 2026-27 | A/B | R&B Deptt. | 1st |
| 4 | Macadamization of Gratbal Daji road. | 37.84 | 1100/- | 75680/- | 20 days | C&T 2026-27 | A/B | R&B Deptt. | 1st |
| 5 | Macadamization of balance work of Swan to Gutlipora Kampora road. | 38.85 | 1100/- | 77700/- | 20 days | C&T 2026-27 | A/B | R&B Deptt. | 1st |
| 6 | Macadamization of inner links of Lalpora. | 38.93 | 1100/- | 77860/- | 20 days | C&T 2026-27 | A/B | R&B Deptt. | 1st |
| 7 | Macadamization of Kralpora Kampora Hospital road and Mirchipora Kilwara, Katipora Chanpora including Gousiya School road. | 39.22 | 1100/- | 78440/- | 20 days | C&T 2026-27 | A/B | R&B Deptt. | 1st |

Position Of AAA:- Accorded
 Position of T.S:- Accorded
 Position of funds:- committed

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 20-05-2026 |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 21-05-2026 |
| 3 | Bid submission Start Date | 21-05-2026 |
| 4 | Bid Submission End Date | 01-06-2026 4:00 PM |
| 5 | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) | 02-06-2026 11:00 AM |

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No. , Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender inviting authority)

42. As per the Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated: 08-07-2025 issued by Finance Department of UT J&K "Every participating supplier/contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder".

43. Any Typographical error shall be corrected and paid as per SSR of 2022.

No: R&B / Divn./ Tang/1018-28
 DIPK-1524/26 Dated: 21-05-2026 Sd/- Technical Officer Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg.

Health & Medical Education Department GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG

College Campus, Dialgam Anantnag J&K-192210

Subject: Provisional Selection List of candidate for the post of Nursing & Paramedical Staff/ Technical Assistant/Technician on Academic Arrangement basis under S.O. 364 of 2020, dated: 27.11.2020 in Government Medical College, Anantnag.

Reference: Adv. No. 05 GMCA of 2026, dated: 09-03-2026.

NOTIFICATION

Pursuant to the recommendations of the selection committee constituted for the recruitment/selection in Government Medical College, Anantnag against the post advertised on Academic Arrangement basis vide Advertisement Notice No. 05 GMCA of 2026, dated: 09.03.2026, the candidate mentioned in Annexure 'B' to this notification is hereby selected against the post of Nursing & Paramedical Staff/Technical Assistant/Technician.

The selected candidate is directed to report Office of the Principal, Govt. Medical College Anantnag at Main Campus Dialgam within 05 days from the date of publication of this notification for document submission/scrutinization and for processing the verification of his/her Character and Antecedents (CID verification) through online mode.

No. GMCA/Estt./Rec./2026/4750-54
 DIPK-1509/26 Dated: 21/05/2026

Principal/Dean Govt. Medical College, Anantnag

Annexure 'B'

| PROVISIONAL SELECTION LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF NURSING & PARAMEDICAL STAFF/ TECHNICAL ASSISTANT/TECHNICIAN | | | | | | |
|--|----------|-------------------|------------|----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| SELECTION LIST UNDER SCHEDULE CASTE | | | | | | |
| S. NO. | ROLL NO. | NAME OF CANDIDATE | PARENTAGE | ADDRESS | DATE OF BIRTH | MARKS OBTAINED IN WRITTEN TEST |
| 1. | 1743 | INDERJEET | SOME RAJ | BELLENA JODHPUR DODA | 15.02.1998 | 14 |
| WAITING LIST UNDER SCHEDULE CASTE | | | | | | |
| 1. | 1744 | JASVIR BHAGAT | CHAMAN LAL | DHARAMKOTE BILLAWAR KATHUA | 11.07.1998 | 12 |

** Note: In case of tie in merit secured by two or more candidates in the written test, issued vide Notification No. GMCA/Estt./Rec./2026/4297-4301, dated: 06.05.2026, the candidate with earlier date of birth (D.O.B.) has been given preference.

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

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

This office has received a written application from Zahoor Ahmad Lone S/o Lal Lone R/O Edipora , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Mohammad Abu Bakar Born on 08-08-2019 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar Executive Magistrate Bomai fko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

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

This office has received a written application from Ghulam Qadir Rather S/o Ab Khaliq Rather R/o Tujar Sharief , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of self Faisal Qadir Born on 12-01-2009 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar Executive Magistrate Bomai fko

ازنیات یوٹی ویسٹیکر عنوان :- درخواست منجانب غلام محمد ولد عبدل خالق بٹ ساکھ اوڈوہ برادر

Property Certificate

اشتیہار ہر خاص و عام معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض پراپرٹی سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں فیڈ بک سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ موقع واڈوہ میں نمبر 760= min زیر قبضہ کتنا 6 مرلہ موجود ہے جس کی ملکیت فی کتا 1818447 ہے اور کل رقبہ کی ملکیت 2446250 روپے تک ہے اس سائل غلام محمد ولد عبدل خالق بٹ اپنے حق میں Property Certificate حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔

سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذریہ ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبارات دن کے اندر اندر آئے عذریہ عرض عدالت حذا کو پیش کرنا اور اس کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے عذریہ کوئی عذریہ عرض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار fko

ازنیات یوٹی عنوان :- درخواست منجانب سجاد احمد غلام عبدل محمد سیکھ ساکھ اوڈوہ برادر

عطاگی OBC تحت 176SRO بجن خود

اشتیہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بنیادی حلقے سے پورے طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل/سائلہ واقعی تمام ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سائل/سائلہ سلیو میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل/سائلہ کا کنڈ بڈیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

عبدال محمد غلام عبدل خالق 60 سال مزدوری
 رفیقہ بیگم زوجہ عبدل محمد 56 سال گھریلو کام
 احسان محمد پسر 26 سال زیر تعلیم
 ناصر محمد 25 سال --
 زاہدہ محمد دختر 22 سال --
 سجاد احمد پسر 19 سال --
 دانش احمد پسر 18 سال --
 مہوش محمد دختر --

سائل مندرجہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اور کبھی مہار آمدنی 10,000 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذریہ ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبارات دن کے اندر اندر آئے عذریہ عرض عدالت حذا کو پیش کرنا اور اس کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے عذریہ کوئی عذریہ عرض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار fko

PGRP Conclave-2026 Inaugurated at GDC Srinagar

Observer New Service

Srinagar: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Thursday inaugurated the Post Graduate Research Programme (PGRP) Conclave-2026 at Government Dental College (GDC) Srinagar.

Addressing a large gathering of doctors, academicians, researchers and students on the occasion, the Minister underscored the importance of research and innovation in strengthening the healthcare sector and improving patient care. She said that platforms like the PGRP conclave provide an opportunity for young medical professionals and scholars to showcase their research work, exchange ideas and contribute towards advancements in medical science.

Sakeena Itoo lauded the efforts of the faculty, students and organisers for conducting the conclave and encouraging a culture of scientific inquiry and academic excellence. She said that research-based learning is essential for addressing emerging health

challenges and ensuring quality healthcare services for the people.

"Doctors play a pivotal role in society and the profession of medicine is one of the noblest professions meant to serve humanity with dedication, compassion and commitment," the Minister said.

The Minister urged young doctors and researchers to remain committed to ethical medical practices and continue striving for excellence in patient care and scientific research. She also highlighted the government's commitment towards strengthening healthcare infrastructure, promoting medical education and encouraging research activities across the Union Territory.

Speaking on the occasion, the Principal of GDC Srinagar presented a brief outline of the conclave's objectives.

During the event, the Minister also interacted with students and faculty members and appreciated their contribution towards academic and healthcare excellence. She also released the Newsletter on Research Conclave -2026.

All Arrangements Finalized for Eid-ul-Adha: DC

Observer New Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Thursday said all necessary arrangements for the smooth celebration of Eid-ul-Adha across the city have been finalised. Fencing work on Budshah Bridge and Cement Kadal will also commence shortly.

Speaking to reporters here, the DC, as reported by KNO, said a detailed meeting was held with all departments, including electricity, water supply, roads, sanitation, food safety and revenue authorities. "Preparations have been finalised so that citizens

across Srinagar do not face any difficulty before or after Eid celebrations," he said.

Labroo extended Eid greetings to the people and wished them a joyful and peaceful festival.

He said the administration recently inspected Budshah Bridge and Cement Kadal and completed the estimation process for the proposed fencing works.

"We visited Budshah Bridge and Cement Kadal around a week ago. The estimation has been completed and the work will be approved soon under the district CAPEX. We will start the work very soon," the DC said.

Disaster Response Strengthened with Rescue Boats, SDRF Equipment

Observer New Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Akshay Labroo on Thursday said the administration is strengthening Srinagar's disaster response mechanism by adding new rescue boats, SDRF machinery, firefighting equipment and Tehsil-level rescue kits to ensure faster and coordinated relief during floods and fire incidents.

Speaking to reporters

here, the DC, as reported by KNO said rising water levels and frequent fire incidents, particularly during winters, remain major disaster vulnerabilities in Srinagar.

"As water levels have risen significantly and fire incidents continue to occur frequently in the city, especially during winters, we decided to conduct a special tabletop exercise focused on these two major vulnerabilities," he said.



KO Photo : Abid Bhat

Houseboat Partially Sinks in Jhelum, SDRF Launches Rescue

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A houseboat partially sank after water entered the structure along the River Jhelum in the Bund area of Srinagar on Thursday, prompting a rescue operation by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and River Police.

Officials said the incident resulted in waterlogging inside the houseboat and caused it to partially sink, triggering concern in the area. Soon after receiving information, teams of SDRF and River Police rushed to the spot and launched rescue and evacuation measures.

Rescue personnel entered the affected houseboat and shifted belongings to safer locations amid rising water inside the structure.

The operation focused on preventing further damage and securing movable property belonging to the houseboat owner.

According to KNT, officials said rescue teams successfully evacuated household belongings and ensured the situation remained under control.

Search Intensifies in Jhelum as Hunt for Missing Youth Continues

Observer New Service

Srinagar: The search operation to trace the youth who had allegedly jumped into river Jhelum from Budshah Bridge in Lal Chowk here continued for the second consecutive day on Thursday, officials said.

They said SDRF deep divers were also pressed into the search operation, but they found no trace of the person.

Officials said teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and River Police resumed the rescue operation early Thursday morning after suspending it late Wednesday evening due to darkness and poor visibility.

Throughout the day, res-

cue teams carried out extensive searches in different stretches of the river, while SDRF deep divers were also pressed into service to intensify the operation.

Speaking to KNO, Mohammad Ashraf, ASI SDRF Jhelum Srinagar, said that despite continuous efforts by the rescue teams and deep divers, no trace of the missing youth had been found till late evening.

"Deep divers were also engaged in the search operation today, but no trace of the youth could be found," he said.

Officials said the operation was later suspended for the night due to darkness and will resume with first light on Friday.

The identity of the missing youth is yet to be confirmed.

NIT Students Launch Startup to Digitize India's labour Chowks

Observer New Service

Srinagar: In an attempt to bring India's unorganised construction labour sector online, two fourth-year students of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar have launched a startup that connects labourers, contractors and customers through a digital platform modeled around traditional labour chowks.

The startup, "BigBrick," founded by Saurabh Kumar from the Civil Engineering Department and Aryan Kumar from the Mechanical Engineering Department, is being described as India's first digital platform focused

exclusively on labour chowks and construction workforce management.

According to the founders, BigBrick has already onboarded more than 2,500 construction workers across Srinagar, Jammu, and Katra, creating direct connections between workers, contractors, and customers.

At a time when thousands of labourers across the country continue to depend on roadside labour markets for daily work, the startup aims to bring transparency, accessibility, and organized hiring into the sector through digital intervention.

So far, the startup has generated revenue worth 11 lakh and recently

received a funding offer at a valuation of 3 crore from a Mumbai-based company, and a second offer of 40 lakh by another venture, marking a rare success story emerging from a student-led venture in Kashmir.

BigBrick has also been incubated and funded by the NewGen IEDC, University of Kashmir, and was awarded the "Best Startup Idea" during the IDE Bootcamp for its innovation and market potential. The core team behind the venture also includes Yashas Naidu, Vivek Kumar, Munmun Nareish, Raj Kumar & Vijay Kumar, who played a key role in scaling operations and expanding worker outreach.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 941993745, 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
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR
5 Zil-Hajj
1447

PRAYERS

| | |
|--------|-------|
| FAJR | 3: 47 |
| ZUHR | 12:27 |
| ASR | 5: 24 |
| Magrib | 7:33 |
| ISHA | 9: 09 |

This Day In History

- 334 BC - The Macedonian army of Alexander the Great defeats Darius III of Persia in the Battle of the Granicus
- 1849 - Abraham Lincoln receives a patent (only US President to do so) for a device to lift a boat over shoals and obstructions
- 1902 - US President Theodore Roosevelt signs a treaty with Mexico under which both countries agree to submit a long-standing dispute over interest payments to the Court of Arbitration at The Hague
- 1906 - Wright Brothers are granted a patent for their "flying machine," having applied for one 3 years earlier (patent no. 821,393)
- 1919 - A. E. Douglass establishes the relative dates of two archaeological sites using ancient wood samples, marking a major step forward in the dating of archaeological sites.
- 1926 - Chiang Kai-shek replaces communists in Guomindang China
- 1939 - Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini sign "Pact of Steel"
- 1940 - UK Premier Winston Churchill flies to Paris to decide with General Maxime Weygand a strategy to save the city
- 1941 - British troops attack Baghdad
- 1942 - Mexico declares war on Nazi-Germany & Japan
- 1943 - Stalin disbands Komintern
- 1947 - 1st US ballistic missile fired
- 1950 - Celal Bayar elected President of Turkey
- 1955 - Oldest man to drive in the Grand Prix (aged 55) finishes 6th

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

The registrar birth BDO Lalpora has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Aasiya Rehman D/o Abdul Rehman Ganie R/o Mamoosa with verified date of birth 04/01/2013. 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.

fko Sd Naib Tehsildar Pattan

**OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI**

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

This office has received a written application from Mushtaq Ahmad Mir S/O Mohd Ramzan Mir R/O Malpora Panditan (Bomai) , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Soliha Mushtaq, born on 18/11/2015 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
Executive Magistrate
Bomai

fko

**IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL
MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS AT CHARAR I SHARIEF**

In the case of State(UT) of Jammu & Kashmir Date of Order: 27.04.2026
Case FIR No. 49 of 2016
Offences U/S 379, 447-A RPC and 6 F. Act
P/S Charar-I-Sharief

Through:Ld. APP

V/S

1 Shareef ud din Doi S/o Hussain Doi
R/o Sone banjar
2. Altaf Ahmad Doi
3. Fazl ud din Doi
Both sons of Ghulam Hassan Doi R/o Sone banjar Pulwama

(Accused)
Through:- Advocate Reyaz Ahmad and Associates.

CORAM: AIMAN AMIN JO CODE JK00324

PROCLAMATION REQUIREING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED No 3
Whereas, above titled case under FIR No 49 of 2016 offences under Sections 379, 447-A RPC & 6 F Act is pending disposal before this court.
Whereas, accused no 03 namely Fazl ud din Doi, S/o Ghulam Hassan Doi, R/o Sone Banjar, Pulwama, is continuously absent.
Whereas, warrants of arrest were issued against the accused No 3, but it has been returned with a report that the accused no 03 cannot be found, and it has been shown to the satisfaction of this Court that the accused has willfully concealed himself to avoid service of the said warrant;
Now, therefore, proclamation is hereby made requiring that the accused No 03 namely Fazl ud din Doi, S/o Ghulam Hassan Doi, R/o Sone Banjar, Pulwama, is required to appear before this Court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Charar-i-Sharief, positively on 30.05.2026 at 10:30 AM.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on 27th day of April, 2026.

DIPK-1503/26 dated: 21-05-2026

Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
Charar-I-Sharief

PUBLIC NOTICE


It is for the information of the general public that the Aadhaar Card of my ward earlier contained certain incorrect particulars/details. The necessary corrections have now been made through the concerned Aadhaar Enrolment/Correction Centre and the corrected Aadhaar Card has been issued accordingly. All the particulars mentioned in the corrected Aadhaar Card are now true, correct and matching with the parental proof/documents submitted.

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

Sd/-
Sajad Ahmad Ahanger
S/O Abdul Salam Ahanger
R/O Wahipora, Tangmarg
District Baramulla, J&K UT

fko

IN MEMORIAM



SAD DEMISE

Remembering Our Beloved Grandfather

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sad demise of my beloved Grandfather **Abdul Razaq Wani**, resident of Kalashpora, Srinagar. He left for Heavenly Abode on 20th May 2026 (Wednesday).

Our Family's Prayers

Congregational Fateh Khawani
Will be held on
Friday, 22nd May 2026
at 2:30 PM
At our ancestral graveyard, Malkha, Srinagar (Opposite Gangbaksh Park).

We pray that Almighty Allah grants the departed soul eternal peace and the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous (Ameen).

Sincerely Bereaved:
Advocate Munir Iqbal Dar
Residential Address:
Opposite AASARI SHAREEF KALASHPORA SHRINE
Srinagar
Phone: 7006762791

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 8899256463
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

Kashmir at the Edge of El Niño

A gathering El Niño, rising fuel costs and a strained global economy place Kashmir and the rest of India on the edge of a difficult season.



Prof Upendra Kaul



“Climate shocks rarely travel alone. India now faces this weather threat during a period of global instability centered in West Asia. That overlap may define the economic story of 2026 more than any single climate forecast.”

KO VIEW

Drowning Heritage

Another houseboat slipped into the Jhelum this week. Wood cracked, walls tilted, and decades of memory disappeared into dark water near the iconic Bund. People gathered on the banks, watched the structure sink, clicked photographs, and moved on.

Kashmir has started treating these incidents like routine accidents. That attitude may prove costlier than the collapse itself.

The sinking houseboat tells a larger story about the Jhelum and the slow disappearance of its cultural identity. Houseboats once gave the river a distinct life. Their carved balconies, wooden decks, flower pots and lamps turned the waters into living neighbourhoods. Jhelum breathed through them, tourists stopped to admire them, and locals recognised them as part of Srinagar's soul.

Today many of those structures stand abandoned, damaged by time, moisture, sewage and neglect.

Several surviving houseboats along the Rajbagh stretch look exhausted. Rainwater leaks through their roofs, timber has weakened, and riverbanks around them have changed into concrete corridors.

Government attention has remained limited to occasional repairs and cosmetic revamps. A few structures became cafés and cultural spaces, which proved that revival remains possible. Kashmir now needs that vision on a much larger scale.

Concrete hotels continue to rise near eco-sensitive zones while traditional water architecture fades into the background. That approach weakens the cultural depth of Kashmir's tourism economy.

Visitors do not travel to Kashmir merely for rooms and parking lots. They travel for identity, atmosphere and heritage. Houseboats floating on a moving river create precisely that experience.

A proper rescue plan could transform the Jhelum once again. Restoration projects, structural audits, sewage control, tourism incentives and modern redesigns can help these structures survive for decades.

Architects, conservationists and tourism planners can work together to blend modern comfort with Kashmiri craftsmanship. Riverfront cafés, cultural stays and floating art spaces can return life to the waters.

Jhelum itself deserves equal attention. Years of untreated sewage, encroachments and accumulated muck have damaged the river's character. Water tourism in Kashmir remains largely trapped within the stagnant waters of Dal Lake. The Jhelum once supported movement, trade and river life. That possibility still exists.

Restored houseboats can reconnect tourism with the flowing waters of Jhelum River and expand the cultural map of Srinagar beyond postcard locations.

Kashmir usually reacts after disaster strikes. Floods arrive, structures collapse and committees emerge. Serious planning arrives much later.

Houseboats deserve better treatment because they represent more than tourism infrastructure. They preserve craft traditions, river culture and the visual memory of old Srinagar.

Another houseboat now rests beneath the waters of the Jhelum. Kashmir still has time to decide whether that sight remains an isolated tragedy or becomes the future of the river itself.

Kashmir entered spring this year with snowstorms, heavy rain and damaged orchards. Farmers who usually read the valley's seasons with precision found themselves staring at skies that shifted without pattern.

Apple growers delayed field work, while vegetable cultivators watched waterlogged plots sink into uncertainty.

Mountain weather has always moved fast in Kashmir, though the current swings feel sharper, stranger and more disruptive.

That disruption now has a global name: El Niño.

Most Indians hear the phrase during drought years and inflation spikes. Few know the story behind it.

Peruvian fishermen first used the term centuries ago after noticing unusually warm Pacific waters around Christmas. They called it El Niño de Navidad, the Christ Child. Scientists later linked that warming to major changes in ocean temperatures and wind systems spread across the Pacific.

Those changes now sit at the center of India's climate worries for 2026.

Under ordinary conditions, strong winds push warm Pacific waters toward Asia. During an El Niño phase, those winds weaken and warm water drifts back toward the Americas. Global atmospheric circulation shifts with it.

India usually pays the price through weaker monsoon activity, reduced rainfall and hotter summers.

Meteorologists already see signs of a strong El Niño building in the equatorial Pacific. The India Meteorological Department expects the 2026 southwest monsoon to remain below normal at roughly 92 percent of the long-period average.

Early rainfall may create temporary optimism during June and July, especially with the monsoon expected to reach Kerala ahead of schedule. August and September tell the more serious story.

Climate models point toward suppressed rainfall during the latter half of the season, precisely when large parts of Indian agriculture depend on sustained moisture.

Kashmir stands slightly apart from the classic monsoon story, though it faces its own risks.

Western Disturbances, the storm systems that travel from the Mediter-

anean region toward the Himalayas, influence the valley more heavily than monsoon currents alone.

That geography creates a different pattern during El Niño years.

Kashmir may experience broken rainfall cycles, sudden cloudbursts and scattered dry spells instead of one uniform drought.

Such fragmentation carries its own danger. A cloudburst destroys standing crops within hours. A prolonged dry patch weakens horticulture and stresses mountain water systems. Erratic weather disrupts sowing schedules and damages fruit quality. Farmers lose the ability to plan, and uncertainty spreads through the rural economy.

That uncertainty soon reaches dinner tables. Nearly half of India's net sown agricultural land still depends on rainfall instead of assured irrigation. A weak late monsoon places major food-producing states under pressure.

Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh face particular vulnerability during the critical growth stages of paddy, soybean and pulses. Canal systems and groundwater may soften part of the damage in Punjab and Haryana, though irrigation itself now comes with mounting costs.

Diesel pumps consume expensive fuel, electricity demand rises sharply, and production expenses climb before crops even reach markets.

Food inflation usually follows quickly. Rice, pulses and oilseeds respond sharply to rainfall disruptions. Traders anticipate shortages early and markets

begin reacting long before harvest figures become final.

Hoarding intensifies pressure, while speculative buying drives prices upward.

Governments often respond with export controls or lower import duties to stabilize domestic supplies. Consumers still face higher grocery bills, especially urban families already strained by housing, fuel and education costs.

Southern India faces another twist. Traditional El Niño cycles often produce excessive rainfall in coastal Tamil Nadu toward the end of the year.

That imbalance creates two different crises at once: water stress in one region and destructive rainfall in another.

Climate shocks rarely travel alone. India now faces this weather threat during a period of global instability centered in West Asia. That overlap may define the economic story of 2026 more than any single climate forecast.

Conflict in West Asia continues pushing crude oil prices upward while disrupting shipping routes and energy supplies. Agriculture depends heavily on stable fuel prices. Farmers need diesel for irrigation pumps, transport and machinery. Fertilizer production also depends on natural gas, particularly nitrogenous fertilizers such as urea. Rising global gas prices raise manufacturing costs and increase subsidy burdens for the Indian state.

Those pressures build on one another with alarming speed.

A weak monsoon pushes farmers toward groundwater extraction. Groundwater extraction increases die-

sel and electricity use. Expensive fuel raises cultivation costs, and lower crop output then feeds inflation.

Governments spend more on subsidies while central banks struggle to contain rising prices.

That leaves policymakers walking a narrow line. The Reserve Bank of India may keep interest rates elevated longer than expected to contain inflation pressures driven by food and fuel. Fiscal authorities may face growing pressure to fund fertilizer subsidies, irrigation support and welfare programs without widening deficits excessively.

Public policy still holds room for smart intervention.

India's major reservoirs currently hold water levels above seasonal averages, according to the Central Water Commission. Water management therefore becomes crucial during the coming months.

Domestic supply and drinking water need clear priority over wasteful industrial consumption.

State governments can guide farmers toward short-duration or drought-resistant crop varieties where delayed sowing becomes necessary. Direct benefit transfers and subsidized power support can reduce pressure on cultivators struggling with irrigation expenses.

Supply chains also need close monitoring. Food inflation thrives through panic, hoarding and opportunistic pricing. Strong enforcement during shortage periods protects consumers as much as additional production does.

Citizens also play a direct role. Urban households can reduce pressure on municipal systems through disciplined water use and leak management. Farmers can shift toward Direct Seeded Rice, drip irrigation and alternate wetting techniques that conserve moisture without reducing productivity dramatically. Local cooperatives can maintain grain and seed reserves that support smaller cultivators during failed harvest cycles.

Kashmir's spring storms already showed what climate instability looks like on the ground. Fields flooded without warning, temperatures shifted suddenly, and farming calendars lost their certainty.

That experience now serves as a preview of the wider pressures India may face later this summer.

The author is a Padma Shri and Dr. B.C. Roy Award recipient, and serves at Batra Hospital and Medical Research Centre, the Gauri Kaul Foundation, and Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences. He can be reached at kaul.upendra@gmail.com.

Thajiwas Needs a Swiss Plan

Thajiwas Glacier now demands the same seriousness Europe brought to its melting Alps.



Zainul Abi din Raina

The rapid decline of the Thajiwas Glacier in Sonamarg has pushed the valley into a defining moment, and the latest scientific evidence leaves little room for complacency.

Researchers from the University of Kashmir recently found that Thajiwas Glacier has lost nearly 88 percent of its ice volume over time.

The glacier's overall area has shrunk sharply as temperatures continue to rise in the Himalayas. Scientists also recorded an upward shift of nearly 1,300 meters in the glacier's equilibrium line, a key indicator that shows severe climatic stress in the region.

This story reaches far beyond a shrinking sheet of ice.

Thajiwas forms part of the ecological foundation of the Sindh Valley. Its decline threatens water systems, mountain biodiversity, tourism

livelihoods and the environmental stability of a region that already faces erratic weather patterns and rising ecological pressure.

Sonamarg draws thousands of visitors every year because of its landscape, streams and snow-fed mountain character. A weakened glacier changes that entire system.

Many governments elsewhere treated glacier retreat as a national environmental priority long before complete collapse entered public view.

Switzerland and Iceland moved aggressively after witnessing severe glacier loss in the Alps and Arctic regions.

Swiss authorities introduced continuous glacier monitoring systems, climate-awareness campaigns and ecological restoration projects.

Scientists and local administrations even experimented with white thermal blankets and geotextile covers over vulnerable glacier surfaces to reduce heat absorption during warmer months.

Research from Switzerland showed that these coverings slowed seasonal melting by nearly 50 to 70 percent in some areas.

Scientists understand that such interventions cannot permanently preserve glaciers under sustained global warming. The larger lesson lies elsewhere.

European governments acted while glaciers still stood a chance.

Kashmir still has that chance. A serious response now demands far more than

“Countries with advanced economies invest millions in glacier research because glaciers serve practical and ecological functions at the same time. They store freshwater, influence weather systems and stabilize mountain environments that support millions of lives downstream.”

symbolic speeches on World Environment Day.

The valley needs a dedicated "Thajiwas Glacier Preservation Mission" backed by scientific planning, administrative coordination and sustained public investment.

Such a mission should unite environmental experts, tourism stakeholders, universities, local communities and government agencies under one long-term conservation framework.

Scientific glacier monitoring must become continuous rather than occasional. Data-driven climate observation would help policymakers track seasonal changes, identify stress patterns and plan mitigation efforts with precision.

Research partnerships with the University of Kashmir and other scientific institutions could build glacier-focused climate study centers dedicated to Himalayan environmental research.

Environmental protection also begins on the ground.

Large-scale plantation drives in the Sindh Valley would strengthen green cover surrounding the glacier ecosystem. Forests and alpine vegetation reduce soil erosion, absorb heat and limit airborne dust particles that accelerate melting. Cleaner ecological zones around Sonamarg would support glacier survival while improving local environmental conditions.

Unchecked construction near eco-sensitive areas has already altered large sections of Kashmir's mountain landscape. Sonamarg now faces similar pressure through expanding tourist infrastructure, road activity and seasonal commercial growth.

Strict regulation of construction activity near glacier zones would reduce ecological strain be-

fore long-term damage becomes irreversible.

Heavy tourist traffic during peak months also pumps emissions into an already vulnerable mountain environment. Better transport planning, stricter pollution controls and sustainable tourism measures could significantly reduce heat stress in the region.

Waste-management infrastructure also needs immediate expansion. Plastic waste and unmanaged garbage weaken fragile ecosystems that depend on balance and cleanliness to survive.

Countries with advanced economies invest millions in glacier research because glaciers serve practical and ecological functions at the same time. They store freshwater, influence weather systems and stabilize mountain environments that support millions of lives downstream.

Kashmir's glaciers sustain the Himalayan ecosystem in much the same way Europe's glaciers sustain the Alps.

Science has already delivered the warning. Kashmir now needs political action backed by serious climate policy and Swiss-style glacier protection measures before the damage turns irreversible.

The author hails from Gund Sonamarg. He focuses on environmental and social issues, and can be reached at rainzainul020@gmail.com.

Karan Nagar IVF Boom

Fertility clinics crowd Srinagar's Karan Nagar as Kashmir records one of India's steepest declines in childbirth.

Nawaz Manzoor

A young couple stepped out of a taxi near Karan Nagar on a cold spring morning this month and walked toward a fertility clinic tucked between a pharmacy and a diagnostic laboratory.

The husband held a file thick with blood reports and scan results. His wife kept her eyes fixed on the entrance as patients moved through the narrow lane lined with signboards advertising IVF treatment, reproductive medicine and hormonal therapy.

Karan Nagar, once known mainly for hospitals and homes, has turned into Kashmir's fertility corridor. Several reproductive health centers have opened in the neighbourhood during recent years as growing numbers of couples seek medical help to conceive.

Doctors describe packed waiting rooms filled with newly married professionals, couples in their late thirties and families exhausted after years of failed treatments.

The rise of these clinics depicts a deeper demographic turn unfolding in Kashmir, where childbirth has fallen at a pace that now places the region among India's lowest-fertility populations.

Government data shows Jammu and Kashmir's Total Fertility Rate, or TFR, dropped from 2.4 children per woman in 2005-06 to 1.4 in 2019-21, according to the National Family Health Survey.

Demographers define 2.1 as the replacement level needed to maintain stable population levels without migration.

That fall of one child per woman within fifteen years ranks among the sharpest declines recorded in India.

Sample Registration System data released by the Registrar General of India confirms the trend. Jammu and Kashmir recorded a fertility rate of 2.4 in 2005. The figure reached 1.5 by 2019 and remained there in 2020, marking a historic low.

Birth figures released in 2023 stood at 14.4 per thousand people, while urban areas recorded 12.2.

Only Sikkim, Ladakh, Goa, Chandigarh and Lakshadweep now stand



near or below Kashmir in fertility figures.

Doctors, economists and population experts see the decline unfolding through changes visible inside homes, schools and hospitals.

Marriage comes later for many young Kashmiris. Women pursue higher education and professional work in greater numbers. Men spend longer years searching for stable employment in a region struggling with weak private industry and limited government recruitment.

Fertility specialists in Srinagar say couples increasingly begin planning children during their thirties, a stage when reproductive complications rise sharply.

Dr. Nusrat Khan, a Srinagar-based gynaecologist, identifies delayed marriages and growing obesity as major contributors to infertility in the valley.

Economic pressure has also transformed family planning.

Periodic Labour Force Survey data released in 2024 placed unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir near 30 percent. Young couples in Srinagar and Jammu describe careful budgeting shaped by rent, education costs, transport expenses and healthcare bills.

School admissions, coaching

SEVERAL EXPERTS STILL FRAME THE TRANSITION AS A SIGN OF SOCIAL PROGRESS TIED TO LITERACY, HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT. Smaller families often allow greater spending on education and health for children. Women exercise stronger control over reproductive choices than previous generations possessed.

Large households that once defined Kashmiri family life have gradually given way to compact apartments and nuclear families.

Urban fertility has fallen harder than rural fertility. NFHS-5 placed urban TFR at 1.2 and rural TFR at 1.5.

Several couples in Srinagar said they chose one child or delayed second pregnancies because raising children in the city demanded far greater spending than previous generations faced.

School admissions, coaching

classes and rising property prices dominate household calculations.

Extended family support has also weakened with urban expansion. Grandparents often remain in villages while younger couples settle in cities for work and education. Childcare responsibilities now fall heavily on working parents living inside smaller homes with limited support systems.

Government health officials describe the falling fertility numbers as evidence of successful fam-

ily welfare programs. Public health campaigns expanded access to contraception, maternal healthcare and reproductive counseling during the past two decades.

NFHS-5 recorded high contraceptive use and a growing preference among women for delayed second births.

District-level figures reveal how deeply the demographic shift has spread. Srinagar and Jammu districts now report fertility levels near 1.1, while several rural districts remain closer to 1.6.

None of Jammu and Kashmir's districts remain above replacement level.

Population researchers say the transition now mirrors demographic patterns seen in aging societies such as Japan and Italy, though Kashmir entered the phase at a far lower level of industrial and economic development.

Another factor shadows the fertility debate in Kashmir: rising drug addiction among young adults.

Psychiatrists and reproductive specialists say narcotics abuse increasingly affects reproductive health through hormonal disruption, poor sperm quality, irregular menstrual cycles and nutritional decline.

Substance abuse has expanded sharply during recent years, particularly among unemployed youth struggling with economic insecurity and social stress.

Doctors say addiction frequently overlaps with depression, unstable relationships and deteriorating physical health, all of which affect fertility outcomes.

The demographic decline has major implications for Kashmir's future workforce and economy. Fewer births eventually reduce school enrollments and shrink the pool of working-age adults.

Economists warn that population aging could place heavier pressure on healthcare systems and social support structures during coming decades.

Several experts still frame the transition as a sign of social progress tied to literacy, healthcare access and women's empowerment. Smaller families often allow greater spending on education and health for children. Women exercise stronger control over reproductive choices than previous generations possessed.

Still, many researchers see the speeded of Kashmir's fertility decline as a defining shift that could alter the region's social structure within a single generation.

By late afternoon, traffic thickens near Karan Nagar's fertility centers as patients emerge carrying medical reports and future appointments. Pharmacies fill prescriptions for hormone therapy while laboratory workers sort blood samples behind glass counters.

A neighbourhood built around healing now highlights a changing Kashmir, where parenthood increasingly depends on medicine, money and timing.

The valley once measured prosperity through crowded homes and large families. Young couples now weigh childbirth against economic uncertainty, unstable careers and the cost of building a future in one of India's fastest-changing regions.

— The author is a student of Political Science at Aligarh Muslim University. He can be reached at nawazmanzoor71@gmail.com.

The Overqualified Generation

Increasing numbers of graduates are unable to find work that matches their qualifications, as degrees increasingly fail to translate into suitable employment opportunities across Jammu and Kashmir's constrained job market.

Afreen Manzoor

Burhan thought his future was set. The son of a retired government employee, he worked hard through school, scored 82 percent in his Class 12 exams, and earned a degree in electrical engineering. He dreamed of building grids and lighting homes across Kashmir.

For two years, he prepared for competitive exams, believing that the government jobs his parents had spoken of were within reach.

Then the recruitment process collapsed: delayed, disputed, tied up in court cases.

By the time his father retired, the weight of expectation shifted onto his shoulders.

Today, at 26, Burhan spends his days teaching children at home and recording lessons for YouTube. "I studied to be an engineer," he said, "but I ended up an online tutor."

Burhan's story is echoed in thousands of homes across the valley. Education, once celebrated as the key to opportunity, now feels like a door that leads nowhere.

Families pour money into private schools, coaching centers, and degrees abroad, only to watch their children come back with framed certificates but no work.

The scale of the problem is

staggering.

As of March 2025, more than 370,000 educated youth in Jammu and Kashmir are listed as unemployed on the government's employment portal. Among urban job seekers aged 15 to 29, the unemployment rate is 32 percent, the highest in India.

Beyond economic problem, this is an emotional crisis for many families.

Parents who spent years saving for tuition now voice their frustration openly: "We spent so much money on your education. What do we have to show for it?"

A degree, stripped of its promise, becomes a source of tension at home and stigma in society.

Marriage prospects are also affected.

A government survey found that nearly 29 percent of Kashmiri youth under 29 remain unmarried, many of them dismissed by prospective in-laws as "liabilities."

Degrees without income translate into rejection. For young men in particular, the burden is doubled: the breadwinner label follows them even before they can earn.

The crisis is fed by deeper structural flaws.

Public education in Kashmir, once the ladder of social mobility, has withered. Over 8,800 schools lack clean drinking wa-



FOR TOO LONG, KASHMIRI SOCIETY HAS EQUATED WORTH WITH GOVERNMENT SERVICE OR TRADITIONAL PROFESSIONS LIKE MEDICINE, TEACHING, AND LAW. Young people who want to bake, paint, code, or perform find little encouragement. Yet without embracing those paths, the cycle of disappointment will only deepen.

ter and 12,600 lack functional toilets, according to a March 2025 report. Labs, libraries, and basic in-

frastructure remain absent. Even government school teachers confess to sending their own children to private schools, a

tacit admission that the system no longer inspires trust.

The fallout reaches beyond classrooms. With degrees pil-

ling up, many young people take jobs unrelated to their training, settling for work that barely sustains them. Peer pressure, family expectations, and low wages drain their confidence and health.

In homes where parents never studied beyond primary school, a well-educated son or daughter can feel like an outsider: admired briefly, then resented when the degree fails to deliver.

Some, like 28-year-old Kamran, choose to rewrite their stories.

A civil engineer by training, he spent years searching for work in power development before giving up. Today, he runs a stationery shop in Kishtwar.

"I didn't want this," he said, "but at least I can support myself." For Kamran, entrepreneurship is survival, not a dream.

Still, there are voices calling for a broader idea of success.

A stationery shop is seen as enterprise, just like a YouTube channel is viewed as innovation.

For too long, Kashmiri society has equated worth with government service or traditional professions like medicine, teaching, and law. Young people who want to bake, paint, code, or perform find little encouragement. Yet without embracing those paths, the cycle of disappointment will only deepen.

Some reform efforts offer hope. The Art-Based Capacity Building Project is training

teachers in 60 schools to use art for emotional healing, introducing children to ways of coping with stress beyond textbooks.

Advocates argue for cluster schools, merging under-enrolled institutions into resource-rich hubs, along with teacher rotation, stronger accountability, and vocational bridges aligned with local economies. The National Education Policy of 2020 envisions holistic training, but in Kashmir, its implementation remains patchy.

Economic revival also depends on attracting industries that can absorb educated workers. Without that, the best and brightest will continue to migrate, or worse, lose faith entirely in the idea that hard work leads anywhere.

For now, young men like Burhan carry the contradiction of Kashmir's promise. His engineering degree hangs on the wall, a reminder of what might have been.

In the afternoons, as he records tutorials for his small YouTube audience, he sometimes scrolls through job portals, scanning listings that rarely match his skills.

"I don't regret studying," he said. "I regret what came after."

— The author is a postgraduate student of Political Science, at the University of Kashmir. She can be reached at afreenmanzoor121@gmail.com.

13th International Art of Giving Day Celebrated in 190 Countries

Observer News Service

Bhubaneswar: The 13th International Art of Giving Day, inspired by the vision of Dr Achyuta Samanta, was celebrated this year across 190 countries spanning six continents. In addition, followers and well-wishers of the Art of Giving movement participated in the campaign at 50,000 locations internationally, including all 222 FIVB member nations, all 28 states and 8 Union Territories of India, every city and town across the country, and all district headquarters, blocks, and panchayats of Odisha.

In Odisha alone, the day was observed at 20,000 locations. On the occasion of the 13th International Art of Giving Day, the movement directly impacted nearly 2.5 crore people, including followers and supporters.

For the past one week, Art of Giving programmes have been organised at various places around the world and across different cities in India, witnessing participation from people of all sections of society. Every year, the International Art of Giving Day is celebrated with a unique theme.



This year's theme was "Share to Shine," signifying that sharing happiness with others also leads to one's own growth and progress. As part of this year's celebrations, arrangements were made for the distribution of volleyballs and nets at more than 3,000 locations across Odisha. Inspired by Achyuta Samanta's vision for the development of sports and to foster harmony and friendship among youth, 9,100 volleyballs were distributed this year.

"What I am today is because of the concept of 'Art of Giving'. I

have received warmth, love and affection of people because of this movement", Dr Samanta said.

A mega programme marking the 13th Art of Giving Day was organised in Bhubaneswar with participation from people from various walks of life. On the occasion, the Art of Giving theme song, sung by renowned Hindi playback singer Shaan, was unveiled. Among others Rabindra Narayan Behera, MP, Lok Sabha, Indian tennis legend and Padma Bhushan awardee Leander Paes, Tibetan Buddhist master and Spiritual Director

of Ripa International Center, Switzerland, Getrul Jigme Rinpoche, and Femina Miss India Nikita Porwal attended the event.

As in previous years, the prestigious AOG Hero Awards were presented to noted medical expert Dr. Bidyut Das, Rotarian Ajay Agrawal, and KIIT professor Kumar Debadatta for their remarkable contributions to social service. Each awardee received a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh.

The event was attended by the Vice Chancellor of KIIT and KISS Prof Saranjit Singh and other senior functionaries.

Injectable Cosmetic Products Not Permitted Under Law: Drug Regulator CDSCO

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Cosmetic products supplied in injectable form do not fall under the definition of cosmetics under the law and are not permitted for use by consumers, professionals or aesthetic clinics, the central drug regulator has made it clear.

The advisory by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation's (CDSCO) comes amid the growing popularity of injectable aesthetic procedures being promoted as "cosmetic" treatments in beauty clinics and wellness centres across the country.

The clarification is aimed at preventing misuse of cosmetic products for treatment purposes and ensuring consumer safety, particularly as non-surgical aesthetic procedures gain popularity in urban centres and through social media promotion, a source said.

The move also seeks to curb misleading advertising and unauthorised cosmetic practices by clinics and individuals.

In the public notice issued on May 18, the regulator said that cosmetics are intended only to be "rubbed, poured, sprinkled or sprayed" on the



body for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness or altering appearance.

"Products supplied in form of injectable preparation do not fall under the definition of cosmetics. No cosmetic is permitted to be used as injection by consumer/professionals/aesthetic clinics," the notice said.

The regulator also warned against misleading claims and the use of prohibited ingredients in cosmetic products, saying such violations attract action under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Cosmetics Rules, 2020.

The CDSCO further said cosmetics are permitted only for their intended use and cannot be used for treatment purposes by professionals or individuals.

The notice added that the list of generally not recognised as safe (GNRAS) and restricted ingredients is published by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

The public has been encouraged to report violations or misleading practices to the regulatory authority through email or state licensing authorities, the notice added.

India Issues Ebola Advisory For Passengers Arriving From High-Risk African Nations

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India has issued a health advisory for passengers arriving from or transiting through Ebola-affected countries, asking those with symptoms or exposure history to immediately report to airport health authorities before immigration clearance.

The advisory, issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), specifically mentions travellers coming from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and South

Sudan, all of which have been categorised as "high-risk countries" by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The advisory has been displayed at the Delhi airport by the Airport Health Organisation (AHO). It advises passengers to watch out for symptoms such as fever, weakness, headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, sore throat and unexplained bleeding.

It also asks travellers who had direct contact with blood or body fluids of a suspected or confirmed Ebola patient to



immediately report to the airport health officer or the health desk.

According to the APHO, any traveller developing symptoms within 21 days of arrival should seek immediate medical care and inform authorities about their travel history.

On Wednesday, Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava chaired a high-level review meeting with health secretaries of all states and Union territories to assess preparedness and response measures for Ebola.

Union health ministry officials clarified that no case of Ebola has been detected in India so far.

However, after the WHO declared Ebola a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), the government of India has proactively strengthened surveillance and preparedness measures across the country as an abundant precaution, official sources had said.

During the meeting, states and Union territories were all

levels. Detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) covering pre-arrival and postarrival screening, quarantine protocols, case management, referral mechanisms and laboratory testing have already been shared with all states and Union territories.

All concerned ministries and departments had also been sensitised and were undertaking appropriate preventive and surveillance measures in coordination with the health ministry, the sources stated.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

May Snow In

residential areas and damaged houses. Officials said two houses belonging to Nazir Ahmad Dar and Reyaz Ahmad Dar of Nusoo village were partially damaged in the incident. Two persons, including a minor girl identified as Muskaan, sustained minor injuries. One of the injured was discharged after treatment, while the other was undergoing treatment at District Hospital Bandipora.

Residents alleged that blocked drainage systems and leaking pipes worsened the flooding. They said repeated requests for clearance of drains had gone unaddressed.

"A drain under construction had been reduced in size, which led to overflow during the heavy rain," locals said, demanding compensation for affected families and immediate restoration of the damaged road and protection works.

Officials said restoration teams had been deployed to the area, while Tehsildar Bandipora visited the site to assess the damage.

Rainwater also accumulated in several low-lying areas of Srinagar and other towns, briefly affecting vehicular movement. Authorities have advised residents living in vulnerable and flood-prone areas to remain cautious.

The Meteorological Department has forecast light rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds across Jammu and Kashmir over the next two days and warned of possible lightning and hailstorm activity in both divisions.

According to the MeT Department, weather conditions are expected to remain partly to generally cloudy on May 22, with one or two spells of light rain, thundershowers and gusty winds likely at many places.

The department also warned of thunder, lightning, hailstorm activity and gusty winds reaching speeds of 40 to 50 kilometres per hour, with gusts exceeding 60 kilometres per hour at a few places across Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

From May 23 to 25, the weather is expected to remain mainly dry during the forenoon, with brief showers likely at isolated to scattered places during late afternoon hours.

The MeT Department has predicted generally hot and dry weather from May 26 to 28, while partly to generally cloudy conditions with light rain or thundershower at isolated places are expected between May 29 and 31.

Meanwhile, several places in Kashmir recorded rainfall during the past 24 hours. Pahalgam received 14.2 mm rainfall, Gulmarg 13.4 mm, Kupwara 11.4 mm, Qazigund 6.8 mm and Srinagar 5.4 mm, according to official data.

Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 41.5 degrees Celsius, more than three degrees above normal, while Srinagar settled at 23.9 degrees Celsius.

In another weather-related incident, at least 69 livestock animals were killed after lightning struck a pasture in the Pahalgam area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district during heavy rain and thunderstorms.

Officials said a herd of sheep and goats was caught in the open when lightning struck the

area amid intense weather activity.

The sudden loss has caused concern among local herders, as livestock rearing remains a major source of livelihood in the area.

Nutrition Of Young

feed its children cannot genuinely create equal opportunities for progress.

He said decades of global research have shown that nutrition and education are deeply interconnected.

"Children who eat balanced and nutritious meals concentrate better, retain information more effectively and participate more actively in classrooms. Protein, vitamins and balanced diets provide the basic energy for thinking and understanding," he said.

Sinha said providing nutritious meals in schools was not merely about filling stomachs but about shaping the future thinking of society.

"The next generation is not just our future but the living expression of the dreams and aspirations we wish to build as a nation. Their education, health and confidence are a collective responsibility of society," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor also appreciated the work of The Akshaya Patra Foundation, describing it as one of the world's largest NGOs working in the school meal sector. The organisation currently serves over 20 lakh children across 16 states and three Union Territories.

On the occasion, Sinha also served meals to school students.

Among those present were Shri Bharatshabha Dasa, National President and Trustee of Akshaya Patra Foundation; MLA Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Baldev Raj Sharma; MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor Dr. Manddeep K. Bhandari; Commissioner Secretary School Education Department Ram Niwas Sharma; IGP Kashmir Bhim Sen Tuti; Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar; DIG Udampur-Reasi Range Shiv Kumar Sharma; Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek and other senior officials.

NHAI Plans

scheduled to be opened on June 23.

The project falls under the jurisdiction of the New Delhi headquarters of National Highways Authority of India. The tender for consultancy services has been issued by NHAI's Regional Office Jammu under reference number JKDIV/14/2025-NHAI-RO Jammu/E 290669. The project involves comprehensive DPR preparation for the planned four-laning of the strategic road corridor from Katra to Kulgam.

Officials said the initiative is expected to improve inter-regional connectivity, reduce travel time and promote tourism, trade and economic growth in the mountainous districts falling along the proposed alignment.

The proposed highway is also likely to enhance all-weather connectivity to remote areas such as Mahore, Gulabgarh and Nandimarg, which frequently face road accessibility issues due to difficult terrain and adverse weather

conditions.

As per the tender notice, the DPR consultancy will include feasibility studies, traffic surveys, alignment planning, engineering designs and other technical assessments required for execution of the project.

7 Peddlers, Terror

during separate operations in Baramulla, Anantnag and Kulgam districts.

In Baramulla's Boniyar area, police arrested Sabbir Mumtaz of Trikanjan after recovering a charas-like substance wrapped in polythene during routine patrolling. A case under the NDPS Act has been registered and investigation has been initiated, the official said.

In Anantnag district, police arrested an alleged "most wanted" drug peddler, identified as Nasir Ahmad Dohbi of Sallar, during naka checking at Shakras in Srigufwara area. Around five kilograms of charas powder-like substance was recovered from his possession, he said.

In another operation in the Achabal area of Anantnag, police arrested Irshad Ahmad Bhat of Magraypora and recovered a heroin-like substance from him, the official added.

Meanwhile, Police in Kulgam also made multiple arrests during naka checking operations. Bilal Ahmad Hajam of Larkipora was arrested at Chowgam Bridge and around 4.5 kilograms of charas powder was recovered from a nylon bag in his possession, police said.

Another accused, Sameer Ahmad Sheikh of Bangedar, Anantnag, was arrested with 157 grams of charas-like substance concealed in a polythene bag, police said.

In a separate operation near Sopat in Kulgam, Nazir Ahmad Rather was arrested after he allegedly tried to flee on noticing a police party. Around 2.6 kilograms of poppy straw-like substance was recovered from him, police added.

Police said all the accused were arrested and cases under relevant sections of the NDPS Act were registered at respective police stations.

In a separate operation, police along with Army's 34 Rashtriya Rifles and CRPF arrested a terrorist associate in Mohammadpora area of Kulgam.

The accused, identified as Aadil Hussain Lone of Mohammadpora, was intercepted during a joint operation and two hand grenades along with incriminating posters were recovered from his possession, police said.

A case has been registered and further investigation is underway, officials said, adding that more arrests and recoveries were expected.

In Pulwama district, police registered a case under the Essential Commodities Act after a huge quantity of urea fertiliser was allegedly found stored illegally in a godown at Parigam area. The owner failed to produce valid documents or licence for storage of the fertiliser, officials said.

Meanwhile, police conducted anti-drug awareness rallies, road races, village-level meetings and checking drives across Budgam, Baramulla, Awantipora and Pulwama districts under the anti-drug campaign.

Police said poppy plants cultivated illegally

in the Rajpora area of Pulwama were destroyed, medical shops were checked in Kakapora and raids were conducted at several locations linked to narcotics activities. (KNO)

HC Rejects Minor

categorical opinion of a duly constituted Medical Board, particularly where the proposed termination carries grave medical and obstetric risks.

The petition had been filed on behalf of the minor girl, stated to be around 14 years old, who conceived allegedly as a consequence of sexual assault. An FIR had already been registered at a Police Station in Kulgam, and the accused is stated to be in custody.

During proceedings, the Court constituted a Medical Board at Government Medical College, Srinagar, to assess the feasibility of termination. The Board subsequently opined that termination at the advanced stage of pregnancy could expose the victim to severe complications, including prolonged failed induction, hysterectomy, postpartum hemorrhage, sepsis, intensive care requirement, multiple blood transfusions and even secondary infertility.

"The argument advanced on behalf of the petitioner that continuation of pregnancy would cause mental trauma to the victim has been duly considered by this Court. However, the same has to be balanced against the equally compelling concern regarding the preservation of her life and physical health," the court said, adding, "The right to seek termination cannot be construed as an absolute right divorced from medical realities and expert assessment. Once the competent Medical Board has opined against termination due to serious danger to the life of the victim, the Court would be acting contrary to medical prudence if it still directs termination of pregnancy."

The Court noted that while pregnancies resulting from rape are presumed under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 to cause grave mental injury, the right to seek termination cannot override serious medical concerns relating to preservation of life.

The court distinguished a recent Supreme Court judgment permitting termination at 28 weeks, observing that in that case the Medical Board had found the victim medically fit for the procedure, whereas in the present case doctors had specifically warned against termination.

"...this Court is of the considered opinion that the prayer seeking permission for medical termination of pregnancy at this advanced stage (of approximately 27 weeks) cannot be granted in the peculiar facts and circumstances of the present case," the court said, adding, "The opinion rendered by the duly constituted Medical Board assumes immense significance and deserves due weightage, particularly when the same unequivocally records that the proposed termination at this stage of gestation involves grave and substantial risks to the life and future reproductive health of the victim-X."

While declining the prayer for termination,

the Court issued extensive directions for the welfare, rehabilitation, confidentiality and medical care of the victim and the prospective child.

The Court directed Government Lalla Ded Hospital, Srinagar, to provide complete pre and post-delivery medical treatment free of cost, maintain strict confidentiality and ensure counselling and medical supervision of the victim. The Medical Superintendent of the hospital has been designated as the nodal officer for coordinating all healthcare requirements.

The Court also directed the Senior Superintendents of Police of Kulgam and Srinagar to provide security wherever required.

Referring extensively to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the Court held that the minor survivor clearly falls within the category of a "child in need of care and protection" and is entitled to institutional support, rehabilitation and protection.

The judgment further records that Mission Vatsalya authorities have been directed to coordinate with the Child Welfare Committee and Specialized Adoption Agency regarding future care, registration and adoption-related formalities concerning the newborn, if required.

The Court finally dismissed the writ petition seeking MTP permission but directed monthly compliance reports from hospital authorities, Mission Vatsalya officials and police authorities regarding the welfare and medical condition of the victim and the prospective child.

LPG Refill Woes

do not own smartphones. "I have a Ujjwala connection and I cannot afford a smartphone. How am I supposed to complete self-eKYC?" asked Shazia, a homemaker.

Consumers also complained about confusion surrounding OTP-based delivery verification. Some said they received automated messages showing successful delivery of cylinders despite not sharing any OTP or receiving the gas cylinder.

"I received an OTP but I never shared it with the distributor. Still, I later got a message saying the gas had been delivered, even though I had not received it," said Mehraj Ahmad.

Distributors, however, said the messages were auto-generated by the system and that bookings would only become effective after completion of eKYC.

"These messages are generated automatically through the application. However, booking becomes valid only after the consumer completes eKYC," a distributor said.

Some consumers alleged that the sudden rush and procedural complications reflected larger supply-side concerns, with a few linking it to the ongoing crisis in the Middle East affecting LPG supply chains.

The situation has triggered inconvenience for consumers across the Valley, with many urging authorities and oil companies to simplify the verification process and provide alternative offline mechanisms for people without smartphones.

CS Calls for Accountability-Linked Plantation Works

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today reviewed the physical achievements and implementation progress of afforestation and ecological restoration works being undertaken across Jammu and Kashmir under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), emphasizing sustainable restoration of degraded forests, scientific monitoring and enhanced protection of vulnerable forest landscapes across the UT.

The review was held during the 27th meeting of the Steering Committee of J&K CAMPA and was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; PCCF (HoF); Chief Wildlife Warden; CEO, CAMPA and other senior officers of the Forest Department.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed the Forest Department to ensure complete digitization of forest maps and



boundary pillars for effective demarcation and protection of forest land. Stressing the need for improving the survival rate of plantations, he called for linking payments to contractors with the survival of planting material and directed the Finance Department to vet future tenders for incorporation of suitable clauses in this regard. He also instructed the department to ensure greater field presence of staff up to the rank of Rangers for safeguarding forests and enhancing green cover across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed year-wise trends in forest diversion and compensatory afforestation. The presentation revealed that diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes has sharply declined after 2020, while the area treated under afforestation and ecological restoration programmes has nearly doubled in recent years, reflecting the administration's increasing emphasis on ecological conservation and restoration.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar stressed upon recreating mis-

sing forest records on the pattern of the Revenue Department and advocated staggered payments linked with survival of planting material in phases of growth for ensuring accountability and better outcomes.

Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Sheetal Nanda highlighted the sustained plantation efforts undertaken by the department over the years and informed the meeting that a robust mechanism of monitoring and multilayer evaluation has been institutionalized to ensure efficient execution of works on the ground.

The meeting was informed that since inception of CAMPA activities in 2010-11, more than 1,06,023 hectares of degraded forest area across Jammu and Kashmir has been treated through afforestation, assisted natural regeneration and ecological restoration measures. During the same period, nearly 746.65 lakh saplings have been planted across different forest divisions, reflecting sustained expansion in plantation activities over the years.

Meanwhile the PCCF (HoF), Sarvesh Rai, informed the meeting that during the financial year 2025-26, nearly 2,952 hectares of area was treated under different CAMPA components across the Union Territory. He stated that over 12.65 lakh running feet of fencing was completed along with 19.32 lakh patch sowing and dibbling interventions were carried out, while 68.70 lakh saplings were raised in nurseries and maintenance of more than 164 lakh nursery saplings was undertaken during the year.

Overcrowding in GMCs, District Hospitals Irks Patients, Attendants

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Growing overcrowding inside wards at Government Medical Colleges (GMCs), its associated hospitals and district hospitals has become a major concern for patients and attendants alike, with many calling for stricter regulation of attendants inside hospital wards to ensure a peaceful and patient-friendly environment.

Several patients and attendants told KNO that while doctors and healthcare workers continue to provide medical care under challenging circumstances, the lack of proper monitoring and regulation inside wards—particularly after doctors complete their rounds—often leads to chaos, noise and inconvenience for patients.

According to attendants, several wards witness large gatherings around a single patient, with sometimes 15 to 20 people entering or remaining inside at the same time. They said such overcrowding not only disturbs critically ill patients but also affects hygiene, movement of hospital staff and overall discipline inside the

wards.

Adnan Ahmad an attendant from Baramulla, whose relative is admitted in one of the medical wards in SMHS, said the situation becomes extremely uncomfortable during peak hours.

"Patients need rest and calm surroundings, but many times the wards become crowded like public waiting halls. Too many attendants around one patient create unnecessary noise and disturbance for everyone," he said.

Ishfaq Ahmad another attendant from Anantnag whose patient is admitted at GMC Anantnag said there is a need for a uniform policy across hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in major hospitals and district-level institutions.

"Two or three attendants per patient are more than sufficient. If authorities properly regulate entry into wards, it will help both patients and doctors. Elderly patients and those recovering from surgeries especially suffer due to continuous noise and rush," she said.

Several attendants also pointed out that over-

crowding sometimes blocks passages inside wards, making it difficult for nurses, doctors and emergency staff to move freely during urgent situations.

A patient attendant from Pulwama said that many people accompanying patients enter wards out of concern, but the absence of regulation eventually creates problems for others.

"People also need to understand that hospitals are sensitive places. Everyone wants to stay with their loved ones, but there should be discipline so that all patients can remain comfortable," he said.

Locals and attendants urged the administration of Government Medical College Srinagar and other government hospitals to introduce stricter visitor management systems, including fixed attendant limits, entry passes and proper monitoring by hospital staff and security personnel.

They said such measures would help maintain hygiene, reduce unnecessary disturbance and create a more peaceful atmosphere for patients undergoing treatment.

Div Com Kashmir Reviews Preparations for SANJY-2026

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparedness for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY-2026).

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioners of Anantnag, Srinagar, Ganderbal and Bandipora, Commissioner SMC, besides Heads of Departments from Rural Sanitation, ULB, Health, FCS&CA, BEACON, KPDC, PHE, R&B, Animal Husbandry and Labour Departments. Representatives from telecom service providers including BSNL, Jio, Airtel and G-Max were also present.

Reviewing the registration process of service providers, the Divisional Commissioner emphasized on expediting registrations to meet the target of 28,000 service providers besides ponies. He directed concerned authorities to ensure timely generation of RFID cards for all registered service providers by May 30.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the development of pony stands and was informed that es-



sential infrastructure works including fencing and development of sheds has already been completed. He further instructed officials to conduct health check-ups of ponies and ensure adequate availability of fodder along the yatra routes.

Taking stock of telecom connectivity and bandwidth availability at base camps and along the yatra axes up to the Holy Cave, the Divisional Commissioner directed telecom companies to ensure uninterrupted and efficient network services during the pilgrimage period. Chief Engineer KPDC was asked to provide uninterrupted power supply to telecom installations.

The meeting also reviewed snow clearance operations, construction of gabion and breast walls,

and ongoing repair works along the yatra tracks. Deputy Commissioners were directed to personally inspect the repair and maintenance works being undertaken along the axes.

To facilitate smooth movement and convenience of pilgrims, the Divisional Commissioner called for augmentation of staff at yatri registration counters.

He also instructed rationalization of registration counters across the three districts in view of the direct railway connectivity to Srinagar.

Regarding the installation of tents at base camps, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the allotment process and directed concerned committees to conduct mandatory fire safety audits.

J&K Bank Partners with HD Construction Equipment India to Ease Equipment Financing

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of its commitment to support infrastructure-led development through institutional finance, J&K Bank on Thursday entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HD Construction Equipment India Pvt. Ltd. to facilitate customised financing solutions for Hyundai excavators and wheel loaders under the Bank's Construction Equipment Finance Scheme.

The partnership aims to facilitate easier access to finance for customers intending to procure construction and mining equipment manufactured and marketed by HD Construction Equipment India Pvt. Ltd. Backed by the company's established dealer and service network, the arrangement will offer added convenience through customised finance for machines used in road construction, quarrying, warehousing, mining, and large-scale infrastructure projects, especially in J&K.

In a simple but impressive function presided over by General Manager (Retail, Agriculture & MSME) Rakesh Magotra here at the Bank's CHQ, Deputy General Manager (RAM) Arjun Singh Rathore signed the MoU on behalf of J&K Bank, while Managing Director Seong Woo Shim signed on behalf of HD Construction Equipment India Pvt. Ltd. Senior officials present on the occasion included the company's AVP Joydeep Bakshi and Head Sales-NCW Sharwan Agnihotri, Bank's AGM Ashfaq Ahmad Hakak, authorised Hyundai dealer partner for J&K (Fuel Automobiles) Oves ur Rehman, besides other of-



ficials of the Bank and the company.

Speaking on the occasion, General Manager (RAM) Rakesh Magotra said, "This MoU underlines the Bank's continued focus on supporting infrastructure-led growth and entrepreneurship through responsive and need-based financial solutions. By combining the Bank's strong financing capabilities with HD Construction Equipment India's trusted range of construction and mining equipment, we aim to facilitate easier access to technologically advanced machinery for contractors, entrepreneurs and businesses engaged in infrastructure creation across Jammu & Kashmir and other regions."

"Given the rapid pace of infrastructure expansion across the country, especially in the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the collaboration will not only simplify the financing process for customers but also contribute towards accelerating economic activity, employment generation and development of critical infrastructure," he added.

In his remarks on the occasion, Managing Director, HD Construction

Equipment India, Seong Woo Shim said, "We are pleased to partner with J&K Bank—the premier financial institution of the region. This collaboration will enhance financing accessibility and strengthen customer support in the region. Through our partnership with J&K Bank, we aim to facilitate faster adoption of advanced Hyundai equipment while contributing to infrastructure growth and economic development in Jammu & Kashmir."

Notably, the partnership assumes significance in view of the increasing infrastructural development activities across the country, particularly in the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, where sectors such as roads, railways, hydroelectric projects, tourism infrastructure, and allied construction activities are witnessing rapid growth.

Presenting the vote of thanks on the occasion, DGM (RAM) Arjun Singh Rathore thanked the participants, expressing confidence that the agreement will benefit customers with streamlined financing for advanced equipment and strong after-sales support.

Cold Storage Units Continue to Support Kashmir Apple Growers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Controlled Atmosphere (CA) cold storage units continue to play a crucial role in sustaining Kashmir's horticulture economy, with nearly 15 per cent of apple produce still stored across various cold storage facilities in the Valley as growers wait for favourable market conditions.

Fruit growers told KNO that despite fluctuations in rates over the past few months, the decision to store apples instead of selling them during the peak harvest season has largely proved beneficial. However, they expressed concern over the unusually high percentage of B and C grade apples this year, which affected their overall returns.

According to growers, nearly 30 per cent of this season's apple produce fell under B and C grade categories, reducing profit margins for orchardists. While A-grade apples continue to fetch encouraging prices in outside markets, lower-grade fruit has not generated the returns growers had expected.

Many orchardists said that during the harvesting season, market demand remained weak and prices were low, forcing them to shift their produce to cold storage units in the hope of securing better returns later.

A grower from Shopian said that A-grade apples are still receiving good prices in wholesale markets, but growers hold-



ing lower-grade fruit are struggling to recover production and storage costs. "The quality issue this year has impacted many orchardists. Premium fruit is doing well, but B and C grade apples are not fetching satisfactory rates," he said.

Another orchardist from Pulwama said the availability of CA storage facilities has nevertheless protected growers from distress sales. "Had there been no cold storage units, many growers would have suffered huge losses during the peak season when markets were flooded," he said. "At least now we have the flexibility to release produce gradually."

President of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers and Dealers Union, Bashir Ahmad Basheer, said several factors contributed to the higher percentage of lower-grade apples this season.

"There are multiple reasons behind the increase in B and C grade apples this year," Basheer said. "During the peak season, rates were very low, and growers rushed to cold storage facilities without properly sorting or checking their produce."

Sajad Lone Never Raised People's Issues with Me: Deputy CM

HANDWARA: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Thursday accused MLA Handwara Sajad Lone of failing to pursue developmental issues concerning Rajwar and other areas of the constituency.

Addressing a public gathering in a village in Handwara, the Deputy Chief Minister, as per KNO said Sajad Lone had "never met him even for an hour" during the last one and a half years to discuss issues related to roads, development works and public welfare in Handwara.

"In the last one and a half years, the MLA of this constituency never visited my office even for an hour to discuss roads or other issues of Rajwar people," Choudhary said, adding that instead of following up developmental matters, Lone remained busy making political statements and questioning his position as Deputy Chief Minister.

Launching a sharp political attack, he alleged that people had "mistakenly" elected Sajad Lone as their representative and termed him "incompetent". The constituency had suffered due to lack of attention from its elected representative.

Referring to political differences, Choudhary said Lone comes from a politically influential family but maintained that he himself hails from a middle-class family and is the son of a soldier. He said he was proud of his background and asserted that unlike "arrogant politicians", he would continue to listen to poor people and address their grievances.

He accused Lone of ignoring developmental works during his tenure in government. He referred to a bridge inaugurated at Drugmulla earlier in the day and said the project had remained incomplete for 14 years despite the foundation stone having been laid during the government led by Omar Abdullah. He said the bridge remained pending during subsequent governments when Sajad Lone was a minister.

"After 14 years, this bridge has finally been made functional and thrown open to the public. This is what the Omar-led government has done," Choudhary said. (Observer News Service)

Only Medically Fit Sacrificial Animals to be allowed in Sopore Markets

SOPORE: Ahead of Eid ul Adha, the Sopore administration for the first time has made veterinary screening mandatory for all sacrificial animals to ensure that only medically fit livestock is allowed for sale and sacrifice in markets across the sub district.

According to KNO, the administration has directed that every animal brought to livestock mandis and sale points in the sub-division will now undergo ante mortem medical inspection by certified veterinary teams before being cleared for sale.

To implement the directions, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, S A Raina said dedicated teams comprising Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and other officials have been deployed at major livestock markets and town centres. The teams have been tasked with examining animals for diseases, infections and overall fitness to safeguard public health and ensure quality livestock for consumers.

The administration has also constituted joint enforcement squads comprising Revenue officials, Food Safety Officers, Police personnel and representatives from Municipal Council Sopore and Municipal Committee Watergam to monitor the process and ensure strict compliance.

The administration appealed to the public to purchase sacrificial animals only from authorised locations where veterinary screening teams are present. (Observer News Service)

Elected Govt Disappointing J&K People: MP Aga Ruhullah

HANDWARA: Member Parliament (MP), Srinagar, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Thursday said people of Jammu and Kashmir were getting disappointed with the elected government "one way or another". Speaking to reporters here, Ruhullah, as reported by KNO, said an elected government was expected to stand with the people and address their concerns.

Meanwhile, the Member Parliament appealed to his colleague, Engineer Rashid not to withdraw from politics after the Baramulla MP recently hinted at stepping away from electoral politics during his father's funeral gathering.

"I heard his speech. It is his personal choice whether to remain away from politics or not," Ruhullah told reporters.

He said faith teaches people to remain determined and steadfast on the chosen path despite difficulties and pressure. "Allah asks us to stay steadfast and determined on the track," he said. Without naming anyone, Ruhullah said, "People often leave only after greed or when they come under someone's power. But Er Rashid has seen challenges, family issues and difficult circumstances. Despite that, he continued his work with dignity."

The MP said he could relate to Er Rashid's struggles and understood what the Baramulla MP may be going through emotionally and politically after years in jail.

"I want him not to quit and remain determined," he added. (Observer News Service)

Flower Pot Theft at Jhelum Riverfront Raises Concerns over Public Assets

SRINAGAR: A series of flower pots installed along Srinagar's Jhelum Riverfront as part of the city's beautification initiative were allegedly stolen during the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, prompting the Srinagar Smart City administration to seek police intervention.

The theft has sparked concern among officials, who described the incident as a setback to efforts aimed at enhancing the city's public spaces. The riverfront, which has become a major attraction for residents and tourists alike, is lined with decorative flower pots, landscaped walkways and recreational facilities intended to improve the city's urban landscape.

Chief Engineer of Srinagar Smart City Limited, Abdul Qayum Kirmani, expressed disappointment over the incident, saying that public assets created for the benefit of citizens continue to be targeted by miscreants.

"We are trying our level best to beautify the city, but incidents like these are deeply discouraging. These facilities are meant for the people, yet some individuals choose to steal or damage them. It is difficult to understand such a mindset," Kirmani said.

He said the Smart City administration would approach the police and seek registration of an FIR to identify those responsible for the theft.

"We will be writing to the police and requesting that an FIR be lodged so that the culprits can be traced and appropriate action taken," he said.

Kirmani noted that this is not the first instance of public infrastructure developed under the Smart City project being targeted. He recalled that manhole covers installed in some areas had also been stolen earlier, following which a police complaint was filed.

"Last time, some manhole covers were stolen and an FIR was registered. However, we have not received any update on that case so far," he added. (Observer News Service)

Iran Expands Hormuz Oversight Zone

Agencies

TEHRAN - The Iranian authority controlling the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf has defined the supervisory management zone of the waterway. The Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) made the announcement in a post on its official X account on Wednesday. It defined the management zone as "the line connecting Mount Mubarak in Iran and southern Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates, on the eastern side of the strait, extending to

the line connecting the end of Qeshm Island in Iran and Umm Al Quwain in the United Arab Emirates, on the western side of the strait." "Movement within this area for passage through the Strait of Hormuz requires coordination" with the PGSA "and obtaining a permit from this body", it added. Iran shut down the strategic corridor to enemies and their allies in retaliation for the United States' and the Israeli regime's latest bout of unprovoked aggression against the country.



It began applying far stricter controls after US President Donald Trump announced the continuation of an illegal naval blockade of Iranian vessels and ports on April 13 in violation of the terms of a ceasefire he had unilaterally announced earlier that month. Amid the developments, Iran introduced the PGSA as a new institutional mechanism to regulate and oversee vessel traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. In its inaugural post on X, the authority stated that the account would provide real-time

updates on operations in the waterway, as well as ongoing developments related to maritime transit management. According to Iranian officials, the new communication channel is part of a wider operational system designed to improve coordination with commercial shipping. Under the mechanism, vessels intending to pass through the strait receive direct electronic notifications outlining applicable rules, regulations, and procedural requirements prior to transit.

Pulwama Attack Mastermind Hamza Burhan Shot Dead in PoK

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: Hamza Burhan, believed to be one of the masterminds behind the 2019 Pulwama terror attack that claimed the lives of over 40 CRPF personnel, was killed on Thursday when unknown gunmen opened fire on him in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), sources said. Burhan alias Arjumand Gulzar Dar alias Doctor, a commander of the Al Badr terror group, was designated as a terrorist by India in April 2022 for his involvement in a series of terror acts in Jammu and Kashmir. He had been living undercover as a teacher in PoK following the Pulwama attack. According to police, Burhan, a principal of a private college in Gojra, Muzaffarabad (about 135 km from Islamabad), was targeted when he came out of his college on Thursday morning. The attackers fired multiple shots at close range, they said.



"The principal sustained three bullets to the head. He was taken to a nearby hospital in critical condition, where he was put on a ventilator," police told reporters. However, sources told PTI that Burhan died following the attack. The police also claimed to have arrested a suspect and recovered the weapon used in the attack. "After committing the crime, a suspect was fleeing on a motorcycle when local men overpowered him and handed him over to the police," an eyewitness said. Dar, born in 1999, hailed from Ratnipora, Pulwama, in Jammu and Kashmir. He went to Pakistan on valid documents, where he joined the Al Badr terror group. According to the Union Home Ministry, Dar was an active terrorist and commander of Al Badr. Since going to Pakistan, Dar had been motivating youth to join Al Badr and funding the outfit's terror activities.

East Bengal Crowned Champions of ISL, End 22-year Wait

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: East Bengal FC were crowned champions of the Indian Super League for the first time here on Thursday, ending a 22-year-old title drought in the country's top-tier competition and quenching their passionate fans' yearning for silverware after a thrilling five-horse race to the top prize. East Bengal, one of the country's most decorated football clubs alongside its arch-rivals Mohun Bagan Super Giant, emerged triumphant after a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Inter Kashi at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan, even as Mohun Bagan, another contender for the prize alongside Mumbai City FC, Punjab City and Bengaluru FC heading into the decisive final round of fixtures, rallied to beat Sporting Club Delhi 2-1 at Yuba Bharati Krirangan. Mumbai FC beat Punjab FC 2-0 in their face-off, while Odisha FC and Jamshedpur FC played out a goalless draw in an inconsequential game. Both East Bengal and Mohun Bagan ended their campaign with 26 points from 13 matches but the former won on super goal difference of +19 compared to their rivals' +13. Former winners Mumbai City and Bengaluru FC settled for the third and fourth place respectively



after a dramatic final day's play of the truncated league. East Bengal, though, were made to work hard until the last minute after Alfred's brilliant first-time finish put Inter Kashi in lead on the 15th minute. After missing multiple chances to equalise before the break, Oscar Bruzon's transformed side found the much-needed equaliser in the 50th minute through striker Youssef Ezzejjari, who is also the winner of the Golden Boot after finishing as the league's highest goal-scorer with 11 strikes from 13 matches. Mohammed Rashid scored East Bengal's second goal in the 73rd minute as the Kolkata heavyweights turned the game around in stunning fashion.

While they found themselves on the backfoot initially, East Bengal dominated possession for large spells once they found their mojo and repeatedly pushed numbers forward in search of the breakthrough. Their attacking approach stretched the Inter Kashi defence, while the visitors attempted to stay compact and threaten on the counterattack. Every attack from the home side was cheered wildly by the crowd, who grew increasingly anxious as updates filtered in from other title-race matches around the country. Inter Kashi, despite enduring an off-field financial crisis and a difficult debut ISL campaign, showed admirable resilience. Their players

defended bravely and refused to surrender easily under the pressure of a hostile atmosphere and a title-deciding occasion. The visitors frustrated East Bengal for phases of the contest, forcing the league leaders to remain patient and disciplined. East Bengal last won the top-tier domestic league title during the 2003-04 season of the then National Football League under the guidance of late Subhash Bhowmick. The 33-year-old Ezzejjari, who was born in Spain and represented Morocco in the youth level, thus made up for his earlier missed chances in the game. East Bengal entered their final league game level on 23 points with Mohun Bagan at the top of the standings. However, East Bengal held a crucial advantage with a superior goal difference of +18 compared to Mohun Bagan's +13. Three other teams -- Mumbai City FC, Punjab FC and Jamshedpur FC -- were also mathematically alive in the title race heading into the final round fixtures. Because of administrative and structural changes, the ISL this season returned in a shortened, single-leg round-robin format consisting of 13 matches with no post-season playoffs, which meant the league table topper would be crowned the outright champions.

MI Securities

POWER OF ₹5,000 SIP

Step 1: You invest ₹5,000 every month

Step 2: You reinvest your total investment growth

| Duration (Years) | Total Invested Amount |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 5 | 3.0L |
| 10 | 6.0L |
| 15 | 9.0L |
| 20 | 12.0L |
| 25 | 15.0L |
| 30 | 18.0L |

Small amount, big corpus

| Duration (Years) | Corpus | Invested | Money grows to |
|------------------|--------|----------|----------------|
| 5 | ₹4.1L | ₹3.1L | 1.4x |
| 10 | ₹11.6L | ₹6.0L | 2.9x |
| 15 | ₹25.9L | ₹9.0L | 4.3x |
| 20 | ₹51.8L | ₹12.0L | 6.5x |
| 25 | ₹97.5L | ₹15.0L | 10.5x |
| 30 | ₹1.9Cr | ₹18.0L | 10.5x |

More time = more compounding

Mutual fund investments are subject to market risks. Read all scheme related documents carefully before investing.