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Iran Deal Raises Tough Question What Did Trump Gain From War?

Trans Asia News

New Delhi: As Iran and the United States edge closer to a possible agreement after months of conflict and diplomacy, the emerging outlines of the proposed deal are raising a difficult question in Washington: what exactly has the United States gained from the war?

The question has become more pressing after Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced on Friday that a "final, agreed-upon text of the peace deal has been reached" between Tehran and Washington, describing peace as closer than at any point since the conflict erupted.

The apparent breakthrough comes just days after U.S. President Donald Trump oscillated between threatening

fresh military strikes on Iran and expressing confidence that a diplomatic settlement was imminent.

Yet details emerging from Iranian sources suggest that many of Tehran's longstanding demands have been incorporated into the draft framework, while several of Washington's central objectives appear to have been postponed, diluted or left unresolved.

Iran Says No Final Approval Yet

Despite growing optimism, Iranian officials insist that no final agreement has yet been approved.

According to Tasnim News Agency, the text remains under review by Iran's leadership.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail | More on P6



IRAN MAKES NO COMMITMENT IN THIS TEXT TO CEDE the management of the strait or the restoration of conditions that existed prior to the American and Israeli military aggression. "

Govt Caps Daily Diesel Sales at 200 Litres Per Vehicle

Bulk Consumers Kept Off Retail Pumps

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The government has capped diesel sales to a vehicle in a day at 200 litres and restricted industrial, commercial, and institutional users from buying petrol and diesel from petrol pumps in a bid to prevent local shortages amid global supply disruption, according to an official order.

Retail outlets can sell diesel only into a vehicle tank or PESO-approved container,

and not more than 200 litres per customer or vehicle per day.

Also, industrial, commercial and institutional consumers will no longer be allowed to buy petrol or diesel from retail outlets. They must source their fuel from their own consumer pumps.

The restrictions, which will be in place for up to 90 days, follows abnormal demand growth, particularly that of diesel, in some pockets after bulk users | More on P6

Ensure 'Impregnable Security Grid' During Yatra: Shah

Directs Use of Drones, CCTV Surveillance; Says Pilgrims' Safety Remains Top Priority



Observer News Service

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday directed security agencies to establish a multi-layered and impregnable security grid along the Amarnath Yatra routes and at major tourist

destinations across Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the peaceful and smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage beginning on July 3.

Chairing a high-level review meeting on the preparedness for the 57-day Yatra, Shah stressed that

Strict SOP Compliance Must Be Ensured: IGP

Kashmir police chief V K Birdi on Friday directed the security forces to remain alert and ready for the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra, which begins early next month. Birdi, the Kashmir | More on P6

Anantnag Rolls Out Hi-Tech Security Shield For Amarnath Yatra

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Authorities have intensified preparations for the annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, deploying advanced surveillance systems, specialised security units and a multi-layered security grid to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the pilgrimage beginning on July 3.

With more than 400 CCTV cameras, an expanded facial recognition system, elevated watchtowers and extensive deployment of security personnel along the route, officials said elaborate arrangements have been put in place

ahead of the 38-day pilgrimage.

The annual Amarnath Yatra, one of Jammu and Kashmir's largest religious pilgrimages, attracts thousands of devotees from across the country every year.

As part of the preparations, security agencies, police and the civil administration have installed advanced surveillance infrastructure at key locations along the Yatra route and base camps. Mock drills are also being conducted to assess preparedness and strengthen coordination among various agencies in dealing with potential emergencies.

A mock | More on P6

Week-Long Rain, Storms Forecast Across J&K

MeT Warns Of Flash Floods, Mudslides In Isolated Areas

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast a week-long spell of rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds across Jammu and Kashmir, while warning of flash floods and mudslides in vulnerable areas due to brief intense showers.

Even as temperatures remained above normal across much of the Union Territory, the weather department advised people to remain cautious amid the likelihood of lightning, hailstorms, strong winds and intermittent rainfall through June 19.

According to the forecast issued on Friday, weather conditions are expected to remain partly to generally cloudy with one or two spells of light to moderate rain and brief intense showers at many places.

Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds of 40-50 kmph, with gusts reaching up to 60 kmph at isolated locations, are also likely.

The department said similar weather | More on P6

LG Sinha Calls On HM Amit Shah

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.

MHA posted on X: "Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha met with the Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri@ Amit Shah today."

Earlier the Union Home Minister chaired a high level meeting in the National Capital and reviewed Amarnath Yatra preparations.

The meeting was attended by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, the Union Home Secretary, Army Chief, Intelligence Bureau Director, senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs, security | More on P6

Over 42 Lakh Bank Accounts Lie Inoperative In J&K

Inactive Accounts Rise By 6.18 Lakh In A Year; J&K Bank Tops List

Agencies

Srinagar: The number of inoperative bank accounts in Jammu and Kashmir has crossed the 42 lakh mark, official data has revealed.

According to the figures, the total number of inoperative accounts in the Union Territory surged to 4212670 as on December 31, 2025, marking an increase of 618596 compared to 3594074 accounts as on December 31, 2024.

As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines, savings or current accounts are treated as inoperative if there are no customer-induced transactions for a period of over two years.

Data shows that J&K Bank tops the list with 2256047 inoperative accounts, followed by J&K Grambank (770365), Punjab National Bank (347734), State Bank



of India (200928) and HDFC Bank (100,902).

The number of inoperative accounts in the other 20 banks operating in J&K is below one lakh each, with YES Bank reporting only 21 accounts.

According to documents, the issue of inoperative accounts in banks was discussed during the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) meeting held under the chairmanship of | More on P6

CM Seeks Rethink On Srinagar Airport Closure

Tells Rajnath, Civil Aviation Minister October Shutdown Could Hurt Tourism & Livelihoods

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has urged the Centre to review the proposed closure of Srinagar International Airport from October 1 to 16 next year, warning that a complete suspension of flight operations during the peak autumn tourism season could adversely affect the economy and livelihoods in Jammu and Kashmir.

During separate meetings in New Delhi with Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Omar raised concerns over the closure scheduled under Phase III of the airport's runway resurfacing project.

While acknowledging that the resurfacing works are essential for operational safety and respecting the operational



assessment of the Indian Air Force, the Chief Minister said the timing of the final phase coincides with one of the busiest periods for tourism in the Valley.

Abdullah informed the Union Ministers that air services to Kashmir have already been affected since April due to earlier phases of the resurfacing programme. He said a complete shutdown of flight operations during the first half of October | More on P6

Too Much Screen Time? GMC Sounds Health Alarm

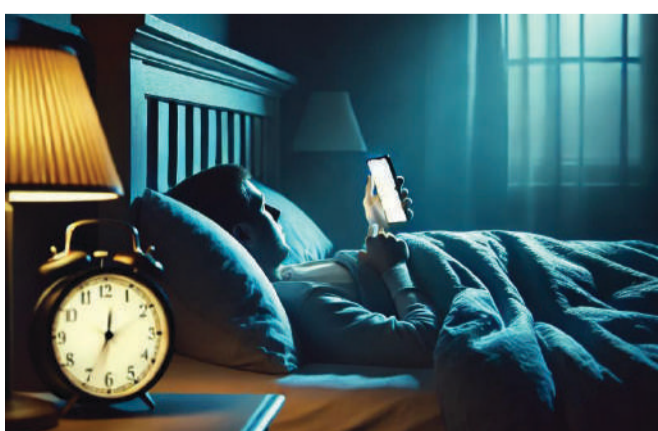
» Advisory flags risks to eyesight, sleep, posture and mental health

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Community Medicine at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar has issued a public advisory warning that excessive screen time is emerging as a serious health concern, affecting physical, mental and emotional well-being across all age groups, particularly children, adolescents and young adults.

The advisory cautions that prolonged use of smartphones, tablets, computers and other digital devices is increasingly linked to a range of health problems, including eye strain, sleep disturbances, posture-related disorders, obesity and mental health issues.

One of the most common problems associated with



excessive screen use is Digital Eye Strain, which develops when people spend long hours looking at screens without adequate breaks.

According to the advisory, screen exposure significantly reduces the natural blinking

» Doctors recommend 20-20-20 rule, regular movement breaks

the growing prevalence of "Tech Neck", a condition caused by poor posture while using digital devices.

Medical experts explained that while the human head normally weighs about five kilograms, tilting it forward to view a phone or laptop can increase the effective load on the neck to more than 20 kilograms. Over time, this excessive strain can lead to chronic neck and back pain, shoulder stiffness and even early degeneration of the spine.

Sleep disruption is another major concern identified in the advisory. Experts noted that screens emit blue light, which suppresses the production of melatonin, the hormone that regulates sleep.

As a result, excessive screen exposure, | More on P6

Sukhnag Riverbed Excavated Beyond Limits: NGT Panel

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: SRINAGAR: Indiscriminate and unscientific mining in the Sukhnag river in central Kashmir's Budgam district has caused significant damage to the river's morphology and underlying aquifer systems, with potentially irreversible consequences for the ecosystem and local livelihoods, a joint panel has found.

The findings were made in a report submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) last month by a committee comprising officials from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), the National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE) and the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC).

The committee, which inspected the Sukhnag river on March 18 this year following



directions from the NGT, found visible signs of extensive extraction of riverbed material from both the active river channel and surrounding catchment areas.

"The extent of excavation within the riverbed raised serious environmental concerns," the report said, noting

indications that mining had extended below the active riverbed and into alluvial aquifer zones, a practice that could result in irreversible hydrogeological damage and depletion of groundwater storage capacity.

Originating in the Tosa Maidan area of the Pir Panjal range and fed | More on P6



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Socioeconomic Disparities Could Be Major Predictors Of Antimicrobial Resistance: Study

Press Trust India

A new study has found that the major predictors of antimicrobial resistance could be socioeconomic inequality and living conditions, such as overcrowding and access to sanitation, and not just antibiotic consumption. Researchers, including those from King's College London, said that reducing antibiotic consumption alone will be insufficient and that governments should prioritise structural public health interventions, including improving nutritional status, reducing overcrowding and strengthening health equity in high-risk areas.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which occurs when a microbe develops an immunity against the very drugs designed to kill it, is projected to claim more than 39 million lives over the next 25 years, according to estimates published in The Lancet journal in September 2025. Senior author Tania Dottorini, professor of artificial intelligence in science at King's College London, said, "Our research uses a multi-scale, multi-modal approach that has never been applied in this way before. By identifying which resistance traits are increasing, where they are spreading, and what is driving them, we can better target surveillance, policy and interventions towards the threats that are most likely to impact global health in the future." "Reducing antibiotic use alone won't be enough. Tackling AMR requires structural interventions on inequality, sanitation, nutrition and health equity alongside stewardship. We believe that our findings provide a roadmap for targeted AMR interventions," Dottorini said. The researchers analysed more than 45,000 genomes collected from across 127 countries of 16 bacterial species, which the World Health Organization (WHO) has identified as critical priority pathogens.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Wahid Rafi, S/o Mohammad Rafi Khan, R/o Hirpora, District Shopian, J&K (UT), hereby inform that my name has been wrongly recorded as "Wahid Ah" in Aadhaar Card No. 7911 6903 1373. My correct name is "Wahid Rafi". I am applying for correction of my name in Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may file the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Wahid Rafi S/o Mohammad Rafi Khan R/o Hirpora, Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shazi Jan, D/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat, R/o Arhama, District Shopian, J&K (UT), hereby inform that my name has been wrongly recorded as "Shazia Bashir" in Aadhaar Card No. 4121 3839 5802. My correct name is "Shazi Jan". I am applying for correction of my name in Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may file the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Shazi Jan D/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/o Arhama, Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Younus Malik, F/o Mohammad Ziyaan Malik, R/o Hirpora, Tehsil Shopian, J&K (UT), hereby inform that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded as "Mohd Zayeen Malik" in Aadhaar Card No. 4207 8378 5903. The correct name of my ward is "Mohammad Ziyaan Malik". I am applying for correction of the name in Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may file the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Mohammad Younus Malik F/o Mohammad Ziyaan Malik R/o Hirpora, Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Manzoor Ahmad Wani, S/o Abdul Razak Wani, R/o Ahagam, Tehsil Keegam, District Shopian, J&K (UT), hereby inform that my name has been wrongly recorded as "Maznoor Ahmad Wani" in Aadhaar Card No. 2128 0521 2694. My correct name is "Manzoor Ahmad Wani". I am applying for correction of my name in Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may file the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Manzoor Ahmad Wani S/o Abdul Razak Wani R/o Ahagam, Shopian fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Sariwarpora

Sub... Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth.. PUBLIC NOTICE.. The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Tanzeema Akhtar D/o khazir Mohd Rather R/o Seriguo Dangerpora Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 05/04/1979. In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained. Naib Tehsildar Sariwarpora fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Death.. PUBLIC NOTICE The registrar death BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to Death of Sara Begum D/o Ghulam Ahmad Dar w/o Mohammad Ismayel w/o Darveshbagh Nehalpora Tehsil Pattan died on 29/02/2024. In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained. Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth.. PUBLIC NOTICE The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Usman Firdous s/o Firdous Ahmad Najar R/o Nehalpora Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 05/02/2019. In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained. Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

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 Zainab parvaiz D/o Parvaiz Ahmad Khan R/o wanigam Bala Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 11/04/2020 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. Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

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 Aman Ali Dar s/o Shafat Hussain Dar R/o Gund Ibrahim Tehsil Srinagar with verified date of birth 09/01/2023 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained. Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Tasin Lone to (new name) Tahseen Rashid. In future i will be known as (new name) Tahseen Rashid . If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport office Srinagar and gazette office jammu amphala & Sempora Pampore Srinagar, within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted. Media line addt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Peerzada Ghulam Jeelani, S/o Peerzada Ghulam Ahmad, R/o Tapper Waripora, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby notify the general public that the name and date of birth of my son have been inadvertently recorded as "Mohd Iyad Bin Jeelani" and "11-01-2016" in his Aadhaar records. The correct and actual name and date of birth of my son are "Peerzada Mohammad Iyad Jeelani" and "11-07-2017" respectively. Henceforth, the name Peerzada Mohammad Iyad Jeelani and date of birth 11-07-2017 shall be treated as the true and correct particulars of my son for all purposes. The publication of this notice is being made in connection with the proposed correction/uptation of the aforesaid particulars in Aadhaar records and for publication in the Government Gazette. Any person having any objection to the above correction may submit the same before the concerned authorities within the prescribed period from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise, no objection shall be entertained thereafter. Peerzada Ghulam Jeelani S/o Peerzada Ghulam Ahmad R/o Tapper Waripora, Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla, J&K (UT) FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that Musadiq Showkat Dar, S/o Habibullah Dar and Mst. Pamposh Showkat Ali Dar, R/o Mughama, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), was born on 01-01-2019 at home in Village Mughama. It is further notified that the birth of the said child could not be registered within the prescribed period and no Birth Certificate has been obtained from any authority till date. The parents have now applied before the competent authority for delayed registration of birth and issuance of a Birth Certificate. If any person has any objection regarding the date of birth, parentage, or registration of the above-mentioned child, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, it shall be presumed that no objection exists and the case shall be processed accordingly. Pamposh Showkat Ali Dar Mother of Musadiq Showkat Dar R/o Mughama, Tehsil Kunzer District Baramulla, J&K (UT) FKO

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of The Naib-Tehsildar Pathallan Executive Magistrate 1st Class.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is hereby notified for information of the general public that the Block Development Officer (BDO) Pattan has forwarded the case file for issuance of Death certificate in favour of Mohammad Ramzan mir S/o Mohd Sultan mir R/o Lolipora with Date of Death 20-02-2024. Objections, if any, regarding the details furnished by the applicant may be submitted in writing in the office of the Naib Tehsildar, Pathallan within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the stipulated time, the case shall be processed for issuance of the Death certificate as per rules in vogue. NANG PETA PASHALLAN Pathallan FKO_R

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ahmad Saboor Iqbal, S/o Mohd Iqbal Wani, R/o 03-A, Ignite Minds, Habib Colony, Baghat, Barzulla, Srinagar, J&K (UT), hereby notify the general public that my particulars in Aadhaar Card No. 8624 0849 0057 have been incorrectly recorded as "Saboor Iqbal", D.O.B. 26-05-2008, 53 Mir Masjid, Khanyar, Srinagar, Kashmir. My correct particulars are "Ahmad Saboor Iqbal", D.O.B. 20-04-2008, 03-A, Ignite Minds, Habib Colony, Baghat, Barzulla, Srinagar, Kashmir, J&K (UT). Henceforth, the above-mentioned correct name, date of birth and address shall be deemed to be my true and correct particulars for all purposes. Any person having any objection to the proposed correction may submit the same to the concerned authorities within the stipulated period; otherwise, no objection shall be entertained thereafter. Ahmad Saboor Iqbal S/o Mohd Iqbal Wani R/o 03-A, Ignite Minds, Habib Colony, Baghat, Barzulla, Srinagar, J&K (UT) Dated: 12-06-2026 FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old name) RIDDIHI VERMA to (New name) RIDDIHI SAHIMA VERMA. In future I will be known as (New Name) RIDDIHI SAHIMA VERMA. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted. X

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that Imad Rashid Sheikh, S/o Abdul Rashid Sheikh, R/o Khaminderpora, Tehsil Tangmarg/Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), was born on 13-11-2024 at PHC Kunzer as per hospital records. It is further notified that the birth of the said child has not been registered with any competent authority, nor has any Birth Certificate been obtained till date. The parents have now applied before the concerned Registrar for delayed registration of birth and issuance of a Birth Certificate in accordance with law. If any person has any objection regarding the date of birth, parentage, or registration of the above-mentioned child, he/she may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, it shall be presumed that no objection exists and the case shall be processed accordingly. Abdul Rashid Sheikh S/o Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh R/o Khaminderpora, Tehsil Tangmarg/Kunzer District Baramulla, J&K (UT) FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Shabir Ahmad Lohar S/o Ab Rashid Lohar R/o Near Masjid Kelam Bozgam Kulgam is applying for upgrade of Government Contractor from BEE Class to AAY Class bearing Regd. No. 89/BEE/(Civil)/CE/CID/PDC/2022-23 at the Office of the Chief Engineer JKPDC Bemina. Anybody having any objection may contact above Office within seven days from the date of this advertisement after which no objection will be entertained. ab

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Registration Certificate (RC) of my vehicle has been lost/misplaced. The particulars of the vehicle are as under: Make & Model: Honda Grazia Disc Chassis No.: ME4JF9948MW004623 Engine No.: JF99EW0063935 Date of Registration: 07-Apr-2021 Registering Authority: RTO Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir. Now I am applying for the issuance of a duplicate of the same. Any body having any objection may contact the concerned authorities within a period of seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Name: Sheikh Khalid Nazir S/O:- Sheikh Nazir Ahmad Address: Hamzah colony near masjid Mohammadia near Bagati kani pora inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nissara Akhtar, W/o Showkat Naikoo, R/o Laddi, Imamsahib, District Shopian, J&K (UT), hereby inform that my name has been wrongly recorded as "Nisara Bano" in Aadhaar Card No. 4110 9507 5549. My correct name is "Nissara Akhtar". I am applying for correction of my name in Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may file the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Nissara Akhtar W/o Showkat Naikoo R/o Laddi, Imamsahib, Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sheeraz Ahmad Lone, F/o Adeeba Sheeraz, R/o Hirpora, District Shopian, J&K (UT), hereby inform that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded as "Adeeba Jan" in Aadhaar Card No. 2081 4183 2049. The correct name of my ward is "Adeeba Sheeraz". I am applying for correction of the name in Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may file the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Sheeraz Ahmad Lone F/o Adeeba Sheeraz R/o Hirpora, Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Peer Rayees Ahmad Shah, S/o Abdul Gani Shah, R/o Hajipora, District Shopian, J&K (UT), hereby inform that my name has been wrongly recorded as "Rayees Ahmad Peer" in Aadhaar Card No. 3635 4542 2358. My correct name is "Peer Rayees Ahmad Shah". I am applying for correction of my name in Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may file the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Peer Rayees Ahmad Shah S/o Abdul Gani Shah R/o Hajipora, Shopian fko

اطلاع عام

برغاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کی جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بچے 1 ایگریٹمنٹ زیر کنٹرول نمبر 0206010009147 جو کہ میرے والد کے نام پر یعنی رحیم بٹ کے نام پر ہے۔ اسے اب اسکو میرے نام یعنی محمد تقی بٹ کے نام پر کرنا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو دو سات دن کے اندر اندر مذکورہ نمبر پر فون پر رابطہ کریں۔ بعد از اس اعتراض قابل قبول گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ محمد تقی بٹ ولد عبدالرحیم بٹ ساکن زر پورہ بڈگام فون 8082567962 MBC-

نمبر پبلٹی کی مکشدرگی

میری موٹر سائیکل زیر نمبر JK04A-8789 کے کبھی پبلٹی (R-C) نہیں گم ہوئی ہے۔ بہت ڈھونڈنے پر نہیں ملی۔ اگر کسی نے اٹھائی ہو تو ویراے اس نیت سے مجھے دے دوئے نمبر پروفن کرے۔ بصورت دیگر اسکی ویکلیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی کوئی اعتراض ہو تو دو ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر ARTO بڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از موصول کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ خورشید احمد شہد ولد علاء محمد شہد ساکن ڈلی پورہ بڈگام فون 7006493960

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 139085103 Session: Oct Nov Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed against my father's name as Jugjit Singh instead of Jagjeet Singh Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained. Name: Bikramjeet Singh Father's name: Jageet Singh Mother's Name: Lovejeet Kour DOB: 01-11-2008 Residence: Bunhama Budgam Mobile no: 9541466531 | 9596036531 INFO



Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KULGAM

Tehsil Headquarter, Kulgam Kashmir, 192231 Subject:- Application in respect of Musab Ahmad Mantoo S/o Gh Rasool Mantoo Flo Rida Musab R/o Mohammad pora Tehsil and District Kulgam for issuance of date of Birth Certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public that the documents of the applicant for the issuance of a Birth certificate are currently under process with this office. The applicant's Son/Daughter was born on 21/12/2020 It is noted that the entry of the birth has not been registered in the birth record register of the chowkidar. The applicant desires to obtain the birth certificate. If any individual has any objection to the issuance of the said certificate, kindly submit your objection to this office within one week from the date of this notice. Any objections received after this stipulated period will not be entertained by this office. Yours faithfully Naib Tehsildar Kulgam inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my daughter the name is entered as AREEBA BINT MUBARAK while his actual name is NOOR UL AIN. Now I want its correction. In this regard if anybody having any objection may contact DISTRICT HOSPITAL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that. MUBARAK GULL F/o NOOR UL AIN R/o PARNIWA KHANSAHIB BUDGAM CELL. 8899664456 MCB

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection name has been wrongly registered SAMEER AHMAD KHAN S/O ABDUL QUYOOM KHAN R/O WAHDEENA CHANDOOOSA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040011641 wants to be registered on correct name SAMEER AHMAD BAIG AWAN S/O ABDUL QUYOOM BAIG AWAN R/O WAHDEENA CHANDOOOSA . If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained Name...SAMEER AHMAD BAIG AWAN S/O ...ABDUL QUYOOM BAIG AWAN R/O ... WAHDEENA CHANDOOOSA fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Jahangir Wagay, F/o Mohammad Usmaan Wagay, R/o Daygam, District Shopian, J&K (UT), hereby inform that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded as "Usman Jahangir" in Aadhaar Card No. 5555 4310 5875. The correct name of my ward is "Mohammad Usmaan Wagay". I am applying for correction of the name in Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may file the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Mohammad Jahangir Wagay F/o Mohammad Usmaan Wagay R/o Daygam, Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zahoore Ahmad Khan, S/o Bashir Ahmad Khan, R/o Shadab Karewa, District Shopian, J&K (UT), hereby inform that my name has been wrongly recorded as "Zahoore Ahmad Manhas" in Aadhaar Card No. 6256 8643 5350. My correct name is "Zahoore Ahmad Khan". I am applying for correction of my name in Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may file the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Zahoore Ahmad Khan S/o Bashir Ahmad Khan R/o Shadab Karewa, Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mukhtar Ahmad Panda, F/o Sahila Jan, R/o Ramnagri, District Shopian, J&K (UT), hereby inform that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded as "Sahila Jan" in Aadhaar Card No. 3117 8512 0984. The correct name of my ward is "Sahila Jan". I am applying for correction of the name in Aadhaar records. Any person having any objection may file the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Mukhtar Ahmad Panda F/o Sahila Jan R/o Ramnagri, Shopian fko

Lal Chowk Traders Laud SP East for Swift Resolution of Business Concerns

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Traders Association, Lal Chowk on Friday expressed gratitude to the Superintendent of Police (East), Srinagar, Neha Jain (IPS) for her prompt intervention and positive action in addressing issues concerning shopkeepers and traders operating in the Lal Chowk area.

The Association said the timely steps taken by SP East helped resolve key concerns of the business community and contributed to a smoother and more conducive environment for traders, customers and the general public.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson of the Association said the Traders Association, Lal Chowk, expressed its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Superintendent of Police (East),

Srinagar, Neha Jain (IPS), for her prompt intervention and effective action in addressing the concerns of shopkeepers and traders operating in the Lal Chowk area.

He said the Association acknowledged the efforts made by SP East in resolving issues affecting the business community and ensuring a better environment for traders, customers and the general public.

"Her responsive approach and commitment towards public welfare have been highly appreciated by the entire trading fraternity of Lal Chowk," the spokesperson said.

The traders said such timely action not only improves market functioning but also strengthens the confidence of the business community in the administration and law enforcement agencies.



Additional Block for Gousia Hospital, 50-Bedded Facility at Hazratbal Soon

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Friday said that the government is committed towards strengthening the healthcare infrastructure and ensuring quality patient care across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister made these remarks during her day-long tour of healthcare institutions and medical facilities in the Khanyar and Hazratbal constituencies.

She was accompanied by MLA Khanyar, Ali Mohammad Sagar and MLA Hazratbal, Salman Ali Sagar besides others.

During the tour, the Minister visited the Urban Public Health Centre (UPHC) at S.R. Gunj and inspected the ongoing upgradation works. She directed the concerned authorities to expedite completion of the remaining works, including the rooftop, approach road and lift facility, so that the upgraded facility can be dedicated to the public at the earliest.

Sakeena Itoo said that the health

centre is a significant project designed while preserving the area's local heritage which will greatly enhance healthcare services for the residents.

The Minister also visited Gousia Hospital, Khanyar, where she announced construction of an additional block on a nearby identified site to improve healthcare facilities for the local population and address the issues of space constraints and parking.

She directed the concerned departments to ensure all required formalities are completed promptly and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is prepared for the project.

Inspecting the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) at Habbak Chowk, Hazratbal, the Minister announced that work on the approved 50-bedded hospital block will commence shortly.

"I am thankful to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for approving this important project. I also appreciate the consistent efforts of local MLA Salman Ali Sagar in pursuing this matter and securing its approval," she said.

The Minister stated that the government is focused on ensuring better

patient care and modern healthcare facilities so that the people, particularly the economically weaker sections, do not have to depend on private hospitals for quality treatment.

She highlighted that significant improvement has been witnessed in the health sector. She informed that around 400 new doctors are being deployed across Jammu and Kashmir to address the staff shortages and improve service delivery.

"We are identifying and addressing the existing gaps in the healthcare system. Our objective is to provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to every citizen," she said.

The Minister assured that the foundation stone for the new projects would be laid soon and that regular monitoring would be undertaken to ensure their timely completion and dedication to the public. She also appealed to the public to contribute towards maintaining cleanliness and sanitation in healthcare institutions, stressing that community participation is essential for better healthcare outcomes.

Sakeena Discusses Issues Concerning Teacher Education Institutions

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minister for School Education, Sakeena Itoo chaired a meeting with representatives of the Private B.Ed College Association of Jammu and Kashmir at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, to discuss issues concerning the Teacher Education Institutions across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department, Special Secretary, Higher Education Department and other

senior officers.

The Minister emphasized the need for strengthening the infrastructure and creating quality, student-centric facilities in private colleges to ensure the delivery of high-standard teacher education. She directed the managements of private B.Ed colleges to submit undertakings for addressing all identified shortcomings, including land-related deficiencies, within a period of two years. She made it clear that no further relaxation would be granted beyond the stipulated timeframe.

World Blood Donor Day-2026 Celebrated at SKIMS Medical College Bemina

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir State Blood Transfusion Council (JKSBTC), and J&K AIDS Control Society (JKACS) celebrated World Blood Donor Day-2026 at SKIMS Medical College, Bemina, with great enthusiasm and participation from healthcare professionals, voluntary blood donors, civil so-

ciety organizations, students, and members of the public.

The event was graced by Dr. Krishan Kumar, Director, National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC), Government of India; Dr. Megha Pravin Khobragade, Deputy Director General, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Government of India; Dr. Fazlul Qadir Parrey, Principal, SKIMS Medical College Bemina; Dr. Jehangir Bakshi, Director Health Services Kashmir and Director, JKSBTC among other distinguished guests.

The programme commenced with the inauguration of a voluntary blood donation camp by the dignitaries, reaffirming the commitment of the health sector towards ensuring the availability of safe and adequate blood for all patients in need.

The programme commenced with the inauguration of a voluntary blood donation camp by the dignitaries, reaffirming the commitment of the health sector towards ensuring the availability of safe and adequate blood for all patients in need.

Mohammad Younis

We, the officers of the J&K Administrative Service, express our deepest sorrow on the sudden and untimely demise of our fellow officer, Mohammad Younis, today in Srinagar.

In losing him, the service has lost a bright, capable, and compassionate administrator who exemplified the highest ideals of public service. To his colleagues, he was an exceptional peer—always dependable, gracious, and deeply committed to his duties.

The entire JKAS fraternity stands in solidarity with his family during this profound tragedy.

We offer our sincerest condolences to his loved ones and pray they find the courage to navigate this immense grief. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

BRIEF ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE No: 04 OF 2026
Dated: 12-06-2026

Online Applications are invited from the domiciles of UT of J&K for various Non-Teaching posts in the Islamic University of Science & Technology, Kashmir.

IMPORTANT DATES / NOTES:

- Date of availability of Online Application Form : 13-06-2026
- Last date of submission of Online Application Form : 03-07-2026 (upto 4:30 PM)

Detailed advertisement notice is available on the university website www.iust.ac.in.
No. IUST/Reg/Adv/26/E/263
Sd/-
Registrar

DIPK-NB-734/26 dated: 12-06-2026

اطلاع عام

میرے بیٹے کا نام آدھار کارڈ پر Mohammad Arham Mir ہے جبکہ اس کا درست اور صحیح نام Mohammad Arhaam Mir ہے۔ آپ اس کی درستی کرنا مطلوب ہے۔ اس سلسلے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہے تو دو سات دن کے اندر اندازاً اپنا اعتراض آدھار سروس میں پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کسی بھی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

مناہب
Mir Imityaz F/o Mohammad Arhaam Mir
R/O: Check Lachmanpora Kerawa Domodar
SK Airport Srinagar

Office of the Deputy Director Sheep Breeding Farm, Srinagar

Email: sbf.dachigam123@gmail.com, sbf-dachigam123@jk.gov.in
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

EOI No.:SBFD/Tech/2026-27/401-03 Dated: 12.06.2026

Applications are invited from reputed and IRDAI-registered Insurance Companies for providing comprehensive livestock insurance coverage for the livestock population of imported Texel Breed at Sheep Breeding Farm, Khimber, Srinagar. The insurance coverage shall include risks arising from death due to disease, accidents, natural calamities, transit, and other insurable perils. The policy must also provide coverage during the annual migration of livestock to and from highland/alpine pastures, including the entire migratory and grazing period. Further, the insurance cover shall remain valid in the event the insured livestock is temporarily or permanently shifted to any other farm, unit, or establishment of the Department of Sheep Husbandry within Jammu & Kashmir. Interested Insurance Companies may submit their Expression of Interest along with company profile, IRDAI registration details, experience in livestock insurance, and other relevant credentials to the office of the undersigned by 17/06/2026. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
Deputy Director
Sheep Breeding Farm,
Khimber, Srinagar
Contact No: 7006218278

DIPK-2081/26
dated: 12-06-2026

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender No: 433_TELE_1_26_27 Date: 10.06.2026
Closing Date/Time: 02.07.2026 15:00

No.	1	1	1
Tender No.	433_TELE_1_26_27 (Open Tender)	1	1
Name of work	Upgradation and Provision of RDSO-based VSS [Video Surveillance] at SVDK Station under Jammu Division.	1	1
Tender Closing Date/Time	02.07.2026 15:00	Date/Time of Uploading Tender	10.06.2026 13:01
Advertised Value (Rs.)	19146536.39	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	18.06.2026
Earnest Money (Rs.)	382900.00	Period of Completion	4 Months

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2008/26

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS
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• ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
• BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
• BIJBERA: 01932-228243
• PAMPORA: 01933-294132
• PATTAN: 01954-293507
• QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 3: 34
ZUHR 12:30
ASR 5: 30
Magrib 7:45
ISHA 9: 27

HIJRI CALENDAR
27 Zil-Hajj
1447

This Day In History

- 1325 - Ibn Battuta begins his travels, leaving his home in Tangiers to travel to Mecca (gone 24 years)
- 1373 - Anglo-Portuguese Treaty of Alliance (world's oldest extant) signed in London
- 1900 - In China, Baron von Kettler, the German minister to China, beats two young Boxers with his walking stick; when word of this circulates, rioting and arson spread throughout Peking during the night
- 1932 - Great Britain and France sign peace treaty
- 1937 - Stalin executes Russian officers Tuchachevski, Jakir, Putna and Uberevitch
- 1940 - Paris evacuates before German advance
- 1942 - 1st V-2 rocket launch, Peenemunde, Germany; reached 1.3 km
- 1942 - Germany lands 4 saboteurs on Long Island
- 1942 - US Office of Strategic Services (OSS) formed
- 1942 - The United States opens its Office of War Information, with Elmer Davis as head
- 1944 - German counter attack on Villers-Bocage, Normandy
- 1944 - Nazi Germany begins V-1 (Fieseler Fi-103) flying bomb (doodle-bugs) attacks
- 1946 - 1st transcontinental round-trip flight in 1-day, California-Maryland
- 1951 - UN arm forces reach Pyongyang Korea
- 1965 - Vietnam War: Battle of Dong Xoai ends in a Viet Cong victory
- 1966 - US Supreme Court's Miranda decision; suspects must be informed of rights
- 1971 - "The New York Times" begins publishing excerpts from the Pentagon Papers, classified documents on the long history of the U.S. in Vietnam
- 1971 - In defiance of a government ban, members of the Orange Order march through the mainly Catholic town of Dungiven, County Londonderry, causing a riot

From KO Archives

No power on Earth can change Of Kashmir status: Farooq

'I Never Go To Pakistan, Never Ever Play Golf With Hurriyat Leaders'

Observer News Service

Srinagar - National Conference (NC) Patron Farooq Abdullah today asserted that no power on Earth can change the present status of Jammu and Kashmir, saying it will continue to remain a part of India.

I consider this part of Kashmir as part of India and that part of Kashmir as part of Pakistan. I cannot see any other solution ever working than this whether Prime Minister Manmohan Singh says anything or Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, "Dr Abdullah said before the start of the one-day TAG Heuer Golf tournament here.

"We must accept one thing for final and that is Jammu and Kashmir belongs to India and no power on Earth can change it...Nothing is going to change and let us be honest about it," the former Chief Minister added.

About the Hurriyat leaders visit to Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir (PaK), he said they are welcome to go anywhere, but nothing is going to come out of this visit either.

The separatists have also said that they do not expect much from their visit, he added.

The Hurriyat leaders are themselves divided. They blame each other for many things. They will just go. Kha pi ke aa jayenge... Kuch bag bi layenge aur kuch hawala se aa jayega (They will bring some with them and the other will come through hawala)." Dr Abdullah claimed.

Dr Abdullah then NC leader said he did not expect anything substantial coming out of the peace process. "Where is the peace process? Innocent people get killed everyday. India is not going to give up Kashmir and Pakistan will not settle without Kashmir. So where is the settlement?" he asked.

However, Dr Abdullah advocated that borders should be made immaterial so that people can go and come and trade between the two sides promoted.

He also expressed dissatisfaction over the performance of the Mohammad Sayeed government in the state. (Kashmir Observer, 13 June, 2005)

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
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Two Years Without Panchayats

More than two years after panchayats and urban local bodies completed their terms, Jammu and Kashmir remains without elected grassroots institutions, raising hard questions about accountability, development and the government's commitment to local democracy.



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Democracy reveals its true strength at the grassroots. Citizens experience government most directly through village panchayats, municipal councils and local representatives who live among them, hear their concerns and answer for their decisions.

That is precisely why the prolonged absence of elected local bodies in Jammu and Kashmir has become one of the most troubling governance failures in recent years.

More than two and a half years have passed without elected panchayats or urban local bodies in Jammu and Kashmir.

The five-year term of urban local bodies ended in November 2023. The term of 4,291 panchayats, representing 33,597 wards, concluded on January 9, 2024. District Development Councils, which completed the three-tier Panchayati Raj framework introduced with considerable fanfare, also completed their tenure earlier this year.

Today, citizens find themselves without elected representatives at the village, municipal and district levels.

Such a prolonged vacuum would trigger intense political debate anywhere else in the country. Jammu and Kashmir, however, has witnessed a puzzling silence.

That silence stands in striking contrast to the enthusiasm that surrounded local elections in 2018 and the District Development Council elections in 2020.

At that time, the central government highlighted those polls as proof that democracy had reached the grassroots despite difficult security conditions. Senior BJP leaders repeatedly celebrated the elections as a major democratic achievement. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and other national leaders spoke extensively about empowering local institutions and strengthening public participation.

Those arguments had weight and impact.

Local elections brought thousands of representatives into public life. They created channels through which ordinary citizens could participate in planning and develop-



ment. They strengthened the idea that governance works best when people possess a direct voice in decisions affecting their daily lives.

That makes the present situation even harder to explain.

Government officials have cited delimitation exercises and reservations for Other Backward Classes as reasons for the delay.

Administrative processes certainly take time. A delay of several months may appear understandable, but a delay stretching beyond two years raises entirely different questions.

Citizens have every right to ask why elections celebrated as a democratic milestone have remained suspended for so long.

The problem extends far beyond political symbolism. Local governance has suffered in tangible ways.

Block Development Officers currently function as administrators of panchayats. That arrangement was introduced in January 2024 as a temporary measure for six months.

Many people assumed elections would follow shortly thereafter.

First came the Lok Sabha elections, then the Assembly elections. Each political milestone generated fresh expectations that local polls would soon arrive. But those expectations faded repeatedly.

Meanwhile, village communities continue to operate without elected institutions capable of speaking on their behalf.

Reports emerging from rural areas point to growing concerns about transparency in the preparation of village development plans. Residents complain that Gram Sabha and Halqa Majlis meetings either do not take place properly or fail to influence final decisions.

Development planning works best when local communities participate directly in identifying priorities. Administrative substitutes rarely command the same public confidence as elected representatives who must regularly answer to voters.

The consequences appear particularly serious in matters involving community rights.

A notable example emerged in Budgam district, where a civil court directed a Gram Sabha to consider grazing rights claims under the Forest Rights Act.

The court expected local institutions to evaluate competing claims and facilitate equitable distribution of resources.

But more than two years after elected panchayats ceased functioning, implementation remains stalled.

Without active Gram Sabhas and elected local leadership, community-level decision-making has become increasingly difficult.

Such cases illustrate a broader problem: laws designed around public participation lose effectiveness when the institutions responsible for that participation remain absent.

Prime Minister Modi himself articulated the importance of local governance during his visit to Palli village in Samba on National Panchayati Raj Day in April 2022.

Standing before elected representatives from Jammu and Kashmir, he described grassroots democracy as a transformative force.

He spoke about deepening the role of panchayats in planning and implementing development projects. He argued that village institutions would become critical partners in

achieving national goals. Those statements remain compelling, and their logic remains sound, but their implementation now demands equal commitment.

Citizens naturally compare words with actions. They remember the political energy invested in conducting panchayat elections during a far more challenging period. They remember repeated assurances that grassroots democracy formed a cornerstone of Jammu and Kashmir's future.

They now see a region functioning without elected village and municipal bodies despite a much more stable environment and growing public interest in democratic participation.

That contradiction has become impossible to ignore.

The newly elected Jammu and Kashmir government also bears responsibility. Local self-government cannot remain an option. Legislative debates have already raised the issue. Ministers have responded by saying preparations are underway and elections will be held at the earliest opportunity.

Such assurances have circulated for many months. Citizens deserve a clearer timeline and a more transparent explanation.

Democracy gains strength through regular elections, predictable institutions and continuous public participation. Every additional month without elected panchayats and municipal bodies weakens those foundations.

Administrative arrangements can manage files and procedures, but they cannot replace public representation.

Jammu and Kashmir has spent years hearing about the importance of grassroots democracy. The region has heard speeches celebrating empowered villages, active Gram Sabhas and citizen-led development.

Those principles remain as relevant today as they were in 2018 and 2022.

The path forward is straightforward: announce the election schedule, complete the remaining formalities, and return local government to the people.

A democracy that celebrates grassroots institutions during election season must also sustain them between elections. Jammu and Kashmir's citizens have waited long enough.

The author is an environmental activist and policy analyst based in Kashmir. He chairs the J&K Climate Action Group and founded the Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement.

KO VIEW

Faith Into Service

A short video recorded by a Kashmiri student in Jammu has sparked a long-running discussion. Arriving in blistering summer heat, he checked into a dormitory run by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and found clean rooms, organized facilities, proper sanitation, and affordable accommodation.

His reaction was simple. Kashmir, he said, needs something similar. That observation struck a chord because it touched a question many people have asked for years: what should community institutions do with the resources entrusted to them?

More importantly, how should those resources appear in public life? People donate generously in the name of faith, charity, and community welfare. Such contributions are meant to improve lives in visible and practical ways.

A well-run institution builds facilities that people can use, creates systems that ease hardship, and invests in education, healthcare, accommodation, and social support.

Jammu presents an example worth examining. Over the years, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board expanded its role beyond pilgrimage management. It developed accommodation facilities, invested in public infrastructure, and established educational institutions, including the respected Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.

Visitors may debate individual policies, but few can deny the visibility of its public footprint.

Kashmir presents a different picture. Religious and charitable institutions control significant assets and receive substantial public trust. Recent reforms and modernization efforts have certainly improved administration in some areas. Even so, many residents struggle to identify large-scale welfare projects that match the region's potential and public expectations.

That vacuum becomes especially noticeable in a place that hosts millions of tourists and pilgrims every year.

Tourism remains one of Kashmir's biggest economic strengths. Clean public facilities, affordable hostels, hygienic accommodation, community kitchens, health centers, student housing, and skill-development institutions would serve residents and visitors alike.

Such investments would also strengthen the region's reputation as a welcoming destination.

Questions raised by citizens should be viewed as an invitation to think bigger. Public trust grows when people can see tangible results.

A scholarship fund, a university campus, a modern hostel, a healthcare center, or a shelter for the vulnerable speaks more powerfully than annual reports and official statements.

Kashmir does not need to reinvent the wheel. Successful models already exist within the Union Territory itself. Learning from them is neither a competition nor a concession. It is common sense.

Faith-based institutions command enormous goodwill. And goodwill reaches its highest purpose when it becomes something concrete: a clean bed for a traveller, a classroom for a student, a treatment room for a patient, or a helping hand for a family facing hardship.

The strongest monument any institution can build is public confidence and convenience that meaningfully improve daily life.

The Night Kashmir's Healthcare Failed Me

A medical emergency sent me from Sopore to Baramulla, exposing how missing diagnostics and degrading sanitation continue to burden patients when they are at their most vulnerable.



Faizaan Bashir

A few nights ago, I found myself confronting a fear that many people know instinctively but rarely describe.

My body stopped functioning the way it should. Acute urinary retention gripped me with such force that every passing minute felt dangerous.

Pressure built inside my abdomen, pain spread through my body, and thoughts raced through my mind: was it a stone? An infection? Severe inflammation? Something worse?

That night, I learned something troubling about public healthcare in Kashmir.

The problem was larger than my illness. It was larger than one hospital, and involved two institutions, two different shortcomings, and one common consequence: patients suffering far more than they should.

My first stop was Sub-District Hospital Sopore. During a medical emergency, diagnosis becomes the first lifeline. A doctor may suspect the cause of an illness, but confirmation guides treatment.

That is why I was stunned to discover that the hospital had no operational ultrasound facility after dark.

The absence of a nighttime USG service transformed a medical crisis into a desperate search for answers.

Every minute felt longer than the one before it. My bladder felt swollen beyond endurance, and my kidneys seemed trapped under immense pressure.

Doctors could not immediately determine the source of

the problem because the diagnostic tool needed to identify it was unavailable.

Twenty-first-century medicine rests on speed. Stroke and heart attack patients race against time. Emergency cases depend on rapid diagnosis.

hospital serving a large population cannot treat diagnostic services as a daytime convenience. Illness does not follow office hours. Pain certainly does not.

Faced with worsening symptoms, I left Sopore and rushed to Government Medical College Baramulla.

The journey lasted roughly half an hour, but it felt much longer. Every bump on the road amplified the pain. I shifted constantly in my seat, squeezed my hands, moved my legs, and tried to distract myself from the fear growing inside me.

Relief finally came when I reached the emergency department. Doctors attended to me, an ultrasound examination was conducted, and treatment began. Injections eased the crisis, and the medical staff performed their duties with care and professionalism.

Then I walked toward the washroom.

What happened next revealed a second failure, one that receives far less attention than medical equipment or specialist staffing.

It involved sanitation.

A hospital is supposed to heal. The emergency block I encountered felt overwhelmed by waste. A powerful stench hung in the air even before I reached the washroom door.

Human waste, foul odours, broken facilities, and visible neglect greeted patients at one of the most vulnerable moments of their lives.

The washrooms lacked basic functionality. Locks did not work, taps were damaged, and essential items were missing. Patients and attendants appeared to depend on only a couple of male washrooms serving a busy emergency floor.

Since my condition needed repeated visits to the washroom, I experienced these conditions again and again.

The smell became overwhelming, and several episodes



of vomiting followed.

Finding a clean place to recover proved impossible. Even a washbasin was unavailable nearby.

At one point, I vomited into an extremely dirty dustbin because no better option existed.

None of this diminishes the efforts of the doctors and nurses who treated me. They were compassionate, and did their jobs well. Their commitment deserves recognition.

Healthcare, however, extends beyond prescriptions, injections, and diagnostic reports. The physical environment shapes a patient's experience as surely as medicine does.

Sanitation influences recovery, clean facilities reduce infection risks, and functional washrooms preserve human comfort during moments of pain, fear, and uncertainty.

Public discussion often attributes filthy hospital facilities to poor civic behaviour. Certainly, some visitors misuse public spaces. But that explanation tells only part of the story. Infrastructure plays an equally important role.

When thousands of people depend on too few washrooms, cleanliness becomes harder to maintain. And when maintenance systems fall behind demand, deterioration

follows quickly.

My experience raises two simple questions.

Why does a major sub-district hospital serving Sopore remain without an operational ultrasound facility at night?

Why does a tertiary care institution such as GMC Baramulla struggle to provide adequate and well-maintained sanitation facilities for emergency patients and attendants?

These questions concern much more than one patient's discomfort. Hundreds of people likely confront similar circumstances every day.

Some arrive with severe pain, many with elderly parents, and scores with frightened children.

They enter the hospital seeking treatment, and hope for efficiency, cleanliness, and basic human consideration.

That night, I survived the pain, the uncertainty, and the journey between hospitals. Many others will make the same journey tomorrow and the day after that.

Health Minister Sakina Itoo and the health administration have invested considerable energy in improving healthcare delivery. Those efforts become meaningful when they reach the patient standing in an emergency ward at midnight, desperate for a diagnosis, or searching for a usable washroom while recovering from a medical crisis.

Public healthcare succeeds when treatment arrives on time and when patients are treated with care from the entrance gate to the discharge desk.

Kashmir hospitals have many dedicated professionals. They need facilities that match their commitment, while patients deserve hospitals where diagnosis is available when emergencies strike and where sanitation meets the standards of a healthcare institution.

A functioning ultrasound machine at night and clean, accessible washrooms may sound like modest demands.

But for someone in severe pain, they can mean everything.

The author holds a Master's degree in History and can be reached at peerfaizanbashir@gmail.com.

The Toddlers Lost to Screens

Kashmir clinics are reporting a surge in toddlers with speech delays, poor eye contact and social withdrawal, reigniting concerns over excessive screen exposure and its impact on early childhood development.



Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili

The waiting room at the Child Guidance and Wellbeing Centre in Srinagar is packed with anxious parents, their toddlers clutching tablets or staring blankly at walls.

A mother, cradling her two-year-old son, whispers about his delayed speech and tantrums. "He's glued to the phone all day," she says, her voice heavy with guilt.

Across town, at IMHANS Srinagar, Dr. Zaid Wani listens to similar stories daily. "We've seen a 50-60% spike in kids under three showing autism-like behaviors," he tells me, his brow furrowed. "Speech delays, poor eye contact, repetitive actions—parents often say screens are the only thing calming them."

This is the face of "virtual autism," a term that's sparking both worry and skepticism.

Coined in 2018 by Romanian psychologist Marius Zamfir, it describes autism-like symptoms tied to excessive screen exposure in early childhood.

Picture a toddler, barely two, swiping through YouTube videos for hours while the world beyond the screen fades.

Clinicians like Wani see these kids daily—socially withdrawn,

emotionally volatile, struggling to connect. But is this a real condition, or are we slapping a scary label on a digital-age problem?

The answer isn't simple, but the stakes are enormous.

In Kashmir, where nuclear families and working parents are common, the pandemic poured fuel on the issue. Kids traded playgrounds for iPads during lockdowns.

Dr. Bilal, a psychologist at the Child Guidance Centre, saw the fallout firsthand. "Online learning and less physical play have changed how kids develop," he says.

His clinic logged a surge in cases mirroring Zamfir's findings: kids under three, exposed to screens for over four hours daily, showing sensory and social deficits.

Pediatric ophthalmologist Dr. Alia Gul adds another layer. "Prolonged screen time strains young eyes," she explains. "But worse, it robs kids of real-world visual experiences they need to grow."

The numbers are hard to ignore. The World Health Organization recommends zero screen time for kids under two and minimal exposure after that. Yet, studies show many toddlers exceed four hours daily.

Autism Parenting Magazine cites cases where cutting screens and adding play—think puzzles, storytelling, or park time—helped kids recover speech and social skills.

"The brain is plastic in those early years," Wani says. "It can rewire with the right stimulation."

A 2023 UNICEF-sponsored report from IMHANS pegs autism spectrum disorder (ASD) prevalence in Kashmir at 2.34%, but clinicians suspect virtual autism cases inflate these numbers.

Not everyone's convinced. Some experts see "virtual autism" as a buzzword, not a diagnosis.

Dr. Jenny Radesky of the American Academy of Pediatrics is blunt:



I visited a Srinagar preschool where kids traded tablets for clay and storybooks. The teacher, beaming, described a boy who went from silent to chatty in weeks. "No screens, more play," she said. "It works."

"There's no evidence screens cause autism spectrum disorder."

Autism, she notes, is rooted in genetics, and kids predisposed to it may prefer screens for sensory reasons, muddying the link.

Globally, autism diagnoses are up, but that's due to broader criteria and better awareness, not iPads. Social media doesn't help—27% of

autism-related TikTok content is inaccurate, fueling self-diagnosis and fear.

Critics worry that "virtual autism" pathologizes normal behavior, stigmatizing screens while ignoring autism's complexity.

So, where's the truth? I visited a Srinagar preschool where kids traded tablets for clay and story-

books. The teacher, beaming, described a boy who went from silent to chatty in weeks. "No screens, more play," she said. "It works."

Dr. Suhail Naik, a pediatrician at GMC Srinagar, pushes for "tech-free zones" at home. "Parents need to model balance," he insists. "Screens can't replace human connection."

His advice echoes the Canadian

Paediatric Society, which calls for age-appropriate content and mandatory physical activity in schools.

The science lags behind these stories. Large-scale studies on screen time's long-term effects are scarce. PMC journals point to oxidative stress and mitochondrial issues in autism, hinting at possible links to digital overuse, but nothing's conclusive.

Dr. David Sackett, a pioneer of evidence-based medicine, once said good care blends research, clinical wisdom, and patient needs.

Right now, clinicians like Wani lean on that wisdom. "We can't wait for perfect studies," he says. "Kids are struggling now."

Parents feel the urgency most. In a Srinagar support group, a father shares his daughter's progress after therapy and screen limits.

"She's making eye contact now," he says, his voice cracking. "It's like getting her back."

These stories drive the push for action: parental education, school programs, and early interventions like speech and occupational therapy. Policymakers, too, face pressure to regulate gadget ads and fund awareness campaigns.

The virtual autism debate isn't just academic. It's about kids who can't say "mama," parents losing sleep, and a society wrestling with tech's grip.

Dismiss it as panic, and we risk ignoring real harm. Embrace it without scrutiny, and we might misguide families.

Dr. Zamfir's early cases and Kashmir's clinics point to a middle path: act now—limit screens, prioritize play, fund research—before a generation pays the price. The clock's ticking. Are we listening?

—The author is a senior consultant surgeon and healthcare policy advisor in Kashmir.

A Pandora's Box Inside Our Schools

As health problems mount in staff rooms and classrooms alike, Kashmir schools already possess many of the answers, if educators and administrators choose to embrace the spirit of the National Education Policy rather than add to their own burdens.



Muntashir Kifayat Hussain

During my 19 years as a teacher in Budgam and as an academic monitor, I have worked in nearly 30 schools. That experience has given me a close view of the education system from many angles.

One issue stands out more than any other: the physical and mental health of teachers.

Almost every school I have visited includes educators struggling with health challenges.

Diabetes, obesity, stress, anxiety and exhaustion have become common features of school life. Many schools lack playgrounds or open spaces where teachers can walk, exercise or spend time outdoors.

A teacher often spends the entire day inside classrooms and offices, moving from one lesson to the next.

The results are visible: enlarged waistlines, rising dependence on sugary tea, growing screen time and endless app-based assignments have become common scenes in schools throughout Kashmir.

Recreation rarely finds space in the daily routine, physical activity remains limited, and mental strain keeps building.

Many educators point to the system as the source of these problems, but my experience leads me to a different conclusion.

Education policy itself is not the chief culprit. Much of this situation has emerged from habits we have accepted and practices we continue to reinforce.

We have built a Pandora's box and then stepped inside it ourselves.

I often think about my own school days. Education then revolved around



self-realisation, character formation and harmony with moral values. Teaching relied heavily on discussion, interaction and human connection. Weekend visits to nearby places often involved walking several kilometres with teachers and classmates.

Those journeys strengthened the body while enriching the mind.

I still remember steel tiffin boxes filled with simple homemade food. Students and teachers gathered together with a sense of purpose and community. Learning extended beyond textbooks. The atmosphere felt alive with curiosity and cultural memory.

The verses of Allama Iqbal inspired us to seek knowledge, serve our homeland and pursue goodness in our conduct.

Local visits to historical and cultural

Physical newspapers help students focus better and remember information more effectively than endless digital scrolling. Schools already receive funds for libraries, newspapers and magazines. These resources should be actively used as lively learning spaces rather than left unused in forgotten corners of the school.

sites formed an important part of that learning experience. Such excursions transformed history from printed words into lived experience. Students developed a connection with their ancestors, their culture and their surroundings.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 strongly encourages this

kind of hands-on learning because it helps students remember what they learn for a long time.

My father played a central role in shaping my own educational journey.

Every morning, he sat with a newspaper and called me over to read important stories. Those moments cultivated a lifelong reading habit.

Physical newspapers help students focus better and remember information more effectively than endless digital scrolling. Schools already receive funds for libraries, newspapers and magazines. These resources should be actively used as lively learning spaces rather than left unused in forgotten corners of the school.

Another childhood memory remains vivid.

My father carefully carved a bamboo pen, or qalam, for me. After cleaning my wooden slate and preparing ink, I practised writing by hand.

Calligraphy strengthened fine motor skills, coordination and mental focus. Many students of that era developed remarkably good handwriting because writing itself was treated as a craft rather than a task.

This is why I find great promise in NEP 2020. The policy does not seek to abandon tradition. It combines the strengths of India's educational heritage with the opportunities of modern learning.

It promotes mother-tongue instruction in foundational years, an approach known to many of us who learned best in the language we spoke at home.

The policy also brings tribal knowledge, local traditions, folklore and regional arts into mainstream education. Schools can create cultural corners that celebrate local identity. Art exhibitions and melas can engage students, parents and communities while making schools more dynamic and creative spaces.

Equally important is the policy's emphasis on play-based and activity-based learning during the foundational years.

Early childhood education works best when children learn through exploration, movement and participation.

Kashmir schools do not need another big vision. Much of the vision already exists. What we need is sincere implementation and a renewed commitment to healthier, more balanced educational environments.

Teachers must reclaim reading, walking, cultural engagement and physical activity as part of daily life. Schools must use the tools already available to them.

NEP 2020 points in the right direction. The sooner we translate its principles into practice, the sooner our classrooms will become healthier places for teachers and students alike.

—The author is a teacher at Boys High School Narabal in Budgam.

J&K Govt Orders High-Level Probe Into GMC Rajouri Patient Death

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has constituted a high-level inquiry committee to conduct a detailed investigation into the recent death of a patient at Government Medical College (GMC) and Associated Hospital, Rajouri.

According to Government Order No. 472-JK (HME) of 2026

dated June 12, issued by the Health and Medical Education Department, the committee has been tasked with carrying out a fair, objective and transparent examination of the circumstances that led to the patient's death.

The three-member panel will be headed by Prof. (Dr.) Pramod Kalsotra, Principal, Government Medical College, Udhampur, as Chairperson. Other



members include Prof. (Dr.) Abdul Gani of the Department of Orthopaedics, Government Medical College Jammu, and Dr. Narinder Bhutial, Medical Superintendent, Government Gandhi Nagar Hospital, Jammu. The committee has been

directed to examine all facts and circumstances surrounding the incident, scrutinize allegations raised by the family of the deceased, and review whether the treatment protocols adopted by the attending medical staff adhered to prescribed clinical guidelines.

It will also determine whether any negligence, omission, or deviation from standard medical practices occurred in the

case and fix responsibility, if any, for lapses in preparedness, medical intervention, and service delivery.

Besides recommending corrective measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents, the panel has been asked to submit a detailed report, along with documentary evidence, to the Administrative Department within weeks from the issuance of the order.

The government has directed the Principal, GMC Rajouri, and all concerned officers and officials to extend full cooperation to the inquiry committee and provide all necessary records and documents required for the investigation.

The order was issued by Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Health and Medical Education Department, M. Raju, IAS.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

What Did Trump

Baqei said major sections of the draft had been completed but blamed Washington's shifting positions for repeatedly disrupting negotiations.

"Textually, the text has almost been finalized in its major parts. The problem is that the contradictory positions of the United States have always caused turbulence and disruption in this process," Baqei said.

Tehran has stressed that any final agreement must respect what it calls its "principled red lines."

What Iran Appears To Gain

According to details of the leaked 14-point draft memorandum, Iran stands to secure many of the objectives it has pursued since the conflict began.

Among the most significant provisions are: Suspension of sanctions on Iranian oil, petrochemical products and energy exports.

Restoration of access to billions of dollars in frozen Iranian funds.

Release of \$24 billion in blocked assets during the negotiation process.

Removal of naval restrictions and blockades. U.S. commitments regarding Iranian sovereignty and non-interference.

A freeze on new sanctions and military deployments.

Prospects for reconstruction assistance reportedly valued at more than \$300 billion.

Recognition that future negotiations will focus primarily on nuclear issues and sanctions relief.

Equally significant for Tehran is what appears to be missing from the framework.

The leaked text excludes discussions on Iran's ballistic missile programme and its support for regional allied movements—two issues Washington has long sought to place at the centre of negotiations.

Iranian media have also emphasised that Tehran would retain authority over the Strait of Hormuz and would not surrender control over shipping arrangements established during the conflict.

"Iran makes no commitment in this text to cede the management of the strait or the restoration of conditions that existed prior to the American and Israeli military aggression," state news agency IRNA reported.

What Has Washington Achieved?

The apparent imbalance has sparked debate over whether the United States has secured meaningful gains after months of military confrontation.

At first glance, Washington appears to have obtained only a limited number of concrete concessions.

The Trump administration is expected to present the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz as its most significant achievement. The waterway remains one of the world's most critical energy chokepoints, carrying a substantial share of global oil shipments. Its closure during the conflict rattled energy markets and disrupted international shipping.

Washington can also point to Iran's renewed commitment under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) not to acquire nuclear weapons.

For the Trump administration, that commitment provides a basis for future negotiations focused on Iran's nuclear activities.

However, the draft framework does not appear to require Iran to dismantle its nuclear infrastructure, halt uranium enrichment, or curtail its missile programme. Nor does it appear to address Tehran's regional alliances—a long-standing priority for successive US administrations.

Instead, nuclear issues would be deferred to a separate 60-day negotiation process.

Trump Irked By Leaks

Trump, who has repeatedly declared victory since launching military action against Iran and insisted that Tehran had been defeated, reacted angrily on Friday to reports detailing the proposed framework.

"The terms that Iran leaked out to the Fake News have NOTHING to do with the terms that were agreed to, in writing," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

"What they said, including their weak and pathetic statement on having a deal, bears no relation to the truth," he added, describing the Iranians as "very dishonorable people to deal with."

The president's comments came less than 24 hours after he threatened fresh strikes against Iran before abruptly calling them off, saying Iran's Supreme Leader had approved a proposed settlement.

Trump later told reporters he expected a signing ceremony in Europe over the weekend, with Vice President JD Vance representing the United States.

The sharp reaction suggested growing frustration within the White House over a narrative increasingly shaped by leaks from Tehran, many of which portray Iran as having secured the bulk of its demands while conceding relatively little in return.

Road To A Final Treaty

Under the proposed framework, the current understanding would serve as a bridge toward a broader agreement.

The draft envisions a 60-day period of

intensive negotiations aimed at resolving nuclear issues, sanctions relief and economic reconstruction. It also calls for the creation of a joint monitoring mechanism and eventual endorsement through a United Nations Security Council resolution.

Whether the framework survives political scrutiny in Tehran, Washington and regional capitals remains uncertain.

For now, however, the emerging contours of the deal suggest a striking reality: after months of war, the most tangible American gains appear to be the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and a pathway to future nuclear negotiations, while Iran seems poised to secure many of the economic and strategic objectives it has demanded from the outset.

Ensure 'Impregnable

the safety of pilgrims remains the top priority of the Narendra Modi-led government and called for close coordination among the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), Jammu and Kashmir Police and other security agencies.

The meeting was attended by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Kumar Deka, CRPF Director General G.P. Singh and other senior security and administrative officials.

According to officials, Shah directed authorities to strengthen the existing security framework through extensive use of modern technology, including drones, CCTV surveillance systems and advanced monitoring mechanisms, to enhance situational awareness and threat response capabilities.

He instructed that senior officers from the CAPFs and Jammu and Kashmir Police remain deployed at key camp locations and continuously monitor security and logistical arrangements throughout the duration of the pilgrimage.

Reviewing preparedness for the Yatra, the Home Minister emphasised the need for comprehensive arrangements for pilgrim registration, accommodation, healthcare services and disaster management. He called for seamless coordination among departments to ensure efficient delivery of essential services.

Shah also directed authorities to register all individuals associated with the pilgrimage, including local service providers, and ensure the issuance of QR code-enabled identity cards. He further called for veterinary camps and health checks for animals used during the Yatra.

The Home Minister said the movement of pilgrim batches should be regulated in accordance with prevailing weather conditions and forecasts to minimise risks and ensure safety along the routes.

Emphasising the need for a broader security framework, Shah directed that robust security arrangements be put in place not only along the pilgrimage routes but also at major tourist destinations across Jammu and Kashmir so that pilgrims and visitors can travel safely.

He further instructed officials to maintain adequate disaster management preparedness and ensure effective coordination among all agencies to deal with any eventuality.

The annual Amarnath Yatra to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in the Himalayas will commence on July 3 and conclude on August 28. Pilgrims will undertake the journey through the traditional 48-kilometre Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the shorter 14-kilometre Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

Anantnag Rolls Out

drill was held at the Nunwan base camp in Pahalgam on Friday as part of the preparedness exercise.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Anantnag Amod Nagpure said all necessary arrangements have been made for the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

Speaking to the news agency KNO, Nagpure said around 140 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) have been deployed from Anantnag town up to the holy cave shrine.

He said specialised units of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, including Markhor teams, Snow Leopard units, Special Operations Group (SOG), Mobile Rescue Teams (MRTs) and Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs), have been stationed at strategic locations along the route.

"We have divided the entire district into 19 security zones, each supervised by senior police officers. Checking and frisking have been intensified, while preventive measures are also being taken against individuals with questionable backgrounds or suspected links to anti-national activities," Nagpure said.

He said extensive area domination and sanitisation operations are being carried out in hilly and forested areas in coordination with the Army and CAPFs.

"All routes, tracks, ravines and streams are being thoroughly checked to eliminate any security loopholes and ensure a secure pilgrimage," he added.

The SSP said more than 400 advanced CCTV cameras have been installed across the district and are being monitored round the clock through police control rooms.

He said the facial recognition system introduced during last year's Yatra has been further strengthened with an expanded database and additional cameras installed at new locations.

To streamline verification of service providers, police have also launched the 'Pehchan App'.

"Each registered service provider has been issued a unique QR code. Pilgrims, tourists and security personnel can scan the code, even without internet connectivity, to verify their credentials," Nagpure said.

Security infrastructure along the route has also been enhanced with the establishment of 28 elevated bunkers and watchtowers, double the number installed last year.

"In addition, sniper deployments have been organised at various vulnerable locations to strengthen the security grid," he said.

Expressing confidence over the arrangements, Nagpure said the combined efforts of the police, district administration and local residents would ensure the successful conduct of this year's pilgrimage.

"I appeal to all devotees to undertake the pilgrimage without fear. Anantnag Police and the people of the district are ready to welcome them," he said.

Strict SOP Compliance

Zone IGP, chaired a security review meeting to assess preparedness and strengthen security arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra, Muharram, and the Kheer Bhawani Mela, a police spokesman said.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the police, army, CRPF, ITBP, intelligence agencies, BSF, SSB, traffic department, railways, and other agencies, he said.

They briefed the IGP on the deployment strategies, route security, intelligence coordination, traffic regulations, communication preparedness, emergency response mechanisms and logistical arrangements put in place for the smooth and peaceful conduct of the upcoming events, the spokesman said.

Birdi stressed the need for enhanced inter-agency coordination, uninterrupted communication channels and a unified operational approach to ensure a safe and secure environment during the forthcoming events, he said.

Reviewing the security arrangements for the Yatra, which begins July 3, Birdi directed the officers to ensure strict adherence to the established SOPs and to undertake preventive measures.

He underscored the importance of maintaining a high level of alertness and readiness, particularly at vulnerable locations and along the designated pilgrimage routes.

The IGP also reviewed contingency planning, disaster response preparedness, crowd management mechanisms and coordination protocols to ensure swift and effective handling of any unforeseen situation.

While reviewing the arrangements for Muharram, the police chief emphasised the importance of ensuring the peaceful and smooth conduct of all religious processions and gatherings across the Valley.

Birdi directed the officers to make comprehensive security and traffic arrangements along the designated procession routes, establish effective crowd management mechanisms, and maintain close liaison with the organisers and community representatives.

Reviewing the preparations for the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela in Ganderbal district, the IGP directed the officers to ensure robust security and facilitation measures for the devotees.

Birdi emphasised the need for thorough sanitisation of the shrine premises, adequate deployment of security personnel, and proper traffic management plans.

Week-Long Rain,

conditions are expected to continue from June 13 to June 17, with scattered places likely to receive light rainfall, thunderstorms and gusty winds. The wet spell is expected to persist on June 18 and 19 as well.

The Meteorological Centre warned that brief but intense showers at isolated locations in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions could trigger flash floods and mudslides, particularly in vulnerable areas.

People have been advised to stay away from loose structures, electric poles, overhead wires and old trees during periods of adverse weather. The department also recommended suspension of boating and Shikara operations whenever weather conditions deteriorate.

Despite intermittent rainfall in recent days, temperatures remained above seasonal averages in several parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu recorded the highest maximum temperature in the Union Territory at 41.8 degrees Celsius, which was three degrees above normal. Srinagar registered a maximum temperature of 31.5 degrees Celsius, 3.5 degrees above the seasonal average.

Among other stations in Kashmir, Qazigund recorded 30.2 degrees Celsius, Kupwara 30.2 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 29 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 25.9 degrees Celsius and Gulmarg 21.6 degrees Celsius.

In Jammu division, Kathua recorded 41.6 degrees Celsius, Katra 38.3 degrees Celsius, Batote 31.3 degrees Celsius, Banihal 29.2 degrees Celsius and Baderwah 27.2 degrees

Celsius.

Rainfall during the previous 24 hours was reported from several places, including Baderwah, Batote, Doda, Jammu, Kishtwar and Sonamarg.

The minimum temperature settled at 13.6 degrees Celsius in Srinagar and 24.1 degrees Celsius in Jammu, both below their respective seasonal normals.

The weather department has urged residents and travellers to monitor forecasts and advisories, particularly in areas prone to landslides, flash floods and other weather-related hazards.

LG Sinha Calls

agencies and the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

Over 42 Lakh Bank

Chief Secretary on April 06 this year.

The SLBC decided that banks shall make serious efforts in reducing the number of inoperative/frozen accounts for enabling hassle free credit of Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) benefits. (KNO)

CM Seeks Rethink

would have a significant impact on tourism, hospitality, transport, handicrafts and other sectors that support thousands of livelihoods across the Union Territory.

Highlighting the broader economic implications, the Chief Minister said the proposed closure could lead to travel disruptions and cancellations, causing inconvenience to residents and visitors while affecting business activity during a crucial tourism season.

In his meeting with Rajnath Singh, Omar requested the Indian Air Force to examine the possibility of shortening or phasing the final stage of the runway works without compromising safety or operational requirements.

He also suggested that if a complete closure of Srinagar Airport becomes unavoidable, limited civil flight operations could be permitted from the Awantipora Air Base to ensure essential air connectivity for the region.

Recalling a similar arrangement during his previous tenure as Chief Minister, Omar noted that civil flights had operated from Awantipora during runway resurfacing works in September 2010 through coordination between the Ministries of Defence and Civil Aviation.

"We are working on possible alternatives to minimise the disruption and maintain a basic flight schedule as was done in the past when the airport closed for similar reasons in 1998 and 2010," Omar said.

During his meeting with Civil Aviation Minister Naidu, the Chief Minister sought intervention to facilitate discussions with the Ministry of Defence on reviewing the timing of Phase III works. He suggested exploring the possibility of shortening, phasing or shifting the closure to a leaner travel period while ensuring all safety requirements are met.

Omar also requested that contingency arrangements be worked out jointly by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Ministry of Defence and the Indian Air Force to maintain connectivity to the Valley if the closure remains unavoidable.

The Chief Minister stressed that any alternative operational arrangement would require extensive inter-agency coordination and advance planning, and therefore needed to be initiated well ahead of the scheduled closure period.

The proposed closure forms part of the final phase of the runway resurfacing project at Srinagar International Airport, which has already witnessed operational restrictions during earlier phases of the works.

Govt Caps Daily

started buying fuel from petrol pumps due to the pricing difference. While diesel at petrol pumps costs Rs 95.20 a litre in Delhi, bulk sales are priced at Rs 134.50.

The differential arose as state-owned oil companies modulated retail prices to insulate common users from the spike in cost that followed the West Asia crisis in late February. While bulk users such as telecom towers and industries using diesel for power generation and other feedstock needs are charged market price, the retail pump rates are way lower than cost.

Commercial customers like trucking companies and state road transport buses, too, had been tapping pumps for their needs, resulting in abnormal rise in demand in some pockets.

The price differential has also led to a shift in sales pattern with volumes shifting to PSU petrol pumps from private sector outlets that priced petrol and diesel at higher rates.

In May, three state-owned firms IOC, BPCL and HPCL saw a 4.8 per cent jump in petrol sales and 6.4 per cent surge in diesel.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on June 11 issued the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Temporary Regulation of Supply through Retail Outlets) Order, 2026, directing fuel retailers and oil marketing companies to curb bulk purchases from retail outlets for periods of up to 90 days at a time.

The government said the move was necessitated by the "current prevailing geopolitical situation affecting certain regions of the world" that has adversely impacted international

petroleum supply chains, shipping logistics and the availability of petroleum products.

"It has been observed in current situation that abnormal increases in sales of Motor Spirit (petrol) and High Speed Diesel (diesel) through Retail Outlets in certain parts of the country are driven by shifting of industrial, commercial and institutional consumers to Retail Outlets owing to the price difference between retail and bulk sale prices," the notification said.

According to the order, institutional, industrial and commercial consumers may be barred from procuring petrol and diesel from retail fuel stations and would instead be required to source supplies through their own consumer pumps.

The notification also restricts diesel sales at retail outlets to vehicle fuel tanks or Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)-approved containers, with purchases capped at 200 litres per customer or vehicle per day. Such diesel "cannot be resold", the order said.

The government said bulk procurement through retail stations could divert supplies intended for ordinary consumers and "create the potential for localised shortages and disruption of essential services to the common man".

The order empowers public-sector oil marketing companies and other authorised fuel retailers to enforce the restrictions and requires state governments and Union Territories to take action against hoarding, black marketing, unauthorised procurement and diversion of fuel supplies.

Any restrictions imposed under the new framework can remain in force for an initial period of up to 90 days and may be extended through a fresh government order.

The government said the measures were aimed at ensuring the "equitable availability" of petrol and diesel, preventing hoarding and diversion, and maintaining uninterrupted supplies across the country.

"The government may by a special order exempt any consumer, class of consumers, area, transaction, or category of transactions from all or any of the provisions of this Order," the notification said, adding that any violation shall be punishable in accordance with the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act.

It also directed state governments and Union Territory Administrations to take "all necessary measures to implement" the order, including "action against hoarding, black marketing, unauthorised procurement, diversion and other malpractices."

Sukhnag Riverbed

by the Ashtar spring and Shin Mahnew glacier, the 54-kilometre-long Sukhnag river is a major tributary of the Jhelum and an important ecological and economic lifeline for communities in Budgam and adjoining areas.

The committee observed that while the river spans an approximate width of 95 metres, the active water channel is now confined to about 21 metres, with large sections of the riverbed appearing heavily excavated.

Based on field measurements, the panel estimated that between 10.62 lakh and 15.3 lakh tonnes of riverbed material may have been extracted from the surveyed stretch.

According to the report, large-scale, unregulated and potentially illegal mining has significantly altered the river's morphology and damaged aquifer systems, while the absence of scientific assessments and regulatory compliance points to serious institutional lapses.

The panel warned that the degradation could have long-term impacts on the river ecosystem, fisheries, agriculture and water availability for local communities.

The committee also flagged procedural irregularities in mining operations, stating that permissions for extraction of around five lakh metric tonnes of material were granted without preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) or scientific modelling, both of which are mandatory under environmental regulations.

Data provided by the District Mineral Officer, Budgam, showed that 6,32,940 tonnes of material were permitted for extraction between 2020 and 2024 through disposal and short-term permits.

Of this, nearly 77 per cent, or 4,85,194 tonnes, was allocated to a single firm, NKC Projects Pvt Ltd, an infrastructure and civil construction company based in Gurugram, the report noted.

The Fisheries Department informed the committee that approximately 2,000 trout fish were lost in one incident after water supply to a fish farm owned by Peerzada Rayees Ahmad was diverted, allegedly due to illegal mining activities carried out during the night.

To prevent further degradation, the committee recommended an immediate moratorium on all mining activities within a five-kilometre radius upstream and downstream of Sall Bridge until restoration measures are undertaken.

It also called for strict enforcement of mining guidelines, mandatory DPRs backed by scientific modelling, filling of deep trenches, re-leveling of excavated riverbeds and restoration of natural water flow patterns.

The report further recommended installation of CCTV-based real-time monitoring systems at mining hotspots and implementation of a comprehensive river restoration programme.

Full story on Kashmirobserver.net

'Thaejkaad' Gains Momentum across Kashmir as Farmers Battle Heat, Water Woes

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Despite intense heat and water shortages in some areas, Kashmir's annual paddy transplantation season, Thaejkaad, is underway in full swing as farmers rush to complete the process before the June 21 deadline.

As per KNO, farmers across the Valley are working collectively to ensure timely transplantation, preserving a centuries-old agrarian tradition while confronting challenges posed by rising temperatures and shrinking water resources.

Thaejkaad, a key phase in Kashmir's agricultural calendar, begins after paddy saplings grown in nurseries are transplanted into prepared fields.

While the practice remains central to the Valley's farming heritage, experts warn that declining paddy acreage, water scarcity and land-use changes have increased Kashmir's dependence on rice imports from outside Jammu and Kashmir.

Across the Valley, vast stretches of green paddy nurseries have transformed into busy agricultural landscapes. Fields are alive with activity as farmers, labourers, and family members wade through muddy waters, carefully transplanting young paddy saplings in neat rows.

This year too, alongside local farmers, a large number of non-local labourers have joined the transplantation drive.

While agriculture in many parts of Kashmir increasingly depends on migrant workers, the current season has witnessed remarkable community participation.



Men, women, and even children from farming households are actively contributing to the labour-intensive process, working collectively to ensure timely completion of transplantation.

Ghulam Muhammad Bhat, a veteran farmer from Litter in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, said that weather remained dry this year and paddy plantation is going as per schedule though there are some areas where people are suffering due to water shortages.

"Although temperatures have been unusually high, farmers are leaving no stone unturned to finish the work before June 21. Completing transplantation within this period is considered essential for obtaining a good harvest," he said.

Bhat said that in areas where irrigation facilities remain functional, many cultivators have hired experienced non-local labourers to accelerate the transplantation process.

"Every piece of cultivable land is valuable. We are trying to utilise every available patch before moisture levels decline further. Timely transplantation is critical for the

success of the crop," he said.

Throughout south, central, and north Kashmir, the sight of people standing knee-deep in waterlogged fields has become common.

The rhythmic movement of workers planting saplings against the backdrop of Kashmir's picturesque countryside presents a timeless image of the Valley's agrarian life.

For farmers, however, Thaejkaad represents much more than an agricultural task.

Many describe it as a cherished cultural tradition passed down through generations.

"Agriculture is closely linked with our identity and heritage. Thaejkaad is not merely about planting rice, it is a season associated with blessings, prosperity, and a connection to our ancestors. It carries immense cultural and emotional significance for farming families," said Ghulam Nabi Bhat, a farmer from central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Farmers explained that paddy cultivation follows a carefully structured process. Initially, seeds are sown in dedicated nurseries

known locally as Thaejwaa.

After around 40 days, the saplings reach an appropriate height and are ready for transplantation.

During this period, the main fields are ploughed, levelled, and enriched with organic manure.

Once preparations are complete, the painstaking task of transplanting each sapling into the main field begins.

However, this year's transplantation season has been overshadowed by growing concerns over water scarcity in certain areas.

Reduced water levels in streams, canals, and rivers have adversely affected irrigation systems, leaving several schemes either partially functional or completely defunct.

Residents of Shaar village in the Khrew area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district said they were unable to cultivate paddy due to the non-availability of irrigation water. As an alternative, many farmers have shifted to crops such as maize, moong, and other pulses that require comparatively less water.

Agriculture experts and officials from the Department of Agricul-

ture have also been encouraging farmers in water-stressed regions to diversify towards less water-intensive crops, including pulses and vegetables, to minimise losses and make better use of available resources.

Officials said that although adequate irrigation water remains available in most parts of Kashmir, a few pockets continue to face difficulties.

They assured that efforts are underway to address these issues and improve water supply wherever possible.

An official of the Agricultural Department, who wished not to be named, while expressing concern over the steady decline in paddy cultivation across the Valley emphasised the need to safeguard agricultural land from conversion into orchards, residential colonies, and commercial structures.

"Kashmir was once largely self-sufficient in rice production. However, shrinking paddy acreage due to land-use changes has significantly affected local production," the official said. He said that the Valley now relies heavily on rice imports from other states to meet domestic demand.

"Currently, more than 65 per cent of the rice consumed in Kashmir is sourced from outside J&K. Unfortunately, this dependence has been increasing with each passing year," he said.

He said that the ongoing Thaejkaad season stands as a powerful reminder of Kashmir's enduring agricultural traditions, resilience in the face of adversity, and the urgent need to protect both its water resources and fertile paddy lands for future generations.

Congress High Command Forms Panel to Probe 'Anti-Party Activities' in J&K

SRINAGAR: The Congress high command constituted a three-member committee to look into reports of "indiscipline and anti-party activities" in its Jammu and Kashmir unit.

As per an order issued by AICC General Secretary K.C. Venugopal, a copy of which is in possession of Kashmir Observer, the Congress President has approved the proposal for the committee with immediate effect.

Rajya Sabha MP Shaktisinh Gohil has been appointed as convener of the panel. The other members are Dr. Amar Singh and Rafeek Khan. "The committee will look into the reported indiscipline and anti-party activities in Jammu and Kashmir," the press release reads.

The move comes close on the heels of the Congress high command summoning J&K's top leaders to New Delhi and giving a dressing down to a few of them over infighting and dissent within the party. Once a major player in J&K politics, Congress has been reduced to the fringes of J&K politics. (Observer News Service)

2 Dead as Car Plunges into Stream along Banihal-Neel Road

BANIHAL: Two persons lost their lives after a car skidded off the road and plunged into a deep stream near Levra forests in Banihal on Friday evening.

Rescue teams, police personnel, and volunteers launched an operation to retrieve the occupants from the badly damaged vehicle, but both victims succumbed to their injuries.

An official told KNO that soon after the incident, rescue teams along with police personnel and volunteers, reached the spot and launched a rescue operation.

He said the vehicle had suffered severe damage in the accident, and rescuers faced considerable difficulty in retrieving the occupants who were trapped inside the mangled car.

One of the occupants was declared dead on the spot, while the second was evacuated to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Banihal, where he succumbed to injuries enroute.

The deceased have been identified as Amir Ahmed, son of Muhammad Shafi Chopan, and Zeeshan Wani, son of Abdul Latif Wani, both residents of Batoo Neel area of Ramssoo tehsil in Ramban district.

Road accidents remain a recurring concern on the hilly and challenging routes of Ramban district, particularly in remote areas where steep gorges and difficult terrain often complicate rescue efforts. Police have initiated an investigation to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the accident. (Observer News Service)

J&K Transformed under Modi Rule, says BJP

JAMMU: Counting its achievements and highlighting key developments, including the abrogation of Article 370, the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the BJP today said that Jammu and Kashmir has transformed under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The BJP organised a special programme on "12 Saal Bemisal" to celebrate the 12 years of the PM Modi-led government at the Centre.

BJP J&K president and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma, MP from Jammu-Reasi constituency Jugal Kishore Sharma, LoP Sunil Sharma, MLA Vikram Randhawa, Chief Spokesperson Sunil Sethi, Spokesperson Zorawar Singh Jamwal, along with senior party leaders and workers, attended the event.

In his opening remarks, LoP Sunil Sharma congratulated the Prime Minister on the successful completion of 12 years of his government, asserting, "The beginning of BJP rule under PM Modi laid the foundation for fulfilling the dream of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047."

As per KNS, Sharma said that under the "12 Saal Bemisal" campaign, several programmes are being organised across the country, and this event was held to highlight the achievements of the Government of India under PM Modi.

"It is not only 12 years of governance but also a vision of leadership and progress, and it will be written as a golden chapter in history," he said.

He lashed out at the governments before 2014, terming the period weak and full of scams, and added, "PM Modi changed the narrative, and his decision-making ability has received appreciation on global platforms.

Referring to Jammu and Kashmir, Sharma said that the Modi government transformed the region over the past 12 years, adding, "Separatism and terrorism have come to an end, and in the last 18 months, there has been no recruitment of youth into any terrorist outfit.

MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, in his address, said that PM Modi's contribution to the nation cannot be matched. "He has made India proud on international forums," he said.

MP and J&K BJP president Sat Sharma said, "India under PM Modi is a 'badla hua Bharat, ye jhukne wala Bharat nahi hai.'" "India is gradually marching on the path of development and will become a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047."

"As citizens of this country, everyone has to play their role in nation-building," he said, while wishing Prime Minister Narendra Modi a healthy life. (Observer News Service)

DC Ganderbal reviews arrangements for International Yoga Day-2026



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore chaired a meeting to review preparations for International Yoga Day-2026, scheduled to be celebrated across the district on June 21 with the objective of promoting health, well-being and a balanced lifestyle through yoga.

At the outset, the DC took a comprehensive review of the arrangements being put in place for the district-level event and discussed department-wise responsibilities to ensure smooth and successful conduct of the programme. It was informed that the main district-level cel-

ebration will be held at the Government Physical College of Education, Gadoora, while parallel yoga sessions will also be organised at Manasbal Park and Sonamarg to enable wider participation from different parts of the district.

Emphasizing that yoga is a simple yet effective tool for achieving physical fitness, mental wellness and inner harmony, the DC called for making the event a true community movement involving people from all walks of life. He directed the concerned departments to encourage participation of students, youth, government employees, sports persons, civil society members and the general public in large

numbers.

To facilitate participants, the AYUSH and Youth Services & Sports departments were tasked with arranging yoga mats, uniforms and other necessary equipment. LED screens will also be installed at the main venue for live display of yoga demonstrations and proceedings.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements related to drinking water, sanitation, medical aid, ambulance services, power supply and overall venue management. The Health Department was directed to ensure the availability of medical teams, first-aid facilities and ambulances at all designated venues.

The DC directed the Po-

lice to put in place a comprehensive security plan and an effective traffic management plan along with ARTO to ensure safe and hassle-free movement of participants.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that International Yoga Day is not merely a one-day event but a reminder to adopt healthier habits and lifestyles. He urged people to embrace yoga as a regular practice for physical fitness, mental resilience and overall well-being.

He further stressed the need for close coordination among all departments to make the celebration a grand success and transform it into a district-wide festival of health, wellness and community participation.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad; Chief Executive Officers of Sonmarg Development Authority and Wular Manasbal Development Authority, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kangan and officers from various departments, educational institutions and other stakeholders associated with the event.

Baramulla Achieves 90% RDD Flagship Schemes' Implementation



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Rural Development Department (RDD) Kashmir, Riyaz Ahmad Wani, on Friday said the implementation of major flagship schemes in Baramulla district has crossed 90 per cent.

"This reflects the commitment and hard work of officials at the grassroots level," Wani, as reported by KNO, told media persons here.

He said the government programmes, including MGNREGA, PM Gramin initiatives, rural sanitation schemes and other developmental projects, have achieved more than 90 per cent progress.

"The progress under these flagship programmes is appreciable. I congratulate the ground officials for their efforts and dedication. However, there is always scope for improvement," he said.

The Director said that

certain loopholes identified during the review process have been pointed out and would be addressed in the coming days to further strengthen implementation and ensure better outcomes. "We have identified the loopholes and will soon plug them to enhance efficiency and service delivery," he said.

Wani also appealed to people, particularly unemployed job holders, to actively avail the benefits offered under the schemes.

Highlighting the ongoing agricultural season, he urged beneficiaries to participate in desiltation works of irrigation canals being undertaken under MGNREGA.

"At present, desiltation of irrigation canals is being carried out as the farming season is in full swing. People, especially unemployed job holders, should come forward and benefit from these works to support their livelihoods," he said.

Twenty Sheep Die under Suspected Toxic Conditions in Tral

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Twenty sheep belonging to a shepherd from south Kashmir's Tral area died under suspected toxic conditions late Thursday night, dealing a major financial blow to the livestock owner and raising fresh concerns over the safety of grazing areas.

The sheep belonged to Bilal Ahmad, a resident of Seer Tral, and were reportedly being moved towards higher grazing grounds when the incident occurred in the Kehli area of Tral.

Local sources told KNT that the animals had grazed on grass suspected to have been contaminated with pesticides shortly before they began collapsing. All 20 sheep later died, though the exact cause of death has not been officially confirmed.

The incident has caused con-

cern among shepherds and livestock owners, many of whom depend on seasonal grazing routes for their livelihood.

The latest episode comes less than two months after a similar incident was reported in the Yari-gund area of Kawoosa in Budgam district, where eight sheep died under suspected toxic conditions on April 26. Police had registered a case and initiated an investigation into that incident.

The recurrence of such incidents has prompted calls from livestock owners for a thorough investigation into the use of chemicals in areas frequented by grazing animals and for measures to prevent similar losses in the future.

Locals urged the concerned departments to ascertain the cause of the deaths and provide appropriate assistance to the affected shepherd. [KNT]

DC Kupwara Chairs Meeting to Review Implementation of Mission Gyan Bhartam

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara Shrikant Suse chaired a review meeting regarding the implementation of Mission Gyan Bhartam and assessed the progress achieved by various colleges and concerned departments in the district.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the implementation of the principles and objectives of Mission Gyan Bhartam was undertaken. The concerned officers apprised the chair about the progress made, activities conducted, and the status of implementation across educational institutions and departments.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of effective execution of Mission Gyan Bhartam and directed all concerned officers to ensure timely completion of the assigned targets and activities before June 16, 2026. He

stressed coordinated efforts among departments for the successful implementation of the mission and called for regular monitoring to achieve desired outcomes.

The DC further underscored the need for collective responsibility and proactive participation from all stakeholders to strengthen educational initiatives and ensure the mission benefits students and the larger community effectively.

The meeting was attended by Prof. Jahangir Iqbal Tantray, Department of Persian KU, Principals of Government Degree Colleges of Kupwara, Handwara, Langate, Sogam, Kralpora, Tandard, GDC Women Kupwara and Vilgam; Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development Kupwara along with BDOs, Chief Education Officer Kupwara, District Planning Education Officer, Chief Executive Officer, MC Kupwara and Executive Officers of MC Handwara and Langate, and other concerned.

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD(R&B) CIRCLE KUPWARA

M/s Bhat & Sons

No:SE/KUP/ 1102-06

Owner Name: GH Ahmad Bhat & Waseem Ahmad Bhat

Dated: 05/06/2026

R/o: Thayan Kalaroose Kupwara

Reg No: 959/AAV/(Civil/Sanitary) CE/KCC/PDC/2009-10

Subject: Final Notice for resumption and expeditious execution of work - "Upgrd. Of road from chamber to Bandriyan via Yariban, Phase-I (NABARD RIDF XXIX)

Reference: Executive Engineer R&B Divn. Tangdar's No: 930-32 Dated: 03/06/2026.

In reference to communication vide No. under reference (copy enclosed), you are directed to comply with & to proceed as per the final directions of Executive Engineer & resume the work execution expeditiously on priority basis.

Furthermore, for your information it is remarked that this should be treated as final opportunity, failing which strict actions as per SBD Clause of contrast shall be initiated against you which includes forfeiture of your CDR & debarring you from future participation in the tendering process.

DIPK-2077-26

DT: 12/06/2026

Superintending Engineer

PWD(R&B) Circle Kupwara

Mexico Launches World Cup Campaign with 2-0 Win Over South Africa

NEW JERSEY: Mexico opened the World Cup on Thursday with a dominant 2-0 win over South Africa in front of a boisterous home crowd at Mexico City's Azteca Stadium.

On Friday, the United States and Canada both get their opportunity for a fast start in front of their respective home countries.

Julián Quiñones scored the first goal of the World Cup in the ninth minute, booting a cross through the legs of South Africa goalkeeper Ronwen Williams. El Tri made it 2-0 midway through the second half when veteran Raúl Jiménez delivered a header that found the back of the net.

It was an emotional moment for Jiménez, who had tears in his eyes as Mexico's crowd roared in approval. Jiménez suffered a fractured skull after a scary collision in 2020, but has rebuilt his career and now has his first World Cup goal.

In Thursday's nightcap, South Korea rallied for a 2-1 win over the Czech Republic in Guadalajara, Mexico. All three goals were scored in an entertaining second half.

What to watch June 12 Fox is the exclusive U.S. broadcaster of the World Cup with all 104 matches in English on Fox or FS1. All matches are also available on the Fox One app. Telemundo and Universo will broadcast all of the matches in Spanish. Peacock is the streaming home for Spanish-language broadcasts while Telemundo also has an app that includes all the matches.

Canada seeks first World Cup win in Toronto The Canadians are searching for their first World Cup win when they face Bosnia-Herzegovina on Friday after going 0-3 in both 1986 and 2022. Canada has been on the rise over the past decade in the soccer world, moving to No. 30 in FIFA's rankings after being ranked below 100 as recently as 2017. Forward Jonathan David — who plays for Italian club Ju-



ventus — is the country's career scoring leader with 39 goals in 77 matches.

Bosnia is playing in its second World Cup and first since 2014, when the country was eliminated in the group stage.

US hopes games on home

soil lead to World Cup breakthrough The Americans — who enter the tournament ranked 17th by FIFA — hope that matches on their home soil can lead to a World Cup breakthrough. The U.S. has advanced to the knockout round in four of the last six

World Cups it has played, but hasn't been able to get past the quarterfinals. Coach Mauricio Pochettino was hired in 2024 after successful stints at several European clubs. It's a big tournament for forward Christian Pulisic, who enters this World

Cup in his prime and with high expectations.

The Americans' first opponent, Paraguay, is the lowest-ranked team in Group D at No. 47 and back in the World Cup for the first time in 16 years. Ramon Sosa and the Julio Enciso are among the team's best players.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino defends World Cup ticket prices FIFA President Gianni Infantino defended World Cup ticket prices on Wednesday, saying "if we do something wrong, then probably everyone selling tickets in North America is doing something wrong."

He also said FIFA was powerless to get the U.S. government to admit a Somali referee, and praised his ability to get Iran's team into the United States.

FIFA priced tickets starting at \$140 for group-stage games, but regular seats for the July 19 final outside New York were listed at up to \$8,680 and hospitality seats at up to \$73,200. It raised prices for the final to \$10,990

and then \$32,970. After much criticism, FIFA offered \$60 tickets to national federations for their regular supporters. Infantino said 130,000 tickets were offered in that category.

Three red cards in the opener, two for South Africa's Sphephelo Sithole and Themba Zwane — along with Mexico's César Montes — were ejected from the World Cup opener after getting red cards.

Sithole interfered with Brian Gutiérrez as he raced in on goal early in the second half, drawing the first red card. Zwane was ejected late in the game after hitting Mexico's Roberto Alvarado in the face with his left hand.

The ejections meant South Africa had to play short-handed for much of the game. Both players are also suspended for the team's next group game against the Czech Republic next Thursday.

Iran Team Highlights Minab With '#168' at World Cup

Agencies

TEHRAN — A symbolic protest by Iran's national football team has become a major talking point at the FIFA World Cup in the United States, drawing intense global media attention and political friction.

Iranian players have been wearing lapel pins featuring the hashtag #168 on their official team suits. The campaign honors 168 Iranian schoolgirls killed in past events attributed to U.S. actions, utilizing the tournament's global stage to highlight historical grievances against the host nation.

"Iran shook up the American World Cup with a single hashtag," remarked Turkish journalist Selçuk Beylerbeyi on Friday, praising the team's initiative to raise international awareness.

According to Al Jazeera,



the gesture has successfully sparked widespread curiosity among football fans regarding the history behind the number.

However, the move has triggered diplomatic pushback.

Israeli media outlets expressed outrage over the political display, and reports confirm an Israeli official has formally petitioned FIFA to intervene, citing rules against political

messaging. FIFA has yet to comment on whether the Iranian team will face sanctions as the #168 campaign continues to dominate headlines off the pitch.

Head of Palestinian Soccer Denied US Visa for World Cup

AP

RAMALLAH (WEST BANK): The head of the Palestinian Football Association is waiting in Mexico City for permission to enter the United States with other federation heads attending the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Jibril Rajoub went to the opening match between Mexico and South Africa on Thursday. But he is among several people accredited to attend the World Cup who have been denied visas or have yet to receive them from the United States.

"I don't believe that it's fair to use or to abuse and deny the right of all footballers all over the world to attend," the veteran Palestinian political figure said in an interview with The Associated Press.

The Palestinian team did not qualify for the World Cup, but FIFA

typically invites the heads of football associations from around the world to the event every four years, which it frames as a celebration of global unity.

"Everyone will be welcome in Canada, Mexico and the United States for the FIFA World Cup next year. We are working exactly for that," FIFA President Gianni Infantino said last year.

The United States, however, has refused entry to delegates from a raft of countries, including a referee from Somalia and a photographer traveling with Iraq's team. Infantino said this week that FIFA had been trying to resolve visa issues but could not overrule the U.S. government.

"We need to respect that we are not the kings of the world who can rule over governments and police forces," he told reporters on

Wednesday. The U.S. State Department had no immediate comment on Rajoub's visa, but last year implemented new restrictions on Palestinian passport holders, including on anyone who had been employed by the Palestinian Authority.

It revoked a visa to allow Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to travel to the United Nations General Assembly last September.

Rajoub and other Palestinian soccer officials have long argued that Israel violates statutes by allowing teams from settlements in the occupied West Bank play in Israel's national league. They have pushed FIFA to sanction Israel, also decrying restrictions on the movement of Palestinian players and how war in the Gaza Strip has destroyed 80% of sports facilities there.

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