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Iran Closes Hormuz Over Lebanon Attacks

Trans Asia News

Tehran — Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday and warned that the recently signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United States could collapse unless Israel halts its military operations in Lebanon, dramatically escalating pressure on Washington to enforce the terms of the fragile agreement.

The move came as Iranian negotiators headed to Switzerland for delayed talks with U.S. officials, although Tehran signalled that little progress was likely until it sees concrete evidence that Washington is honouring its commitments.

Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters announced the closure of the strategic waterway,

accusing the United States and Israel of violating the war-ending agreement signed earlier this week.

"The closure of the Strait of Hormuz is the first step in response to the breach of commitments under the MoU by the US and its allies," the military command said in a statement.

It cited "the explicit breach of the first clause of the post-war memorandum of understanding by the United States" and "the Zionist regime's continuous and ongoing violations of the ceasefire in southern Lebanon".

The statement warned that "if the aggression continues, subsequent steps have been planned".

Hormuz Closure Threatens Global Energy Markets

The Strait of Hormuz carries | More on P6

Centre Bans 16 Drug Combinations Over Safety Concerns

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The Centre has prohibited the manufacture, sale, distribution and supply of 16 fixed-dose combination (FDC) drugs across the country, citing a lack of therapeutic justification and concerns that the potential risks associated with their use outweigh any benefits.

The decision, announced by the Union Health Ministry through notifications issued under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, takes immediate effect and is aimed at safeguarding public health and promoting the rational use of medicines.

Fixed-dose combination drugs contain two or more active pharmaceutical ingredients in a fixed ratio. According to the ministry, the banned formulations were reviewed by an expert committee constituted by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) following directions



from the Supreme Court to examine drug combinations that may be irrational, therapeutically unjustified or potentially harmful.

"The manufacture for sale, sale, distribution and supply of the identified 16 FDCs for human use shall stand prohibited with immediate effect across the country," the ministry said in a statement.

It said the expert review concluded that the prohibited combinations lacked therapeutic justification and that their continued use was not

and Paracetamol with Lignocaine.

Several antibiotic-based combinations have also been banned, including Amoxicillin with Serratiopeptidase, Amoxicillin with Serratiopeptidase and Lactobacillus Sporogenes, Amoxicillin with Cloxacillin, Lactic Acid Bacillus and Serratiopeptidase, Cefadroxyl with Probenecid, and Cefuroxime with Serratiopeptidase.

The list additionally includes a number of skincare and dermatological formulations containing Aloe Vera or Aloe Extract in combination with ingredients such as Vitamin E, Jojoba Oil, Orange Oil, Wheat Germ Oil, Tea Tree Oil, Allantoin and D-Panthenol.

The ministry said the action forms part of the government's continuing efforts to strengthen patient safety and ensure that only scientifically validated | More on P6

Rain, Hailstorms Lash J&K

Wet Spell To Continue

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Several parts of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed rain, thunderstorms, hailstorms and gusty winds on Saturday, while temperatures remained below normal across most stations in the Kashmir Valley, bringing relief from the recent heat but prompting warnings about flash floods and mudslides in vulnerable areas.

According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, rain and thundershower activity affected many areas across the Kashmir division and parts of the Jammu division, including Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi and Udhampur districts.

The weather department said the Sonamarg-Batal-Holy Cave axis and the Pahalgam-Holy Cave axis also experienced brief spells of intense showers accompanied by thunderstorms, hailstorms and gusty winds.

Weather data showed that Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 27.2 degrees Celsius, which was two degrees below | More on P6

Iran Tensions, Poor Harvest Push Saffron Prices High

GI-tagged saffron now selling at Rs 350-400 per gram as global supply disruptions and weak local output squeeze availability

Agencies

Srinagar: Kashmir's famed saffron, known globally for its superior quality, aroma, and colouring properties, has witnessed a significant rise in prices over the past year. Growers and traders attribute the surge to a combination of geopolitical tensions in West Asia, particularly involving Iran, and a steep decline in local saffron production caused by adverse weather conditions.

According to traders, premium GI-tagged Kashmiri saffron is currently fetching around Rs 350-400 per gram, compared to nearly Rs 200-250

per gram during the same period last year. Non-GI saffron has also recorded a substantial increase, with prices rising from approximately Rs 200 per gram to around 300 per gram. The sharp increase has been driven by reduced availability in both domestic and international markets, coupled with sustained demand for high-quality saffron.

Industry experts said that the conflict and instability involving Iran have significantly affected the global saffron trade. Iran accounts for nearly 90 per cent of global saffron production, making it the world's largest | More on P6

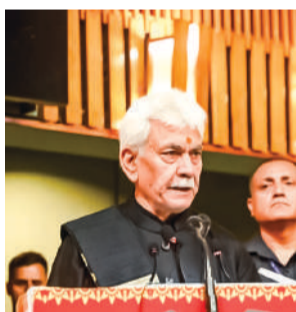
Need to Strengthen India's Soft Power: LG Sinha

Says Srinagar-Nalanda Dialogue A Chance To Carry Civilisational Legacy Forward

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday called for reviving India's rich traditions of knowledge and spirituality, strengthening the country's civilisational heritage, and promoting cultural diplomacy, saying India could once again emerge as a bridge connecting the world through its intellectual and cultural legacy.

Addressing the Srinagar-Nalanda Dialogue in Srinagar, Sinha said the country's goal should be to build a future-oriented education system that connects young people to both India's historical knowledge



traditions and modern technological advancements.

"Our goal is to revive our great inheritances of knowledge and spirituality, strengthen India's civilisational traditions, and shape a future-oriented education that connects our youth to both the past and modern technology," he said.

The event was organised by the Ministry of Tourism, J&K Department of Culture, Indira

LG Urges People to Join Yoga Day Events Across J&K

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday extended his greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of the 12th International Day of Yoga and called upon citizens to actively participate in yoga events and adopt healthier lifestyles.

In his message, Sinha said yoga remains one of India's most valuable ancient traditions and continues to offer solutions to many of the physical and mental health challenges facing society today. "Heartiest greetings to all on the occasion of the | More on P6

Ensure Foolproof Security For Amarnath Yatra: Home Secretary

Reviews Kashmir Security Situation, Takes Stock of Preparations Along Pahalgam and Baltal Routes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Saturday directed security agencies to ensure foolproof arrangements for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Yatra and reviewed the overall security situation in Jammu and Kashmir at a high-level meeting in Srinagar.

The annual 57-day pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine is scheduled to commence on July 3 through the traditional Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the shorter Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

Official sources said the Home Secretary chaired a comprehensive security review meeting at the Police Headquarters in Srinagar's Haiderpora area. The meeting was attended by senior officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army, CRPF, BSF, intelligence agencies and civil administration.

During the meeting, the Home Secretary was briefed on the security and logistical



arrangements made for the pilgrimage, including deployment plans, convoy protection, emergency response mechanisms, intelligence coordination and disaster management preparedness.

Sources said officials informed the Home Secretary that security forces have intensified area domination exercises, route sanitisation operations and counter-terror surveillance measures across the Kashmir Valley, particularly in districts connected with the pilgrimage.

The review also covered arrangements at | More on P6

India's Quantum Push Reaches From Kashmir to Bengaluru

A startup from Kashmir and a university in Bengaluru join forces to train talent and expand India's capacity in a technology seen as critical to future economic and strategic power.

Ansar Hussain

Bengaluru: India is investing billions of dollars in a technology many scientists believe could transform computing, cybersecurity and communications. But one of its biggest challenges is building people rather than machines.

That challenge brought together two unlikely partners this week: a startup from Srinagar and a university in Bengaluru, India's technology capital.

Chinar Quantum AI and Christ University have launched a Quantum Hub aimed at training students, supporting research and helping move quantum technologies from laboratories into the marketplace.



The partnership comes as India seeks to establish itself in a global race that has drawn massive investments from the United States, China and Europe.

In 2023, the Indian

government approved a 6,003-crore National Quantum Mission to strengthen research in quantum computing, communication and sensing.

The issue is increasingly

strategic for New Delhi.

"Quantum computers could one day solve problems beyond the reach of today's machines," said Dr. Rukhsan Ul Haq, chief executive and chief scientist of Chinar Quantum AI. "They could accelerate drug discovery, improve financial modeling and reshape cybersecurity. Governments also see quantum technologies as a matter of economic and national security."

But experts say the greatest shortage is talent.

While India produces large numbers of science and engineering graduates each year, the pool of researchers and engineers trained specifically in quantum technologies remains limited.

Industry leaders | More on P6

NEET Re-Test Today Under Multi-Layer Security Cover

NTA Assures Fair, Secure Conduct; 1.38 Lakh CCTV Cameras, 51,000 Jammers Deployed

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: More than 22.79 lakh medical aspirants will appear for the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination on Sunday amid unprecedented security arrangements, with the National Testing Agency (NTA) deploying over 1.38 lakh CCTV cameras, 51,000 jammers and more than two lakh personnel to ensure the fair and transparent conduct of the country's largest medical entrance test.

The re-examination is being conducted nearly seven weeks after the original test held on May 3 was cancelled following allegations of a paper leak that sparked



nationwide protests, political controversy and legal challenges.

Ahead of the examination, a nationwide mock drill was conducted on Saturday to test security systems, CCTV surveillance, | More on P6

LG Announces Reopening of Naranag Temple

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The administration has decided to reopen the historic Naranag Temple in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district for devotees and tourists following a comprehensive review of the security situation in the area.

Announcing the decision, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor said the move was taken after a thorough assessment of security arrangements.

"After thorough security review, decision has been taken to open the Naranag Temple at Ganderbal for devotees and tourists," the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir, said in a post on X.

The reopening of the temple is expected to facilitate both pilgrimage | More on P6



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Tele-Fax No: 0194-2452033, Email: sspckmr@jkpolice.gov.in
SSP Security Kashmir, Srinagar.
No: SECK/Genl-Misc/2026/623 Dated 19-06-2026
PUBLIC NOTICE
A wallet/purse has been found at Cheshma-shahi main Gate, Srinagar on 16.06.2026 by Security Personnel of Security Kashmir. The wallet contains some Cash, photographs, receipts etc. The rightful owner may visit to the office of SSP Security Kashmir for identification and collection.
DIPK-2405/26 dated: 20-06-2026 For SSP SECURITY KASHMIR

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
(HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SECTION)
CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/SRINAGAR

Subject: Tentative seniority list of PG Masters/ PG Teachers in the discipline of Statistics as on 01.04.2026.

NOTICE

WHEREAS, the final seniority list of PG Masters/ PG Teachers in the discipline of **Statistics** was issued vide Government Order No: 329-JK(EDU) OF 2023 dated 10.10.2023;

AND WHEREAS, after issuance of the final seniority list, the Department received various objections/representations from cadre members/Directorates for correction/inclusion/up-dation of service particulars in the seniority list;

AND WHEREAS, the objections received by the Department have been examined/scrutinized and necessary corrections/additions/deletions etc., wherever required, have been made in the seniority list;

AND WHEREAS, the Designated Committees have recommended **04** incumbents, (Annexure-D) in light of Government Order No. 188-JK(Edu) of 2024 Dated 15.03.2024, who have obtained their PG degrees through distance/private mode during service. The recommendations made in their favour, after examination in the Department, have been accepted by the Competent Authority. These incumbents, some of whom already figured in the tentative seniority list on conditional basis, have now been incorporated in the Tentative seniority list at appropriate places;

AND WHEREAS, some of the incumbents, who have obtained their PG degrees during service and whose cases have not yet been recommended by the Designated Committees constituted vide Government Order No. 188-JK(Edu) of 2024 dated 15.03.2024, have also been incorporated in the seniority list, with the condition that their inclusion in seniority is subject to the condition that proper permission has been/is granted by the Competent Authority for acquiring the PG degree during service. Their names shall be deemed to have been deleted from the seniority list, ab-initio, in case the recommendations are not received in the time frame decided in the ibid Government order;

AND WHEREAS, this has necessitated issuance of an updated seniority list of members of the service.

Now, therefore, tentative seniority list in respect of PG Masters/ PG Teachers in the discipline of **Statistics**, forming "Annexure-A" to this notice, is hereby circulated for inviting objections, if any, from the concerned members of the service, who either is/are not included in the list or is/are aggrieved with the position assigned to them in the tentative seniority list along with authenticated documentary proof of their service particulars/bio-data, within a period of 15 days from the date of issuance of the list. The objections must be filed/forwarded through concerned Directorates, so as to reach the Administrative Department within stipulated time. Further, no objections in this regard shall be entertained after expiry of the stipulated time period.

Moreover, 11 incumbents have been included in the tentative seniority list at appropriate places as detailed in "Annexure-B" and "Annexure-C" 11 incumbents have been deleted from the Tentative seniority list as detailed in "Annexure-D" for the reasons as shown against each.

The tentative seniority list is also available on the official website of School Education (https://schooleducation.jk.gov.in).

Sd/-
(Ram Niwas Sharma), IAS
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government,
School Education Department.

DIPK-2374/26 dated: 20-06-2026 No. Edu-HRM/137/2022-01 (165337) Dated: 15.06.2026.

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: Biswabina Scholarship 2026

Description: The Biswabina Scholarship 2026 is being offered by the Biswabina Foundation, a Public Charitable Trust founded on April 7, 2014, in Kolkata, West Bengal, under Dr. Rina Pal's leadership. Eligibility: Application is open to students who have secured at least 80% marks in higher secondary or an equivalent examination and have secured admission to a bachelor's degree or professional course. Preference will be given to students who have passed their qualifying examination in the current academic year. Prizes & Rewards: Applicants will receive a yearly grant in two instalments during the academic year. Last Date to Apply: 31-07-2026 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SSTI4 QR Code: https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/samsung-solve-for-tomorrow-india-20261780048303.png

Description: Samsung Solve for Tomorrow India 2026 is being offered under the strategic partnership initiative among the Samsung India, the United Nations, India, IIT Delhi, the Foundation for Innovation & Technology Transfer (FITT), and the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology. Eligibility: Application is open to Indian nationals, who are between 14 and 22 years old. Prizes & Rewards: Grants up to 2 crores and other benefits. Last Date to Apply: 03-07-2026 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SSTI4 QR Code: https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/samsung-solve-for-tomorrow-india-20261780048303.png



students in Classes 9 to 12 from southern, eastern, and northeastern India. The program aims to help children of commercial drivers, mechanics, and EWS category students continue their education. Eligibility: Students studying in Classes 9 to 12 from Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Tripura, Puducherry, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana are eligible to apply. Open to children of commercial

drivers, including LMV/HMV drivers, children of mechanics, and students belonging to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category.

Applicants must have secured 60% and above in their previous class. The total annual Family income from all sources must not exceed INR 8 lakh.

Children of employees of Valvoline Cummins Private Ltd. (VCPL) and Buddy4Study are not eligible.

Prizes & Rewards: Selected students will receive scholarship benefits as mentioned below.

Scholarship of up to INR 12,000 (based on actual expenses)

Mentorship support (Session on Road Safety)

Last Date to Apply: 20-08-2026

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/MKSP3

QR Code: https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/muskaan-scholarship-program-2-0-2026-271780373884.png

Scholarship Name 2: Samsung Solve for Tomorrow India 2026

Description: The Biswabina Scholarship 2026 is being offered by the Biswabina Foundation, a Public Charitable Trust founded on April 7, 2014, in Kolkata, West Bengal, under Dr. Rina Pal's leadership. Eligibility: Application is open to students who have secured at least 80% marks in higher secondary or an equivalent examination and have secured admission to a bachelor's degree or professional course. Preference will be given to students who have passed their qualifying examination in the current academic year. Prizes & Rewards: Applicants will receive a yearly grant in two instalments during the academic year. Last Date to Apply: 31-07-2026 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SSTI4 QR Code: https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/samsung-solve-for-tomorrow-india-20261780048303.png

Scholarship Name 3: Muskaan Scholarship Program 2.0 (2026-27) Description: The Muskaan Scholarship Program 2.0 (2026-27), an initiative by Valvoline Cummins Private Ltd. (VCPL), supports

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Kousar Ali Malik, S/o Ali Mohammad Malik, R/o Whadatpora, Budgam, hereby inform the general public that my Passport bearing No. L193202B has been lost/misplaced on 03/06/2026. Despite my best efforts, the said passport could not be traced. If anyone finds the above-mentioned passport, he/she is requested to kindly contact the undersigned or hand it over to the nearest Police Station. Further, if any person has any objection regarding the issuance of a duplicate/replacement passport in my name, the same may be conveyed to the concerned authorities within the prescribed period. Otherwise, it shall be presumed that no objection exists. Name: Kousar Ali Malik Father's Name: Ali Mohammad Malik Address: Whadatpora, Budgam Passport No.: L193202B Date of Loss: 03/06/2026 mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as "Aleezah Ayoub" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6942-8130-0088. However, my correct and actual name is "Asifah Ayoub", W/o Zahoor Ahmad Lone, R/o Indir Gam, Tehsil Pattan, Post Office Pattan, District Baramulla. Henceforth, I shall be known and identified by the name "Asifah Ayoub" for all purposes and records. If any person, institution, or authority has any objection regarding this name correction, they may submit the same to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, it shall be presumed that no objection exists and the necessary correction process shall proceed accordingly. Asifah Ayoub W/o Zahoor Ahmad Lone R/o Indir Gam, Tehsil Pattan P.O. Pattan, District Baramulla Mobile: fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that as per the records available in the office of the concerned PDD Sub-Division, Rainawari, Srinagar, under Customer ID No. 0204020007251, the name recorded as Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Cheeta, S/o Abdul Ghani Cheeta, R/o Check Bagh Saadal, Nageen, Hazratbal, Srinagar and Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Cheeta, S/o Abdul Ghani Cheeta, R/o Check Bagh, Nageen, Hazratbal, Srinagar pertains to one and the same person. It is further notified that the necessary correction in the records is being carried out on the basis of the documents provided by the applicant. Henceforth, the electricity bill shall be issued in the name of Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Cheeta, S/o Abdul Ghani Cheeta, R/o Check Bagh, Nageen, Hazratbal, Srinagar. Any person having any objection to this may file the same before the concerned office within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter. inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that I intend to correct the name in my service Book from Ferooz Ahmad Dar (wrong) to Ferooz Ahmad Dar (correct). In this regard if anybody is having any kind of objection, he/she may file the same with Crime Branch Hqs J&K Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards. Ferooz Ahmad Dar S/O Mohd Ramzan R/O Marhama Teh. Bijbehara District Anantnag inf

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Ferozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Ferozpur Division:

SN	Catalogue No.	Nature of contract
Date of Auction: 02.07.2026		
1	EAFZR-PRKG26-8	Allotment of Parking lot (comprehensive) on contract at Ludhiana Railway station.
2	EAFZR-ADVT26-17	Allotment of contract for Advertisement rights through Vinyl wrapping on exterior of coaches of Train No. 14680/79/82/81, 14622/21/26/25, 12408/07 & 20424/23.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in No. NR-FR0COML(NFR)/18/2024, Date: 19.06.2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2129/26

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of The Naib-Tehsildar Palhallan 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 Birth certificate in favour of Aaliya Ahad D/o Abdul Ahad Bhat R/o Nallah with Date of Death 01-01-2013. Objections, if any, regarding the details furnished by the applicant may be submitted in writing in the office of the Naib Tehsildar, Palhallan 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 Birth certificate as per rules in vogue. Naib-Tehsildar NAIB TEHSILDAR Palhallan fko

اڑنیات پوٹھی زمینگیر عنوان:- درخواست مخائب نازیہ بیگم بیوہ حاکم الرحمان سلطانی ساکنہ سعیدی پورہ برابر اڑنی لنگی بیر سرفیکٹ بکن خود اشتہار ہرغاص و عام معاملہ صدر میں صدر میں سائل اسانک نے ایک درخواست بضر ایگل بیر سرفیکٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں چواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے نمایاں ہے کہ سائل اسانک کا شوہر مورثہ 08-09-2018 کو فوت ہوا ہے اور موتی کے وارثان جائزہ نہیں ہے نازیہ بیگم بیوہ حاکم الرحمان سلطانی آگنن واڑی 45 سال زوجہ موتی بیگم انعام سلطانی دختر زرعیم 23 سال دختر مدبرہ انعام 20 سال - - تانیہ اختر 16 سال - - مویظ حاکم 13 سال - - منیہ حاکم 12 سال - - اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد نہیں ہے سرفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشورہ اخبار سارے دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عدوی اعتراض عدالت حد کو دفتر یا عدالت کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے بعد عدالت عدوی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصیلدار FKO

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Government Medical College & Associated Hospitals Srinagar
10-Karan Nagar, Srinagar, J&K-190010

Subject: Selection of candidate for the post of "Child Psychologist" in Government Medical College Srinagar and Its Associated Hospitals on Academic Arrangement Basis in terms of S.O. 364 of 2020 Dated; 27.11.2020 - reg.

NOTICE

This office notified final selection list for the post(s) of Child Psychologist vide order No; 784-AH of 2026 Dated: 13-01-2026 and subsequently issued engagement order in favour of **Ms. Nasirah Hamid D/o Abdul Hamid Bhat R/o Natipora Mehjoor Nagar Srinagar vide order No: 832-AH of 2026 Dated: 31-01-2026**, however, the candidate failed to join within the stipulated time period.

Now in view of non-joining the Ms. Nasirah Hamid, the below tabled candidate, falling next in the merit list and under consideration zone for the post is hereby called upon to appear personally to the office of the Principal/Dean Government Medical College Srinagar/Administrator, Associated Hospitals, Srinagar within a period of seven (07) days from the date of issuance of this Notice for submission of the necessary inputs/ documents for processing verification of their Character and Antecedents through online mode from Criminal Investigation Department(CID).

S. No.	Roll No.	Name of the Candidate	Parentage	Address	Merit obtained	Category
1.	010003	Gosia Nasir Khan	Nasrullah Khan	Dever Anderbugh Kupwara	53	OM

Further the candidate is informed to bring all the certificates/ documents viz, Qualification Certificates, Domicile Certificate, etc. in original

DIPK-2372/26 dated: 20-06-2026

Gulzar Ahmad Bhat [JKAS]
Administrator
Associated Hospitals Srinagar

Dated: 16/06/2026

No. AH-GMCS/2026/2215-21

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Manzoor Ahmad Shora, F/o Musa Manzoor Shora, R/o Pandach, Parray Mohalla, hereby declare that my son's name was mistakenly recorded in the school records as "Mosa Manzoor Shuroo". The correct name of my son is "Musa Manzoor Shora". Henceforth, my son shall be known and identified by the name "Musa Manzoor Shora" for all purposes, and all records may be corrected accordingly. If any person has any objection regarding this name change he/she may submit the objection in Zulfikar Memorial Educational institute upper soura Srinagar within one week from the date of publication of this notice. Manzoor Ahmad Shora (Father of Musa Manzoor Shora) R/o Pandach, Parray Mohalla

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that we, the parents of Qudsiya Chesti who is studying in Class 5th (Yellow) under Admission No. 6351-20M in Mallinson Girls School, Sheikhbagh, Srinagar, are applying for correction in her father's name. The correction is as follows: From Father's Name Naveed Ahmad Chesti To Peer Naveed Ahmad Chesti If anyone has any objection, they may contact the office of the Principal, Mallinson Girls School, Sheikhbagh, Srinagar within a period of (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after this period. Peer Naveed Ahmad Chesti & Gousiya Nissa Parents of: Qudsiya Chesti R/o. 17-90ft Road, Ahmed Nagar, Srinagar Contact: 9906681502 ABKO-T

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Rafiq Malik, S/o Ghulam Mohammad Malik, R/o Mattipora Pattan, intend to apply for the grant/renewal of a Seed Licence for my firm Malik Pesticides under the relevant provisions of law. If any person has any objection in this regard, they may submit the same in writing to the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Baramulla, within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period. Applicant: Mohammad Rafiq Malik S/o Ghulam Mohammad Malik R/o Mattipora Pattan M/s Malik Pesticides bmg

اطلاع عام

عام خاص کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ میں محمد رفیق ملک ولد غلام محمد ملک، ساکن مٹی پورہ پنشن، اپنی فرم Malik Fertilizers, Mattipora Pattan S/M کے نام پر Fertilizer and Pesticide Licence کے حصول کا خواہشمند ہوں۔ اگر کسی شخص یا ادارے کو اس سلسلے میں کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض تحریری طور پر Chief agriculture officer lamandi Srinagar کے دفتر میں اس نوٹس کی اشاعت کے سات (7) دن کے اندر جمع کر سکتا ہے۔ مقررہ مدت کے بعد موصول ہونے والا کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل سماعت نہیں ہوگا۔ محمد رفیق ملک S / غلام محمد ملک O / مٹی پورہ پنشن R / Malik Fertilizers S/M BMG

RPO Srinagar Bags Best Passport Office Award

External Affairs Minister Confers Prestigious 'Passport Seva Puraskar' to Regional Passport Officer at New Delhi Conference



Observer News Service

New Delhi on June 19.

RPO Srinagar secured the top position by excelling across almost all key performance parameters utilised by the Ministry to assess the operational efficiency, speed of verification, grievance redressal, and citizen-centric service delivery of passport offices nationwide, the statement said.

The high-level Regional Passport Officers' Conference saw participation from Passport Officers representing 37 Passport Offices across India, alongside senior officials of the Central Passport Organisation. The national recognition highlights RPO Srinagar's ongoing commitment to providing seamless, transparent, and highly efficient public services to the people of the region.

Water Tankers Deployed to Strengthen Supply during Muharram, SANJY-2026

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening water supply infrastructure and enhancing civic service delivery, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb flagged off four newly inducted high-capacity water tankers for the Water Works Division at the SMC Headquarters, Karan Nagar.

The newly added tankers, each with a carrying capacity of 10,000 litres, have been procured to augment the Corporation's water distribution network and improve its capacity to respond effectively to water supply requirements across

the city. The induction of these tankers marks a major step towards ensuring reliable access to potable water, particularly in areas facing supply constraints and during periods of heightened demand.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner said that the provision of safe and adequate drinking water remains one of the core responsibilities of the Corporation. He noted that the addition of the new tankers would significantly enhance the operational efficiency of the Water Works Division, enabling quicker response to public needs and ensuring timely water supply to residents across Srinagar.



Muharram Preparations under Review as DC Tours Imam bargahs, Procession Routes

Holds Series of Meetings with Community Representatives

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Saturday conducted a comprehensive visit to various areas of the City and Imam bargahs in interior localities of Mir Behri Dal and Khushipora HMT to review arrangements for the smooth and peaceful observance of Muharram processions and to also take stock of the area's developmental needs.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; PO, ICDS, Bureeda Majeed; Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khushid; IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Superintending Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad; SDM East, Zubair Ahmad; CEO, Ghulam Mohi Din; BMO Hazratbal, Dr Ab Majeed; Executive Engineers R&B, Farid Khan; Executive Engineer R&B, Arif Hazari; Executive Engineer, KPDC, Abrar Ahmad; Secretary LCMA, Mohammad Altaf Bhat; Executive Engineer PHE, Muzamil Ahmad; DSWO, Mohammad Yousof and senior Officers from the Departments of Health, Fire & Emer-

“**Ensure seamless inter departmental coordination for proper sanitation, lighting, electricity and water supply and other essential services around the Imambaras and the procession routes**

gency Services, Forest and other line departments.

During the visit, the DC held a series of meetings with local representatives and community members at Mir Behri Dal, Nandpora, Moti Mohalla, Zaldar Mohalla and Khushipora HMT. In the presence of Officers from all concerned departments, the DC reviewed Muharram preparations and inspected facilities related to sanitation, electricity, drinking water supply, healthcare and other essential

services.

On the occasion, the DC emphasized elaborate arrangements with sustained efforts to facilitate the observance of important proceedings and Muharram processions. He directed the Officers to ensure seamless inter departmental coordination for proper sanitation, lighting, electricity and water supply and other essential services around the Imambaras and the procession routes.

Interacting with community representatives, the DC assured them that the District Administration has put in place all necessary measures to facilitate mourners during the Muharram period. He issued several on-the-spot directions to concerned Departments and stressed the need for sustained efforts to ensure the smooth conduct of religious proceedings and processions.

The DC also listened to public issues and developmental demands raised by the residents of the areas. He assured them that genuine concerns, particularly those related to upgrading water supply systems, drainage infrastructure, healthcare and education facilities as well as dredging of interior portions of the Dal, would be

Lady Rescued After Jumping Into Jhelum from Amira Kadal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A lady was rescued after allegedly jumping into the River Jhelum from Amira Kadal in Srinagar's Lal Chowk area on Saturday, thanks to the swift response of alert locals and rescue teams.

Eyewitnesses said the lady jumped into the river from the bridge, triggering panic among people in the vicinity. Locals immediately raised an alarm and alerted the authorities, following which a rescue operation was launched.

Personnel of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Jammu and Kashmir Police rushed to the spot and successfully rescued the woman from the river before she could drown. The woman was subsequently shifted to a hospital for medical examination and treatment. As per KNT, officials said her identity was being ascertained, while the circumstances that led to the incident were under investigation.

750 Farmers Join PM-KISAN Live Webcast at SKUAST-K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Around 750 farmers from across Kashmir Valley participated in a live webcast of the Prime Minister's PM-KISAN program at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) on Saturday, coinciding with the release of the 23rd installment under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme.

During the national program held at Tarakeswar in West Bengal's Hooghly district, the Hon'ble Prime Minister released 18,880 crore through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), benefiting over 9.44 crore farmers across the country.

The webcast at SKUAST-K witnessed participation of 510 male and 240 female farmers from different districts of Kashmir. The event also highlighted key government schemes and interventions aimed at strengthening the agricultural sector and improving farmers' livelihoods.

Jammu and Kashmir

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Elections, Shri Javid Ahmad Dar, attended the program as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, Shri Dar termed PM-KISAN a transformative initiative that has provided timely financial assistance to farmers across the country.

He also highlighted the growing participation of youth in agriculture and urged farmers to take maximum benefit from flagship programs such as the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) and the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP).

Speaking on the occasion, SKUAST-K's Vice Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai underscored the importance of farmer-centric schemes and emphasized the role of agricultural institutions in bridging scientific knowledge and field-level adoption. He reiterated the university's commitment to supporting farmers through research, innovation, and extension services.

Mock Drill Conducted at Major Examination Centres Ahead of Test

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A comprehensive mock drill was conducted on Saturday at major examination centres falling under Kothibagh Sub-Division to assess preparedness and ensure the smooth conduct

of an examination scheduled for Sunday.

The exercise was carried out under the supervision of police and civil authorities in coordination with Dr. Seema Naaz, Principal of B.Ed College Srinagar.

The mock drill covered

five major examination centres, including S.P. Higher Secondary School M.A. Road, S.P. College M.A. Road, Government Women's College M.A. Road, College of Education (Cluster University) M.A. Road and Girls Higher Secondary School Kothibagh.

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

BRIEF ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE No: 07 OF 2026
Dated: 19-06-2026

Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the post of Professors in various departments of the Islamic University of Science & Technology, Kashmir.

Important dates / Notes:
Date of availability of Online Application Form : 20-06-2026
Last date of submission of Online Application Form : 10-07-2026 (4:30 PM)
Last date of submission of hardcopies of the Application Form : 15-07-2026 (5:00 PM)
Detailed advertisement notice is available on the university website www.iust.ac.in.

No. IUST/Reg/Adv/26/E/290
Dated: 19-06-2026

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPK-NB-825/26 dated: 20-06-2026

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Science and Technology Department
Civil Secretariat, J&K

Subject: Final Selection list for the post of Technical Officer, Science & Technology Department, advertised vide Notification No. 05 of 2020 dated 24-12-2020- submitting of particulars thereof.

NOTICE

The following candidate who has been recommended by the J&K Services Selection Board for the post of "Technical Officer" in the Science and Technology Department, pursuant to letter No. JKSSB-Scry/2/2026-06(E-7839027) dated 18.05.2026 is hereby directed to submit his e-mail id and contact number details in the Establishment Section of the Science and Technology Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar in person or on email-id estbsandtik@gmail.com within a period of twenty one days positively from the date of issuance of this notice, for uploading the same on the Central Verification System (CVS), for filling up of e-verification rolls for obtaining Character and Antecedents from Criminal Investigation Department, UT of J&K, failing which it shall be presumed that he is not willing to take up his appointment as Technical Officer in the Science and Technology Department, and shall forfeit the right of appointment without any further notice:

S No.	Candidate's Name	Parentage	Address	Selection Category
1.	Aadil Hussain Ganie	Gulzar Ahmad Ganai	Banderpora, Bijbehara, Anantnag, 192124	OM

(Feroz Ahmad) 10
Under Secretary to the Government
Dated: 10.06.2026

No. ST-Adm/1/2024-07 (7389025)
DIPK-2373/26
dated: 20-06-2026

TRAFFIC POLICE : 941993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 3: 34
ZUHR 12:32
ASR 5: 32
Magrib 7: 48
ISHA 9: 30

HIJRI CALENDAR
05 Muharram
1448

This Day In History

- 1307 - Külüg Khan is enthroned as Emperor of China and seventh Great Khan after defeating rival factions and succeeding his uncle Temür Khan
- 1529 - Battle of Landriano: Imperial-Spanish forces under Don Antonio de Leyva, Duke of Terranova, beat a French army under Francis de Bourbon, Comte de St. Pol
- 1547 - Great fire in Moscow, 2-3,000 killed
- 1572 - Garrison under Adrian of Swieten conquers Gouda
- 1582 - The Incident at Honn -ji takes place in Kyoto, Japan
- 1607 - 1st Protestant Episcopal parish in America established at Jamestown
- 1661- Treaty of Kardis: Russia & Sweden sign peace treaty
- 1768- 1st US bachelor of medicine degree (Dr John Archer) Agreement Constitution of the United States
- 1824- Greek War of Independence: Egyptian forces capture Psara in the Aegean Sea.
- 1826- Maniots defeat Egyptians under Ibrahim Pasha in the Battle of Vergas.
- 1834- American inventor and businessman Cyrus Hall McCormick patents the reaping machine
- 1849- Battle at Waghausel: Prussian troops beat Baden rebels
- 1904-The US Republican Party nominates Theodore Roosevelt for President, but not without opposition from those whom he calls 'malefactors of great wealth'
- 1907 - E W Scripps founded United Press
- 1921- The UK, the Dominions, and India, become the British Commonwealth of Nations
- 1940- The first successful west-to-east navigation of Northwest Passage begins at Vancouver, British Columbia.
- 1941- 2nd French troops occupies Damascus Syria
- 1945- US defeat Japanese forces on Okinawa during WW II
- 1948- 1st stored computer program run, on Manchester Mark I
- 1956- Anti-protons detected in the atmosphere
- 1975- Soyuz 19 returns to Earth
- 1985- American, Brazilian & West German forensic pathologists confirm skeletal remains exhumed in Brazil were Nazi Dr Josef Mengele
- 1993- English mathematician Andrew Wiles proves last theorem of Fermat
- 1993-ST5-57 (Endeavour) launches into orbit
- 2000- Section 28 (outlawing the 'promotion' of homosexuality in the United Kingdom) is repealed in Scotland with a 99 to 17 vote.
- 2001- Total solar eclipse in Madagascar-Indian Ocean (4m56s)
- 2001- A federal grand jury in Alexandria, Virginia, indicts 13 Saudis and a Lebanese in the 1996 bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 American servicemen.
- 2004-SpaceShipOne becomes the first privately funded spaceplane to achieve spaceflight.
- 2006-Pluto's newly discovered moons are officially named Nix & Hydra.
- 2013- 15 people are killed and 20 are injured after a suicide bomber attacks a mosque in Peshawar, Pakistan
- 2015-Hackers ground 1400 passengers by attacking IT system at Warsaw Chopin airport in Poland
- 2015- 94 people die & 45 are hospitalized after drinking moonshine in Mumbai, India.
- 2015- Hackers ground 1400 passengers by attacking IT system at Warsaw Chopin airport in Poland
- 2018- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden becomes the second world leader to give birth in office, to a daughter
- 2018- Sara Netanyahu, wife of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is charged with fraud
- 2020- New archaeological discovery announced near Stonehenge of a large circle of shafts surrounding a village 2500 BC, largest prehistoric structure in Britain
- 2020- Saudi Arabia bans international visitors from making the Islamic Hajj pilgrimage in 2020 due to COVID-19

The New Tech Order

The contest over AI is creating a duopolistic world in which technological power, rather than territory, defines geopolitical influence.



Wajahat Qazi

If the preceding Industrial Revolutions went hand in hand with the nation-state, the ongoing Fourth Industrial Revolution appears to bypass the state altogether.

Defined by staggering advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), which has replaced computing power as the "game in town", the world is on the cusp of the "unknown unknown".

In this paradigm, even Moore's Law, which postulated that "the number of transistors on a chip doubles every two years, while the cost of hardware (computers) is halved", seems to have been struck by the gale of "creative destruction".

But amid the AI "blitzkrieg" that is leaving past techno-economic paradigms as "roadkill", there are now growing calls for "AI sovereignty".

A pale echo of "industrial sovereignty", a formulation dating back to the heyday of decolonization, "AI sovereignty" is a defensive concept. Best exemplified by the decision of the U.S. tech firm Anthropic, spurred by an injunction from the U.S. Department of Commerce, to stop global access to its Fable V and Mythos 5 models, "AI sovereignty" is the new buzzword.

Does the formulation mean anything, or is it merely a rhetorical call to arms by the Third World? Can the AI juggernaut be stopped? Should it be checked? Should the state cede space to AI in an "after-nation" condition, where technological determinism leads to a tech "nirvana"?

And if the U.S. closes its proverbial doors on AI, AI stack development, and the models that underpin it, what options will the rest of the world be left with? Should it turn to Europe?

In essence, "AI sovereignty", an appealing term for the sensibilities of the decolonized Global South, is a hollow phrase. The reasons pertain to the very nature of AI. It is a juggernaut that cannot be reified. It is neither entirely tangible nor capable of being "captured".

While the initial foundations of modern technological development, the bits and bytes of computing and the internet, emanated from the Pentagon and benefited from industrial policy, AI development is, more or less, autonomous.

In a loose sense, AI sovereignty may imply the control and delimitation of AI within the confines of a given nation-state.

But given the nature of the technology and its development trajectory, it is difficult, if not practically impossible, to "cap-

ture" AI.

If that is the case, it leads to an obvious corollary: in the race for AI development, stack-building and model innovation, collaboration is key.

But collaboration, like any powerful tool, can be exploited. Under the banner of partnership and AI as a global public good, it can enable misuse, free-riding and monopolization.

In an era where AI is already eroding the power of patents and intellectual property, what safeguards remain to prevent innovation from being copied or appropriated?

To parse the "truth" from manufactured facts, innovation - technological, economic, financial and even political - was, and remains a Western monopoly.

In this framework, the U.S. is the "natural" leader.

Why?

The reasons do not lie in resource endowments, a monetary-fiscal combination, or even in "capital accumulation", but in the internalization of Joseph Schumpeter's concept of "creative destruction".

Here, product obsolescence is the name of the geopolitical competition.

This meshes with Raymond Vernon's "International Product Life Cycle" (IPLC). Vernon, explaining the dynamics and evolution of international trade, postulated that "after an innovative product is invented in a highly developed country (the U.S.), it serves the domestic market of that nation."

This is followed by scaling, mass production and export. It leads to standardization, or commoditization, where production shifts to less developed countries, and the inventing country ends up importing the very product it had originally invented.

Vernon's thesis accurately delineates many aspects of globalization.

In the technology and computing domain, outsourcing, offshoring and the relocation of back-office operations by large firms to developing countries form an indelible feature of Vernon's framework.

But this has had costs, economic, cultural and political, in the West, especially in the U.S.

Higher levels of immigration, greater mobility of technical and educated labour ("digital natives"), strident calls for multiculturalism as the "ideal type" of social organization, the occlusion of blue-collar work, de-unionization, an emphasis on taxation, spending and welfare expenditures, the denuding of the agency and will of the people, the "browning" of "white spaces", the opioid crisis and so on have been presented as concomitants of this process.

To cap it all, the U.S., the innovator of innovators, ends up buying and importing products and services that it had pioneered.

A natural corollary of "neo-liberal economics", which seeks to replace culture, its container, the nation-state, and even the social institutions of a given country, and ultimately the world at large, with the "global market", the product life cycle thesis has run into diminishing returns.



The U.S., with its decision to close access to Anthropic's models, appears to be tweaking and inverting Vernon's thesis. In a loose sense, this, rather than the rhetorical alarm bells of the Third World, constitutes AI sovereignty.

In other words, the state, in this instance the U.S. state, is reasserting itself and "taking back control".

Contrary to the desires and wishes of tech moguls, who seek to create a "global tech utopia" or dystopia, as the case may be, the state is reasserting itself.

This may be the real and enduring reason for closing access to Anthropic's models.

So far, so good. But where does this leave the Third World? Conventional economic "leapfrogging" is almost passé. So too is "catch-up" development.

By a process of elimination, this leaves AI, and its development, as the only "game in town".

If the U.S. is crafting a new paradigm in which the product life cycle, right through to its maturation phase, remains within its remit, what is the Third World to do?

One option is to latch onto Europe, the old imperialist power in its new, more refined avatar, the European Union (EU).

But Europe is a technological laggard. Indeed, it is a tech dinosaur that takes its cue from innovations and developments in the U.S. Regulatory constraints that intersect with taxation, a model that socializes and diffuses risk, capital-allocation challenges, and limitations in market depth and breadth all militate against state-of-the-art technological innovation and the products that flow from it.

While aspects of the European social model possess intrinsic merit and appeal, if economic development in the 21st century is contingent on AI, then a "return to Europe" is a mug's game.

What options remain for the Third World?

The answer to this question may lie in the liberal internationalist paradigm ad-

vanced by the late Joseph Nye and his colleague Robert Keohane.

Termed "complex interdependence", it described a condition in which states across the world were enmeshed in a web of interdependence.

This interdependence, based on a liberal premise, whose practical avatar was globalization, would gradually make interstate relations more peaceful, render hard power less relevant, and crystallize into a Kantian peace across the world.

While elegant in theory and appealing in practice, the political economy of complex interdependence contained a catch.

That catch was ably identified by the scholars Henry Farrell and Abraham Newman.

They argued that the fatal flaw of the complex interdependence paradigm lay in its potential to be weaponized.

Because the elemental quest of states is power, Farrell and Newman, drawing on insights from network theory, posited that "interdependence can be weaponized by states to gain access to knowledge and thereby power, or to deny other states access to networks for reasons of power and strategic advantage."

Under such an interpretation, the U.S. decision to close access to Anthropic's models reflects both dimensions of the argument.

On the one hand, other states may seek to piggyback on a superior network node in order to gain "network advantage" and, in the process, acquire critical knowledge and know-how. On the other hand, the U.S. response has been to restrict access to that network and its associated capabilities.

This descriptive delineation, however, leaves the concerns and interests of the Third World largely unaddressed.

It also begets a broader question: what implications and consequences does this have for international relations and great-power politics?

The Third World, while it may possess vast reserves of trained manpower and digi-

tal workers, still lacks genuine innovation capacity. The reasons are philosophical and, to some extent, contextual.

In terms of the former, the real liberatory power that comes from creating and diffusing indigenous philosophical tours de force has largely eluded the decolonized Third World.

We are, to use V. S. Naipaul's formulation, "mimic men".

Thus, until the day such philosophies are developed within the Third World, there is little choice but to "catch up".

Such catch-up may improve living standards, liberate Third World populations from the cognitive traps of "survival mode", and induce higher-order thinking. This remains a hypothesis. The hope is that one day it may come to pass.

The options for the Third World therefore whittle down to adjustment. What form might this adjustment take?

The answer may lie in the nodes of network theory.

To hark back to Farrell and Newman, network power is predicated on nodal power and influence. The node to which the greatest number of other nodes are attached tends to be the most powerful within the network.

Other actors can attach themselves to the power dynamics and asymmetries embedded within the nodal structure of complex interdependence.

What implications and consequences flow from this?

First, for the Third World, there can be no meaningful privilege of AI sovereignty. Collectively and individually, Third World states may function merely as nodes, or networks of nodes, attached to dominant nodes.

Second, there appear to be only two major and powerful network nodes in the contemporary system of complex interdependence.

Corresponding to the microeconomic structure of a duopoly, these nodes are the U.S. and China, with the U.S. occupying the dominant position and China steadily closing the gap.

This configuration rests on legacy factors, distinctive national histories and trajectories, path dependence in ideas and institutions, and differing levels of economic dynamism and vigour.

The duopolistic structure formed by China and the U.S. is the "only game in town". Any other state, entity or collective is, at best, a secondary actor. The enduring question is: who will attach themselves to which node?

This may prove to be the abiding and durable, but continuously evolving, feature of great-power politics in the 21st century. Interesting times lie ahead.

— The author holds a Distinction in International Relations from the University of Aberdeen and combines scholarship with real-world engagement. He has worked in academia and media, including as Associate Editor at Kashmir Observer.

Kashmir Needs a War on Waste

As Ladakh has shown what political will can achieve, Jammu and Kashmir now faces a choice: confront its waste crisis with purpose or watch the problem deepen.



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

When Ladakh's administration banned single-use plastics this month and empowered officials to impose spot fines on littering, it sent a clear message: environmental protection begins with political will.

Random inspections at Leh Airport and entry points, coupled with strict enforcement, signalled a government prepared to act before waste overwhelms one of India's most ecologically sensitive regions.

Jammu and Kashmir should pay close attention.

Plastic waste, overflowing garbage dumps, clogged waterways and roadside litter have become common sights in towns and villages throughout the Union Territory.

Public concern rises after every dumping controversy, landfill dispute and photograph of trash scattered along streams, roads and tourist destinations. Administrative responses, however, remain fragmented and episodic.

What Jammu and Kashmir needs is a sustained, government-led "Waste Free Jammu & Kashmir" campaign that commands the same political attention recently devoted to the anti-drug drive.

The precedent already exists.

The 100-day Drug-Free Jammu and Kashmir campaign generated visibility, public participation and administrative focus. Senior officials travelled extensively, local administrations mobilized resources and citizens understood that the government viewed the issue as a priority.

Waste management demands a similar approach because the environmental, economic and public health consequences touch every household.

A successful campaign must begin with a simple fact that often gets lost in policy discussions: most of the waste generated in Jammu and Kashmir is organic.

Roughly 80 percent of municipal solid waste consists of kitchen scraps, food waste and other biodegradable material. Such waste becomes a problem when it gets mixed with plastic wrappers, diapers, sanitary waste and other non-biodegradable materials.

Once mixed together, valuable compost turns into foul-smelling garbage.

This reality points toward one of the simplest and most effective reforms available. Thousands of households in Kashmir and Jammu possess sufficient land to compost their biodegradable waste at home. Families with a kanal of land or more can easily manage kitchen waste through compost pits.

Such a system would dramatically reduce the burden on municipal collection systems and landfill sites.

The concept is hardly theoretical.

Many families already do it successfully. A household generating two kilograms of waste per day often finds that almost all of it consists of biodegradable material. Composting transforms that waste into a useful resource while leaving behind only a small

quantity of dry waste such as plastic bottles, wrappers and cardboard.

During disruptions in waste collection services, such households remain largely unaffected while others scramble to dispose of garbage.

Home composting alone, however, will not solve the larger problem.

Rural Jammu and Kashmir faces an even greater challenge. Urban waste attracts headlines, though many villages still lack basic waste collection services.

Rapid urbanization has changed consumption patterns throughout the countryside. Packaged foods, plastic containers and disposable products have become common, while systems for collection and processing remain weak or entirely absent.

Government guidelines already contain a roadmap for addressing this challenge.

Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin requires local sanitation plans prepared through village-level participation. Gram Sabhas and Panchayats were intended to identify local solutions suited to local conditions. Instead, many waste management plans travel from administrative offices to villages through a top-down process that leaves little room for community input.

Such an approach misses the central lesson of successful sanitation programs: people support systems they help create.

Current practices also undermine basic waste management principles.

Mixed waste collection remains common in many places despite rules requiring segregation at source. Garbage loaded into collection vehicles without sorting simply shifts the problem from one location to another.

Every successful waste management model begins with segregation inside homes, schools, markets and institutions.

Public awareness therefore becomes indispensable.

Swachh Bharat Mission guidelines place extraordinary emphasis on Information, Education and Communication campaigns. Community outreach, school engagement, religious leaders and local influencers all play important roles in changing public behaviour.

Unfortunately, awareness efforts often appear limited to workshops, photographs and administrative reporting exercises.

Real public education looks very different.

It reaches households repeatedly, explains why segregation matters, demonstrates composting techniques, involves imams, teachers, social workers, resident associations and youth groups, and transforms waste management from a government responsibility into a community practice.

Professional expertise must also enter the picture.

National guidelines recommend dedicated solid and liquid waste management consultants at state and district levels.

They encourage partnerships with professional agencies and experienced organizations capable of designing, implementing and monitoring effective projects.

Such expertise becomes especially valuable when integrating funding from multiple sources and developing systems that remain financially viable over time.

Examples already exist within India.

Indore has repeatedly earned recognition as the country's cleanest city because it treated waste management as a comprehensive governance mission. Household segregation, door-to-door collection, public participation and efficient processing turned waste into an economic resource.

The city functions without the large roadside garbage bins that many municipalities continue to purchase and install.

That lesson holds particular relevance for Jammu and Kashmir. Steel garbage bins worth crores have disappeared from several villages after theft and neglect. Infrastructure alone cannot solve a problem rooted in collection systems, public participation and administrative accountability.

Tourism, agriculture, public health and environmental protection all depend on cleaner towns, villages and landscapes.

Plastic bags floating in a stream, illegal dumping sites near a village and piles of mixed garbage diminish the natural wealth that sustains the region.

Ladakh has demonstrated what political commitment looks like. Jammu and Kashmir now has an opportunity to build something even more ambitious: a Waste Free Jammu & Kashmir campaign that combines enforcement, community participation, home composting, professional expertise and sustained public education.

Success will come when waste management moves from the margins of governance to the center of public policy.

A campaign led jointly by the Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Minister could achieve exactly that.

Cleaner streets, rivers and villages would follow, along with a stronger foundation for the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

— 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.

How America Changed My Understanding of Kashmir

A Kashmiri physician, decades removed from home, discovers that life abroad can become a strange kind of lens.



Akhtar Purvez

I grew up in Kashmir, and I never imagined that one day I would be driving through Virginia, singing Kashmiri folk songs with a feeling I never had while actually living in my homeland.

That realization has occupied my thoughts for years.

I left the valley decades ago and built a life in America. Virginia gave me opportunities, friendships, professional fulfillment, and a sense of belonging I deeply value. It is where I raised my family, built my medical practice, conducted research, wrote books, and found a community that welcomed me with genuine warmth.

One unexpected consequence of living thousands of miles from where I was born is this: I have come to understand certain aspects of Kashmir more clearly than I did when surrounded by them every day.

The change was not in Kashmir. The change was in me.

When I was young, I took many Kashmiri things for granted. Some I openly disliked.

I was never particularly fond of noon chai. The pheran seemed old-fashioned. Traditional forms of Kashmiri music such as Chakri rarely captured my attention. Even Rouf, with groups of women moving gracefully in unison to melodies that had survived generations, felt like something that belonged to another age.

Like many young people, I was more interested in what lay beyond the mountains than in what existed within them.

Years later, I find myself doing things that would have surprised that younger version of me. I play Kashmiri music while driving through America. I listen to old folk songs at home. I watch recordings of Rouf performances online. I admire the elegance of a pheran in ways I never did when I saw one every day.

What changed?

Perhaps human beings are simply

not very good at recognizing value while standing in the middle of it.

The things that surround us daily become invisible. The mountains outside our windows become scenery. The language spoken around us becomes background sound. Customs repeated every day become so common that we stop noticing them altogether.

Distance does something curious. It does not necessarily make us love a place more, but it allows us to see it more clearly.

I sometimes think this process extends far beyond Kashmir. A child rarely understands the sacrifices of parents until adulthood. We appreciate youth only once it begins slipping away. We often take health for granted until illness interrupts our plans.

Perhaps our relationship with place follows a similar pattern.

We leave, grow older, and acquire perspective. Then we begin noticing things that had always been there.

When I think of Kashmir now, I realize that beyond geography, I remember an entire stage of life, voices, habits, and assumptions that built me before I understood their influence.

I recall the smell of winter mornings, talks that seemed ordinary at the time, relatives who are no longer alive, friends whose hair has turned gray, and streets that appeared permanent because I was young enough to believe that everything was permanent.

Perhaps this gradual shift in perspective should not surprise me.

My father, Muzaffar Aazim, spent much of his life exploring language, poetry, philosophy, and the hidden meanings embedded within ordinary human experience. Friends occasionally tell me that I have inherited some of his genes, though perhaps they required many years to blossom.

When I was younger, medicine consumed much of my time. My days revolved around patients, research and the demands of the job.

But age has a way of redirecting the mind.

I now find myself writing essays, attempting poetry, and asking questions remarkably similar to the ones that fascinated my father.

In my forthcoming book, *The Geography of Mind: Civilization, Consciousness, and the Modern Human Condition*, I explore how migration, memory, environment, and culture frame human thought. The book examines these forces at the scale of civilizations, tracing how societies evolve as they move through history and encounter new realities.

During the years I



I recall the smell of winter mornings, talks that seemed ordinary at the time, relatives who are no longer alive, friends whose hair has turned gray, and streets that appeared permanent because I was young enough to believe that everything was permanent.

spent researching and writing this book, I found myself thinking about many of these questions as lived experiences.

The more I explored how geography influences consciousness, how migration alters perspective, and how cultures transform across generations, the more I began to recognize similar processes within my own life.

What I was observing in civilizations, I could also recognize in individuals. The same forces that alter societies over centuries often change human beings over decades.

That realization helped me understand why my relationship with Kashmir, culture, memory, and identity evolved in ways that once puzzled me. The same process occurs within individual lives.

The person I am today does not

think exactly like the young man who left Kashmir. My priorities have changed.

My understanding of people has changed and my appreciation for life and culture has changed.

Each of us migrates psychologically throughout life, even if we never cross a border. We revisit familiar places with unfamiliar minds.

Perhaps that is why returning to Kashmir felt different.

For years, I worried about the valley from afar. News reports rarely tell the complete story of any society. They tend to focus on conflict, crisis, and uncertainty.

Then came an earthquake, and then devastating floods.

Watching from America, I worried about what would happen. What I witnessed instead filled me with

admiration.

Young Kashmiris stepped forward. They rescued families, protected neighbours, organized relief efforts, transported supplies, and risked their own safety for others. I saw courage, initiative, compassion, and leadership. The same generation that is sometimes criticized revealed extraordinary character when circumstances demanded it.

Watching those events unfold, I found myself thinking of Allama Iqbal, whose ancestors traced their roots to Kashmir and whose imagination remained deeply connected to questions of human potential and civilizational renewal. One of his most celebrated couplets, which may possibly have been inspired by Kashmir itself, declares: "Nahin hai na-umid Iqbal apni kisht-e-viraan se / Zarā nam ho to ye miTTi bahut zarKhez hai sāqī." Iqbal is without hopelessness for his barren field; give this soil a little moisture, and it will prove extraordinarily fertile.

Distance also allowed me to notice another development: Kashmir's literary and intellectual culture had evolved beyond what I had realized.

I began reading essays, poems, and journalistic writing produced by young Kashmiris and often found myself astonished. There were moments when I encountered a poem and had to read it twice. The imagination, confidence, and emotional sophistication were remarkable.

While I had been building a life elsewhere, a new generation of Kashmiri

writers had silently emerged, producing work that could stand proudly beside writing from anywhere in the world.

About a year ago, I returned for a brief visit. Only two weeks. Before arriving, two weeks sounded like plenty of time. It was not.

I spent time with relatives, friends, former classmates, and neighbours. What struck me most was not what had changed but what had endured.

People often speak about how technology has weakened human connections. There is some truth in that observation.

Phones do interrupt conversations, and screens compete with attention. But I also discovered something else.

I found my uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins, and old friends remarkably generous with their time, affection, and attention.

During those two weeks, I felt closer to some of them than I had during entire periods of my youth. Gatherings seemed shorter than they should have been, and farewells arrived too soon.

I met classmates from medical school whom I had not seen in years. We resumed chats as though the intervening decades had somehow collapsed. The affection had deepened.

That surprised me because distance is supposed to weaken relationships. But some relationships seem to mature in absence.

The older I become, the more I suspect that memory does not simply preserve the past. It refines it. The irritations fade, and the essentials remain.

What survives are acts of kindness, moments of loyalty, and the people who helped shape us.

Virginia has been extraordinarily generous to me and to my family. It gave me opportunities that I could scarcely have imagined as a young man in Srinagar.

I do not view my life in America as a departure from my story. It is an essential part of it. And one of its unexpected gifts has been a deeper understanding of my roots.

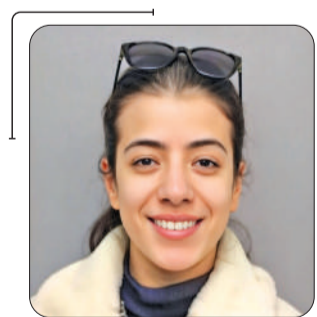
Perhaps that is why so many Kashmiris discover a deeper appreciation of Kashmir after leaving it, simply because distance sometimes reveals details that proximity conceals.

The valley remains where it has always been. The journey just happens within us.

—The author is a physician, poet, and clinical researcher from Kashmir, now based in Virginia, United States. He can be reached at mansbal@yahoo.com.

Morrie's Lasting Lesson

Nearly three decades after its publication, Mitch Albom's beloved memoir remains a source of solace for readers searching for meaning, connection and emotional honesty.



Shereen Naman

When life gets loud and messy—emails piling up, messages left unread, emotions shelved—some people turn to meditation, others to music. But a surprising number return to an old friend tucked away on a bookshelf: Tuesdays with Morrie.

It's a slim memoir with a simple cover and an even simpler promise: to sit with you, not fix you.

Written by sports journalist Mitch Albom and first published in 1997, the book has sold more than 17 million copies worldwide. But numbers don't quite explain its staying power. What gives the story its unique grip is not fame or formula, but feeling.

At its heart, Tuesdays with Morrie is about a former student who visits his

dying professor every Tuesday. What starts as a casual reunion becomes a series of emotional check-ins, each one peeling back a layer of what it means to be alive and aware.

Morrie Schwartz, the professor, is living with ALS. He's losing control over his body but not his mind. In his living room, propped up with pillows, he speaks freely about death, regret, aging, love. Albom records these conversations, and the reader is invited to listen in.

But this isn't a story of grand revelations. It's not a lecture. It feels more like sitting in a room with someone who's not afraid to cry in front of you. Someone who teaches by feeling rather than telling. The pages don't rush. They breathe.

That pace is part of why therapists love it.

Ananya Rao, a grief counselor based in Delhi, says she's recommended the book to more clients than she can count. "Some people are afraid to open up in therapy," she explains. "But they come back quoting Morrie. They begin to speak, not because they're pushed, but because the book shows them how."

The book doesn't offer steps or strategies. It offers companionship. It gives permission to be lost, to feel grief, to ask uncomfortable questions.

Morrie doesn't judge. He just listens. He tells Mitch, "Don't let go too soon, but don't hang on too long." Simple, but profound.



That kind of gentle wisdom has kept the book alive in therapy rooms and hospital waiting areas, long after best-seller lists moved on. It's often handed to

people dealing with loss or facing burn-out. For them, Morrie becomes a temporary guide. Not to answers, but to better questions.

Even its structure—the weekly Tuesday meetings—mirrors a kind of ritual. A rhythm. In a culture that rewards urgency, Morrie's conversations reward pause.

They remind readers that it's okay to slow down, to reflect, to not be okay for a while.

And perhaps most of all, the book invites emotional honesty. Morrie doesn't hide his sadness or fear. He talks about it. He weeps. He laughs. He holds nothing back. And in doing so, he becomes a kind of mirror. You don't just watch him change, you wonder how you might, too.

"Once you learn how to die, you learn how to live," he tells Mitch. It sounds dramatic at first. But Morrie's point is that accepting life's limits allows us to live more fully within them. We stop measuring worth by productivity. We call our friends back. We pay attention to the sky.

You don't need to be grieving to read this book. You don't need to be old or unwell. All you need is the urge to feel a little more human again.

That's what's kept the book constantly circulating: through therapy offices, between friends, across hospital bedsides. It's not something you binge. It's something you return to. A slow conversation for when the world feels like too much.

In the end, Tuesdays with Morrie isn't a guidebook. It's a seat across from someone who cares. And if you're quiet enough, you'll hear it: not just the voice of Morrie, but maybe, finally, your own.

—The author is a cultural activist by passion and scribe by profession. She can be reached at shereennaman332@gmail.com.

Trump: Meloni Wanted a Photo, Then Snubbed US on Iran

Agencies

Washington: President Donald Trump on Saturday lashed out at Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, insisting that she asked "over and over" for a photo with him at the recent Group of Seven summit and criticising what he said was Italy's lack of cooperation during the Iran war.

The remarks deepen the spat that began this week with the Republican president's interview with an Italian broadcaster, during which Trump claimed Meloni "begged" for the photo during the G7 meeting in France.

Meloni has called that "completely fabricated". The

dustup led Italy's foreign minister to cancel a planned trip to the United States as Meloni's government lined up in her defence.

"Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni asked, over and over, for a picture with me during the G-7 meeting in France," Trump wrote on his social media platform while spending the weekend at the Camp David presidential retreat. He misspelled her first name in the initial post, which he later corrected.

He continued: "She is doing poorly in Italy with her level of popularity, possibly because she turned down the United States of America, a Country that truly loves and protects Italy, when it

came to denying Iran from obtaining or developing a Nuclear Weapon (But so did NATO, for that matter!)."

Trump's comments were aired Friday on the La7 network. A correspondent had asked the president about Ukraine, but Trump raised Meloni and made the claim about the photo. Trump said he was not obliged to take the picture with her but that he felt sorry for her and agreed, La7 said. The broadcaster put a dubbed version of the conversation online, but not the original English audio.

In his post, Trump also complained that Meloni would not allow the US to use Italy's landing strips or runways during the Iran war even though

the US is a leader in defence spending among NATO allies. That is a long-standing complaint about the military alliance and one that Trump raised before his White House meeting Wednesday with NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte and the NATO summit in Türkiye next month.

Italy, a key logistics hub for the US, declined in March to use a base in Sicily without parliamentary approval. Trump vented his frustration about Meloni and on Saturday claimed that she "wants to be friends again" in light of the initial deal between the US and Iran to end the war.

Nagpur Student Gets Abu Dhabi Centre For NEET-UG Re-Examination

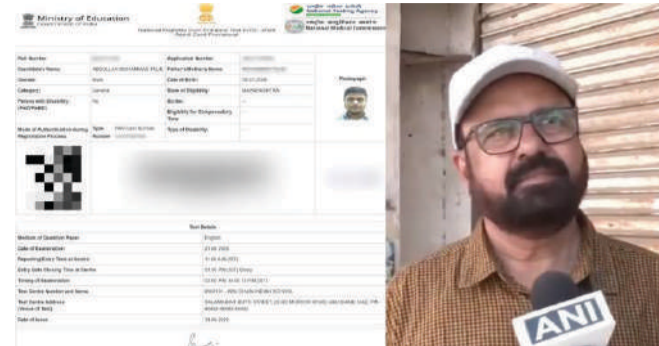
Press Trust Of India

Nagpur: A student from Nagpur in Maharashtra was allotted an examination centre in Abu Dhabi for Sunday's NEET UG 2026 re-examination by the National Testing Agency, prompting his parents to raise the issue with the NTA and seek a correction.

The student, Abdulla Talib, had given preference to Nagpur, Wardha, and Bhandara centres for the examination.

However, when he received his examination card issued by the NTA, he was shocked to find that he was allotted an examination centre in Abu Dhabi, his father, Dr Mohammed Talib, told a news channel.

The student's parents raised the issue with the NTA which



assured them of allotting the new examination centre.

The mix-up came to light on a day when a nationwide mock drill was underway across the country on Saturday ahead of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination as part of the efforts to ensure

smooth, secure and transparent conduct of the medical entrance test.

The re-examination will be conducted on June 21 from 2 pm to 5.15 pm in the pen-and-paper mode across 551 cities in India and 14 cities abroad for over 22.79 lakh candidates.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Iran Closes

roughly one-fifth of the world's oil and gas supplies and had only recently reopened under the terms of the interim U.S.-Iran agreement.

Iran's military command said Israeli attacks had led to "brutal killings and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of oppressed people" in southern Lebanon and accused Israel of refusing to withdraw its forces from occupied areas.

Separately, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy warned all commercial shipping to stay away from the waterway.

"Absolutely refrain from any movement in the Strait of Hormuz until further notice," the IRGC said.

The statement warned that vessels entering the strait would be responsible for their own security.

The closure is likely to raise fresh concerns in global energy markets that had begun stabilising after the signing of the U.S.-Iran agreement earlier this week.

Talks Proceed, But Progress Uncertain
Despite the escalation, Iran announced that its negotiating team would travel to Switzerland, where technical-level talks are expected to begin on Sunday in Bürgenstock with the participation of Qatari mediators.

Pakistan, which played a central role in brokering the initial agreement, confirmed the talks would proceed.

However, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei made clear that Tehran's priority was securing implementation of the existing agreement rather than negotiating a final settlement.

"This trip is therefore about demanding that the other side fulfil its obligations," Baqaei said.

He warned that negotiations on a comprehensive agreement would begin only after key commitments are implemented.

"If they are not, then the memorandum of understanding as a whole will be jeopardised," he said.

In Washington, Vice President JD Vance confirmed that senior U.S. negotiators Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff were already in Switzerland.

Vance told Fox News he expected to travel there himself within days but acknowledged that negotiations remained delicate.

"It's always a delicate coordination dance," he said.

Lebanon Fighting Becomes Main Threat to Deal

The fighting in Lebanon has emerged as the biggest challenge facing the U.S.-Iran agreement.

Neither Israel nor Hezbollah signed the memorandum, but the accord explicitly calls for an end to military operations in Lebanon and respect for the country's sovereignty.

Israeli strikes on southern Lebanon killed at least 16 people on Saturday, including two children, according to Lebanese authorities. Seven people remained trapped beneath rubble in the Nabatiyeh area.

The Lebanese Health Ministry later announced that the death toll in the latest Israel-Hezbollah war had surpassed 4,000.

Mediators from Qatar, Iran and the United States have been attempting to salvage a ceasefire after intense exchanges of fire on Friday killed at least 47 people in Lebanon and four Israeli soldiers.

An Israeli military official said Hezbollah launched more than 50 projectiles overnight against Israeli positions in southern Lebanon.

Israel said it struck dozens of Hezbollah targets, including command centers and militant positions.

On Friday, Israeli Ambassador to Washington Yechiel Leiter said Israel remained committed to a ceasefire.

"Israel remains firmly committed to an immediate ceasefire if Hezbollah honours the agreement and ceases hostilities," he said.

Hezbollah, meanwhile, said it remained committed to the ceasefire but accused Israel of repeatedly violating it.

The group's military wing said it would abide by the truce while continuing to defend against attacks.

Dispute Over Southern Lebanon

At the centre of the dispute is Israel's continued military presence in southern Lebanon.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to maintain Israeli forces in what he calls a security zone until all threats are eliminated.

Hezbollah insists attacks will continue unless Israel commits to a withdrawal, a position strongly backed by Tehran.

Iran has repeatedly stated that Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon is a condition for any lasting regional settlement.

A new round of U.S.-backed talks involving Israel and the Lebanese government is expected in Washington next week.

Fragile Path Forward

The interim agreement signed this week ended direct hostilities between Iran and the United States, lifted the U.S. naval blockade against Iran and reopened the Strait of Hormuz.

It also launched a 60-day negotiating process aimed at resolving disputes over Iran's nuclear programme, sanctions relief and postwar reconstruction.

The framework includes potential incentives worth hundreds of billions of dollars, including sanctions removal, the release of frozen Iranian assets and reconstruction funding.

But Saturday's developments highlighted how quickly the agreement could unravel.

By closing Hormuz and linking future negotiations directly to events in Lebanon, Tehran has signalled that implementation of the accord will depend not only on U.S.-Iran relations but also on Washington's ability to restrain its regional allies.

As diplomatic efforts continue in Switzerland, the future of the agreement may now hinge less on nuclear negotiations than on whether the guns fall silent in southern Lebanon.

Centre Bans 16

and effective medicines remain available in the market. It noted that several irrational FDCs had been prohibited in recent years following detailed scientific assessments.

All state drug controllers and regulatory authorities have been directed to ensure strict implementation of the ban. Manufacturers, importers, distributors and other stakeholders have also been asked to take necessary corrective measures to comply with the notifications.

Rain, Hailstorms

normal for this time of the year. Qazigund registered 24.8 degrees Celsius, Kupwara 24.7 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 21.5 degrees Celsius and Gulmarg 16.6 degrees Celsius. Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 37.6 degrees Celsius, which was normal.

Rainfall data for the past 24 hours indicated that Pahalgam received the highest precipitation at 16.2 mm, followed by Kukernag at 13.1 mm, Katra at 9.7 mm and Qazigund at 6.4 mm. Srinagar recorded 1 mm of rainfall during the period.

The Meteorological Department has forecast generally cloudy weather with one or two spells of light rain, intense showers, thunderstorms, lightning, hailstorms and gusty winds at many places across Jammu and Kashmir until June 22.

From June 23 to June 26, the weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy, with scattered rain and thunder activity likely at a few places, the department said.

The weather office has advised people to remain indoors during thunderstorms and lightning activity and avoid taking shelter near electric poles, power lines, loose structures and old trees.

It has also advised suspension of boating and shikara operations during adverse weather conditions.

The department warned that isolated hailstorms are likely to occur in parts of north and south Kashmir over the next few days. It also cautioned that brief spells of intense rainfall could trigger flash floods and mudslides at vulnerable locations, particularly in parts of Kashmir Valley, Banihal, Ramban and Kishtwar districts.

Authorities have urged residents and travellers to remain alert and follow weather advisories as intermittent wet weather is expected to continue across the Union Territory over the coming days.

Ensure Foolproof

transit camps and base camps, with officials presenting details of facilities being put in place for pilgrims.

The Home Secretary took stock of healthcare services, communication facilities, transportation arrangements and rescue mechanisms being established along the Yatra routes to ensure a safe and smooth pilgrimage.

Sources said the overall security situation in Kashmir also came under review during the meeting.

Senior officers briefed the Home Secretary on measures being taken to protect the lives and property of citizens and sustain the prevailing peace in the Union Territory. Officials also highlighted ongoing efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem and strengthen the security environment.

The meeting comes days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high-level review

meeting in New Delhi on June 12 and directed all security agencies to ensure comprehensive security arrangements for the annual pilgrimage.

During that meeting, Shah emphasised that the safety of pilgrims remains the top priority of the Central government and called for a robust multi-layered security grid along the Yatra routes through close coordination among the Central Armed Police Forces, Jammu and Kashmir Police and other security agencies.

The Home Minister had also stressed the use of modern technology to strengthen security arrangements, directing officials to deploy drones, CCTV surveillance systems and advanced monitoring mechanisms to enhance situational awareness and response capabilities.

Officials said senior officers from the CAPFs and Jammu and Kashmir Police are being stationed at key camps to maintain continuous oversight throughout the duration of the pilgrimage.

In addition to the Yatra routes, security arrangements are also being strengthened at major tourist destinations across Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the safety of visitors during the pilgrimage season.

The Shri Amarnath Yatra attracts thousands of pilgrims from across the country every year and is considered one of the most significant religious pilgrimages in the Himalayan region.

LG Urges People to

12th International Day of Yoga," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Urging people across the Union Territory to join the celebrations, he said this year's theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing", highlights the role of yoga in promoting physical well-being and improving quality of life across age groups.

"On this auspicious occasion, I call upon the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir to actively participate in Yoga events and champion the movement toward a healthier lifestyle," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor described yoga as an invaluable treasure of India's ancient heritage that harmonises the mind and body, strengthens the bond between humanity and nature, and guides individuals towards holistic health and happiness.

He noted that yoga has gained global recognition as an effective means of improving physical fitness, mental well-being and emotional balance.

Referring to the growing pressures of modern life, Sinha said yoga offers a powerful ray of hope at a time when stress and lifestyle-related health issues are becoming increasingly common.

"With rising stress and modern health challenges, Yoga offers a powerful ray of hope," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor encouraged people to make yoga a part of their daily routine and use the occasion of International Day of Yoga to renew their commitment to personal wellness.

"Let's take a step toward wellness today by participating and committing to a healthier lifestyle," he added.

The International Day of Yoga is observed annually on June 21 following its adoption by the United Nations in 2014. Various programmes and mass yoga demonstrations are scheduled to be held across Jammu and Kashmir to mark the occasion.

Iran Tensions, Poor

producer and exporter of the spice. Any disruption in Iranian supplies has an immediate impact on international markets, pushing prices upward across major saffron-producing and consuming regions, they said.

The situation has had a direct effect on Kashmir, where traders also rely on Iranian saffron to meet market demand. With supplies from Iran becoming uncertain and international supply chains facing disruptions, saffron prices have surged globally, benefiting markets where stocks remain available.

However, despite the rise in prices, many saffron growers in Kashmir have been unable to fully capitalise on the trend due to poor production during the previous harvesting season. Farmers say saffron output was significantly lower than normal, leaving them with limited stocks to sell at the current elevated rates.

Growers from Pampore and adjoining saffron-producing areas of Pulwama district said the decline in production was largely caused by unpredictable weather conditions. Saffron cultivation is highly sensitive to climatic changes, and irregular rainfall patterns, prolonged dry spells, and fluctuations in temperature have adversely affected flowering and yield in recent years.

Farmers acknowledged that the government

has undertaken several initiatives, including improved irrigation facilities and infrastructure development under the National Saffron Mission, to boost production and revive the sector. However, they stressed that weather-related challenges continue to undermine these efforts and remain one of the biggest threats to sustainable saffron cultivation in the Valley.

Mohammad Shafi Ganaie, a trader from Anantnag, said that prices have gone up in recent months and are expected to go up further.

"There is low production in Kashmir now, and the escalation in Iran has further added to it," he said.

Kashmir accounts for more than 90 per cent of India's saffron production, with the crop mainly cultivated in the highland fields of Pampore, often referred to as the "Saffron Town of Kashmir". The spice enjoys a premium position in both domestic and international markets and received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2020, strengthening its identity and protecting it from counterfeit products.

Kashmiri saffron is primarily sold in two major grades. Mongra, considered the finest quality, consists entirely of deep red stigmas and is valued for its intense aroma, vibrant colour, and high crocin content. Lacha, another popular variety, contains a small portion of yellow styles along with red threads and is generally sold at comparatively lower prices.

Traders say prices of both grades have risen considerably, with Mongra continuing to command a premium over Lacha.

Data from the agriculture sector indicates that saffron production in Jammu and Kashmir has fluctuated considerably over the past few years. While output showed improvement during certain seasons, production declined sharply again due to unfavourable weather conditions, resulting in lower market availability.

Official data also shows that land under saffron cultivation has shrunk from 5,707 hectares in 1996-97 to 2,387 hectares in 2019-20—a 65% reduction and production fell from 17.33 MT in 2021 to 14.87 MT in 2022, and marginally improved to 14.94 MT in 2023, but in year 2024 real output was only around 30% of expected production while it was just 10 per cent in 2025.

Traders and industry stakeholders believe saffron prices are likely to remain strong in the coming months if tensions in West Asia persist and local production does not recover substantially. The market is currently experiencing a rare situation where constrained global supplies and weak domestic output have combined to push prices to record levels. While the price surge highlights the growing value of Kashmir's prized spice, many growers remain unable to reap its full benefits due to the limited harvest they secured last season. (KNO)

LG Announces

and tourism activities in the picturesque Naranag area, which is known for its ancient temple complex, historical significance and scenic landscape.

Located at the foothills of the Harmukh mountain range, the

NEET Re-Test Today

biometric verification, frisking arrangements and jammer functionality across examination centres.

The examination will be conducted from 2 pm to 5.15 pm at 5,440 centres across 551 cities in India and 14 cities abroad. Candidates eligible for compensatory time under the PwD/PwBD category will be allowed to continue till 6.20 pm.

The NTA has directed candidates to report between 11 am and 1.30 pm, warning that entry gates will close sharply at 1.30 pm and no candidate will be allowed inside thereafter.

In a statement, the agency said it has put in place "comprehensive arrangements" to ensure a "fair, secure and candidate-friendly" conduct of the examination.

As part of the extensive surveillance network, more than 95,000 examination rooms have been equipped with CCTV cameras. A total of 1,38,560 CCTV cameras have been installed, with live feeds monitored at national, state and ministry levels. The footage will also be analysed through artificial intelligence-based tools to detect anomalies and suspicious activities.

To prevent electronic malpractice, 51,311 jammers have been deployed across centres. The security apparatus also includes Aadhaar-based biometric authentication, face authentication systems and strengthened frisking procedures.

The NTA said 38,795 frisking personnel and 48,448 biometric verification staff have been deployed, while biometric manpower has been doubled to ensure smooth verification and

reduce waiting time for candidates.

Each examination room will have two invigilators, while every centre has been assigned more than ten additional functionaries. Around 6,700 observers and over 100 virtual observers will monitor the examination process, supported by Centre Systems Officers deployed at each centre to oversee CCTV systems and address technical issues.

According to the agency, an average of 40 to 50 security personnel have been stationed at every centre. Police, paramilitary forces, the Indian Air Force and the Department of Posts have been mobilised for secure transportation and handling of confidential examination material.

The NTA said examination materials are being transported through GPS-enabled vehicles under police escort, while confidential documents are being handled under sealed security protocols.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has chaired a series of high-level review meetings with senior officials in recent days to assess preparedness and monitor arrangements for the re-examination.

The government has also temporarily restricted access to Telegram, with officials stating that the measure was aimed at curbing cheating rackets and preventing the spread of misinformation related to the examination.

The NTA has simultaneously launched a verified WhatsApp channel to provide authentic updates and has cautioned candidates against believing rumours regarding leaked question papers, answer keys or paid services circulating on social media platforms.

Several states have announced support measures for candidates, including free transportation through state-run bus services to ensure timely access to examination centres.

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has also directed medical colleges and institutions not to grant leave to students on June 20 and 21 except under exceptional circumstances, citing concerns arising from instances where medical students were allegedly involved in activities that compromised examination integrity.

To help candidates cope with prevailing summer conditions, the NTA said centres have been equipped with drinking water facilities, ORS, sanitation arrangements, ambulances, medical support, adequate lighting and power backup systems. Shaded waiting areas and seating arrangements have also been made available for parents accompanying candidates.

Every examination room will have a wall clock and additional rough-work sheets, including provisions designed for the convenience of left-handed candidates.

Candidates will be allowed to carry a transparent water bottle inside examination centres. Diabetic candidates may also bring sugar tablets and fruits such as bananas, apples and oranges in accordance with NTA guidelines.

The agency has advised candidates wearing customary or religious attire, as well as those opting for full-sleeved clothing, to report well in advance to facilitate security checks.

The NTA urged candidates and parents to rely only on official communications and cooperate with authorities to ensure that the examination is conducted smoothly, fairly and without disruption.

India's Quantum

warn that demand for quantum specialists is growing much faster than supply.

"The new hub is designed to help close that gap through specialized courses, internships, startup incubation and joint research projects," Dr. Haq said.

The agreement was followed by a two-day workshop where students explored quantum computing, artificial intelligence and post-quantum cryptography, the next generation of security systems designed to withstand future quantum attacks.

Beyond its academic goals, the partnership highlights a broader shift in India's technology landscape.

For decades, frontier innovation has been concentrated in cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune. The emergence of a Srinagar-based company as a partner in a national quantum initiative signals how expertise is beginning to emerge beyond India's traditional technology corridors.

That expansion could be critical as the country tries to build a workforce capable of competing in one of the world's fastest-growing scientific fields.

"The countries that lead in quantum technologies will not be those that invest only in infrastructure," said Dr. Haq concluded. "They will be the ones that invest in people, because talent will ultimately determine who turns quantum science into real-world impact."

Outside Vehicles Must Comply with Registration, Permit Rules: RTO Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir, Qazi Irfan Rasool, on Saturday said that vehicles brought from outside Jammu and Kashmir are required to comply with mandatory registration and permit norms, asserting that transport authorities are enforcing the rules uniformly across the sector.

His remarks came after a group of All India Permit tourist vehicle operators alleged on Friday that, despite possessing valid permits, they were not being allowed to operate in Kashmir and had been denied an audience with transport authorities.

Rejecting the allegation, RTO Kashmir Qazi Irfan Rasool, while



speaking to reporters during a function, told KNO that the operators were not refused a meeting.

"The claim that we did not meet them is incorrect. They might have approached the Trans-

port Commissioner's office but did not meet him there," he said.

The RTO said several vehicles bearing outside-state registration numbers, including those registered in Delhi, were found

operating without completing the mandatory re-registration process.

"As per the rules, vehicles brought from outside the Union Territory are required to be re-registered within 12 months. During our inspections and verification, we found that a number of vehicles had not followed the prescribed procedure," he said.

Responding to claims that holders of All India Permits can operate anywhere in the country without restrictions, he said such an interpretation was not entirely accurate.

"Vehicles operating as contract carriages within Jammu and Kashmir are required to fulfil specific permit conditions and pay the prescribed fee. Pos-

sessing a permit does not exempt operators from complying with the applicable regulatory framework," he said.

He said all permit holders are required to adhere to the conditions attached to their permits and that enforcement measures are aimed at ensuring compliance with the law.

Reiterating the department's willingness to engage with stakeholders, the RTO said transport operators are welcome to approach the department for clarification on rules and procedures. "Our doors are always open. They can come at any time, and we will explain the process and the legal provisions governing such operations," he said.

Woman Discharged from Hospital Delivers Baby on Roadside; Inquiry Ordered

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district have ordered an inquiry to examine the circumstances leading to an alleged roadside delivery of a patient after being discharged from a hospital, officials said on Saturday.

The family of Hafeeza Begum, a resident of north Kashmir's Chechnar Alosa area, have alleged that she delivered a baby on the roadside after being discharged from Bandipora District Hospital where she was kept under observation, the officials said.

They said the incident prompted Bandipora Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to constitute a five-member inquiry committee to probe the matter.

"... to conduct a detailed

inquiry into the matter, the committee comprising the below-mentioned members is hereby constituted to look into the matter and submit the detailed factual report in this regard within two days positively," the order by the CMO said.

The inquiry committee comprises Dr Nisar Ahmad Ganie as chairman and Dr Tahera Nazir, District Health Officer, Bandipora, Dr Manzoor Ahmad, Consultant Surgeon, CHC Sumbal, Dr Shabnum Ara, Consultant Gynaecologist, Block Hajan, and Junaid Ahmad, Head Assistant, as members.

As per PTI, the order said the Medical Superintendent, Bandipora District Hospital, shall ensure that the concerned doctors shall remain available before the committee during their visit of inquiry into the incident.

Kashmir's Intellectual Legacy Key to India's Global Knowledge Leadership: DG Tourism

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's centuries-old tradition of intellectual debate, free exchange of ideas and scholarly excellence remains relevant in shaping India's future as a global knowledge leader, Director General (Tourism), Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, Suman Billa said on Saturday.

Addressing a gathering here, Billa, as reported by KNO, said Kashmir and Nalanda shared a common heritage as historic centres of learning where diverse streams of thought were encouraged, and intellectual discourse thrived.

Referring to remarks made by Padma Shri Shafi Shauq, Billa said the strength of great civilisations lies in their ability to accommodate differing viewpoints and challenge established ideas.

"Kashmir has historically been a fertile ground for discussion, debate and the free flow of ideas. Like Nalanda, it stood as a confluence of intellectual traditions that advanced human understanding and enriched society," he said.

The DG Tourism said the dialogue between Kashmir and Nalanda was not merely symbolic but reflected a deeper civilisational connection rooted in scholarship, learning and cultural exchange.

Highlighting Kashmir's literary heritage, he said the Valley occupies a unique place in India's intellectual history as the birthplace of 'Rajatarangini', one of the earliest and most authoritative historical chronicles in the world.

"Even today, Rajatarangini provides context and perspective for understanding Kashmir. It reflects the depth of intellectual and literary traditions that have evolved in this land over centuries," he said.

Billa further said that while political systems, economies and technologies continue to change, literature remains timeless because it captures enduring human experiences and emotions. "Literature and travel serve similar purposes by helping people understand places, cultures and societies beyond their immediate surroundings," he said.

Drawing a link between tourism and cultural understanding, Billa said travel broadens perspectives and fosters peace by enabling meaningful interaction between communities.

Quoting Mahatma Gandhi's belief that travel is "the language of peace", he said greater people-to-people engagement helps build mutual respect and strengthens social harmony.

Billa also said the world was entering an era where creativity, culture and knowledge would become more important than industrial advancement alone. "In a rapidly changing world driven by artificial intelligence and the democratisation of knowledge, India can stand tall by drawing strength from its intellectual heritage, including institutions such as Nalanda and the great schools of thought that emerged from Kashmir," he said.

The DG Tourism said India's rich civilisational legacy provides a strong foundation for future leadership and stressed the need to connect the country's diverse intellectual traditions into a coherent knowledge framework.

Expressing confidence in India's rise on the global stage, Billa said the coming decades would belong to nations capable of harnessing the power of ideas, culture and knowledge, adding that India was uniquely positioned to lead that transformation.

Director SKIMS Reviews Preparedness for Amarnath Yatra 2026



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director SKIMS/EOG Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie chaired a comprehensive review meeting with faculty members and administrative heads of various departments to assess the preparedness of the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

During the meeting, Director SKIMS emphasized the need for seamless inter-departmental coordination to ensure prompt, efficient and patient-centric healthcare services for pilgrims requiring medical attention during the Yatra. He directed all concerned departments to maintain readiness of critical care facilities, emergency services, essential medicines, logistics and manpower to effectively respond to any medical exigency.

Highlighting the importance of leveraging technology in healthcare delivery, Prof. Ashraf stressed the availability and operationalization of an advanced Remote Patient Monitoring System to facilitate real-time monitoring of critically ill patients. He noted that such technology-driven interventions can significantly improve clinical outcomes and help minimize mortality and morbidity among patients requiring specialized care.

The Director further underscored the importance of systematic data collection and scientific documentation during the Yatra.

He stated that the data generated would contribute towards evidence-based policy making and improved healthcare planning in coordination with the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board and other stakeholders.

Referring to research conducted by SKIMS and published in the Indian Heart Journal and other reputed national journals, Prof. Ganie reiterated the importance of comprehensive medical screening of pilgrims prior to undertaking the Yatra. He emphasized that proper pre-Yatra health assessment remains one of the most effective measures for preventing medical emergencies and ensuring a safe pilgrimage experience.

The meeting was informed that the designated Nodal Officer for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra at SKIMS, in coordination with the Medical Superintendent, shall ensure the availability of all required logistics, medicines, emergency services and support infrastructure as per established protocols.

Comprehensive arrangements including dedicated security support, transport facilities, implementation of duty rosters, helipad readiness, critical care management and emergency response mechanisms have been put in place. These services will be coordinated through a dedicated Command Centre established at the Casualty Department, which will function as the central coordination hub during the Yatra period.

Secretariat (A) XI Defeats Secretariat (M) XI by 5 Wickets in Cricket Match



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a 30-over friendly cricket match played today, Secretariat (A) XI led by Asif Iqbal defeated Secretariat (M) XI led by Mehraj by 5 wickets.

Batting first after winning the toss, Secretariat (M) XI posted a competitive total of 232 runs. Skipper Mehraj led from the front with a fine 66, while Shakir contributed a solid 63. For Secretariat (A) XI, Tahseen was the pick of the bowlers with 3 wickets, while Bilal claimed 2 wickets.

In reply, Secretariat (A) XI chased down the target of 233 in 28 overs, losing 5 wickets. G.M. Dar remained unbeaten on 61, while Imtiyaz Sangoo supported well with an unbeaten 48. Skipper Asif Iqbal also chipped in with a quick 40.

Brief Scores: Secretariat (M) XI: 232 in 30 overs (Mehraj 66, Shakir 63; Tahseen 3 wickets, Bilal 2 wickets)

Secretariat (A) XI: 233/5 in 28 overs (G.M. Dar 61, Imtiyaz Sangoo 48, Asif Iqbal 40)
Result: Secretariat (A) XI won by 5 wickets.

Retired Police Official among Three Fraudsters Booked in J&K

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Crime Branch's Special Crime Wing has registered two separate FIRs here against three people, including a retired Assistant Sub-inspector (ASI) of police, for their alleged involvement in job fraud, cheating and use of forged documents, officials said.

Retired ASI Hamidullah, a resident of Ramnagar, was booked following a complaint regarding alleged use of forged educational certificate by him at the time of his initial appointment in J&K Police, Crime Branch said in a statement here.

It said a preliminary inquiry revealed that the official had secured appointment in J&K Police by producing a fake 8th pass school leaving certificate.

The verification conducted through the Chief Education Officer, Udhampur confirmed that no such candidate existed in the records of the concerned Government Higher Secondary School, Basantgarh, the statement said, adding a departmental inquiry also recommended criminal action.

In the second case, the



Crime Branch said a written complaint lodged by four complainants alleged that Mohd Younis and Sarfaraz Ahmed, both residents of Mendhar, induced them to pay money on the false promise of securing jobs for their wards in the Military Engineering Services (MES).

The accused allegedly collected over Rs 6 lakh through cash and online transactions and later supplied fake appointment orders bearing forged stamp and signatures of the Chief Engineer, Headquarters Central Command, 56 APO.

As per PTI, the statement said the verification established that the appointment orders had never been issued by the concerned authority and the documents were forged.

Accordingly, a formal FIR has been registered at Crime Branch for further action, it said.

EOW Kashmir files Chargesheet in Telecom Project Fraud Case

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir on Saturday said it has filed a chargesheet against a Kanpur-based man in a telecom project fraud case.

Officials said the investigation found that the accused allegedly duped a complainant by promising a US-based telecom call project and fraudulently obtained money through false assurances.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a spokesperson said the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir, of Crime Branch J&K has produced a chargesheet in FIR No. 44/2023 under Section 420 IPC before the Hon'ble Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sopore, against Harkeet Singh S/o Guru Mohan Singh R/o Kali Mata Mandir, Lal Bangla, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

He said the case pertains to a written complaint alleging that the accused had induced the complainant to part with money on the pretext of providing an AT&T inbound sales call project of a US-based telecom company. During the course of investigation, it was established that the accused had dishonestly deceived the complainant and fraudulently obtained money under false assurances.

"On the basis of evidence collected during investigation, the allegations were found proved and the chargesheet was accordingly filed before the competent court for judicial determination." (Observer News Service)

Notorious Drug Peddler Arrested in Ganderbal

SRINAGAR: Continuing its sustained crackdown against drug trafficking under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, J&K Police in Ganderbal achieved another significant success by apprehending a notorious Drug Peddler and recovered a substantial quantity of contraband substance from his possession.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a police team of Police Post Nagbal, during Naka Checking at Dar Mohallah Baba-Diryadin apprehended a suspicious individual. Upon search, Bhung Patri (Ganja-like substance) weighing approximately 1.848 kilograms was recovered from his possession. The accused has been identified as Md Qudus son of Md Sabir resident of Bihari Gunj, District Madhepura, Bihar. During preliminary enquiry, it surfaced that the accused was actively involved in peddling narcotic substances among local youth, thereby posing a serious threat to society and public health. Acting promptly, the police took cognizance of the matter and registered a case FIR No.106/2026, under relevant provisions of the NDPS Act at Police Station Ganderbal. Further investigation into the case is underway to ascertain backward and forward linkages of the drug network.

Police remains steadfast in its commitment to eradicate the menace of drugs from society and appeals to the general public to extend their cooperation by sharing any information related to drug peddling or other criminal activities. The identity of informants shall be kept strictly confidential. (Observer News Service)

VC LCMA Reviews Dal Lake Conservation Works

SRINAGAR: Vice Chairman of J&K Lake Conservation & Management Authority (LCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, JKAS, on Saturday toured the NPL Bund and several interior areas of Dal Lake to review ongoing conservation works and inspect the repair of culverts aimed at ensuring public convenience during Muharram.

He stressed sustained efforts to address local concerns and protect the ecological health of the lake.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the Vice Chairman, J&K Lake Conservation & Management Authority (LCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, JKAS, conducted an extensive tour of the NPL Bund and several interior mohallas of Dal Lake, including Guchi Mohalla, Tind Mohalla, Bhat Mohalla and adjoining areas.

During the visit, he reviewed the ongoing conservation and maintenance works being carried out in and around the lake. He also inspected the repair and restoration of various culverts to ensure smooth public movement and convenience during the ongoing Muharram observances. (Observer News Service)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION KASHMIR
SAMANDERBAGH - S.P. COLLEGE ROAD SRINAGAR -190001
Email: dsekjk@gmail.com/dsek-jk@gov.in
[TEACHING SECTION]

Mr, Imtiyaz Ahmad,
Teacher,
BMS Gagribal, Zone Nishat, Srinagar,

FINAL NOTICE

Whereas, after availing winter vacation for the academic session 2023-24, you applied for casual leave from 21/02/2024 to 04/03/2024 and thereafter failed to resume your duties, thereby remaining unauthorizedly absent from service w.e.f. 21.02.2024; and

Whereas, the Zonal Education Officer, Nishat vide ZEO/N/211 Dated 31/05/2024 served a show cause notice to you, providing you an opportunity to resume duties within 07 days, however, no response was received from your side and you failed to report for duty; and

Whereas, the Chief Education Officer, Srinagar vide communication No. CEO/Sgr/IMW/7557312/8775-76 dated: 15.10.2024 reported the matter to this office alongwith a copy of show cause notice served upon you, with relevant documents; and

Whereas, perusal of your service records reveal that you have purportedly been appointed as Laboratory Assistant in the department vide Govt. Order No. 395 GAD of 2013 Dated: 02/4/2013 duly endorsed by this Directorate vide No. DSEK/NT/out-sports/26-31/SF/11/2013/3750-52 Dated: 03/4/2013 and subsequently you have also been promoted as Teacher vide Order No. 1004 -DSEK of 2018, dated:- 30-07-2018; and

Whereas, further verification of the official records of the Department has revealed that no such appointment order, endorsement or promotion order appears to have been issued by the competent authority; and

Whereas, this Directorate vide Order No. 65 DSEK of 2026 Dated 16.02.2026 appointed Chief Education Officer, Srinagar as Enquiry Officer in the case to conduct a detailed enquiry into the issues relating to your alleged appointment and prolonged unauthorized absence, who subsequently submitted his enquiry report vide letter No. CEO/Sgr/IMW/E-7557312/7168 dated 25.04.2026; and

Whereas, upon examination of the enquiry report and the records available on file, it has been found imperative to afford you one final opportunity to present your case before any further action is contemplated;

Now, therefore, through the medium of this notice, you are hereby given a final opportunity to appear before this office personally within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of the issuance of this notice, alongwith your testimonials, original appointment order and promotion order purportedly issued by this office/department, failing which it will be presumed that you have nothing to say in your defence and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against you accordingly.

No.: DSEK/Estt-III/B/TS/2151/2024/2069-72
Dated.19.06.2026

DIPK-2414-26
DT: 20/06/2026
Director
School Education Kashmir

India Beat Afghanistan by 9 Wickets, Sweep ODI Series 3-0



Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: India completed a clean sweep of the three-match ODI series with a comprehensive nine-wicket win over Afghanistan in the final match, as Yashasvi Jaiswal smashed an unbeaten century and combined with Rohit Sharma for a 170-run opening stand to make the chase a mere formality here on Saturday.

Chasing a modest 219-run target, India raced to victory in just 28.4 overs, losing one wicket. Jaiswal

slammed an unbeaten 110 off 86 balls (14 boundaries, 3 sixes), while Rohit scored 79 off 69 deliveries.

Earlier, pacer Prasadh Krishna ripped through Afghanistan's top order, claiming four early wickets to finish with outstanding figures of 5/23 as the visitors were bowled out for 218 in 44.2 overs.

However, despite Krishna's destructive spell, Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi stood firm with his maiden ODI century, leading a remarkable recovery after the visitors

were reduced to 36 for 4 in the 10th over.

Shahidi, who had endured a quiet series until then, struck 13 boundaries and a six in his 131-ball 102, while Azmatullah Omarzai provided valuable support with a brisk 56-ball 50.

Brief scores:
Afghanistan 218 in 44.2 overs (Hashmatullah Shahidi 102, Azmatullah Omarzai 50; Prasadh Krishna 5/23, Prince Yadav 1/38).

India 224 for 1 in 28.4 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 110 not out, Rohit Sharma 79).

Iran Hits Out at 'Unfair' World Cup Restrictions

AP

MEXICO CITY: Iran's World Cup team says it's being unfairly made to travel to matches the day before games and return immediately after, but that schedule itself isn't uncommon among teams.

So how does it work, with 48 teams criss-crossing 16 cities across three countries? Iran has been forced to comply with what White House FIFA task force head Andrew Giuliani said were previously mandated rules stemming from the war, but those restrictions also align with FIFA guidelines for general team travel.

Team Melli made the 204-km charter flight from Tijuana International Airport to Los Angeles International Airport the day before its opening 2-2 draw against New Zealand on Monday, a typically short trip that team captain Mehdi Taremi said instead took five hours, including security and immigration checks.

Iran returned to Mexico right after the match, which ended about 8 pm (local time). The team had hoped to stave off travel for a day after the game.

The team's request to travel to LA two days before Sunday's match against Belgium was also denied, the federation said late Thursday, adding that it will lodge a complaint with FIFA.

In a statement, the federation noted Sunday's earlier kickoff - noon - and said it believes "such restrictions are inconsistent with the principle of providing equal conditions for all participating teams and may negatively affect teams' preparation processes".



"We are the only team that is participating in the World Cup that is at the host cities for just 24 hours, and it is not fair," Iran soccer secretary-general Hedayat Mombeini said through a translator Friday.

"All these limitations on us have negative effects on our physical and mental things on our players."

But the Iran team's travel schedule itself is not unusual for short distances in this tournament. And FIFA's 2026 World Cup regulations state in Article 18.3 that "each team shall travel from its team base camp to the match venue one day before matchday (MD-1) and in exceptional cases on MD-2, and shall return to their team base camp after the match (on MD+1)".

The restrictions on the Iran team have not been lifted despite an interim agreement to end the war.

Some team officials and support staff have been unable to secure visas to the US, and player Mehdi Torabi had to visit the US consulate in Tijuana to get a new visa after the first match.

Many teams have been arriving in host cities the day before their matches.

For Friday's group-stage match against Australia, the US made the roughly 1,580-km flight from their base in Orange County, California, to Seattle on Thursday. The team intended to return to its hotel in Laguna Niguel after the match.

Some CONCACAF teams preferred to arrive on the day before games for World Cup qualifiers at Mexico City, where sports performance experts advise players won't have time to acclimatise to the altitude and so should get there as close to kickoff as possible.

Bosnia-Herzegovina has the longest group stage travel, at 9,460-km in total. The Dragons had a roughly 2,670-km flight each way from Salt Lake City to Toronto, 950-km to Los Angeles and 1,110-km to Seattle.

Bosnia's travel is far shorter than the 14,484-km trek for the US at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, the longest among the 32 nations.

The Americans went from their base camp in Sao Paulo to Natal, a distance of 2,311-km, three days before their opener against Ghana. They made the 2,948-km trip to Manaus two days before their game against Portugal and the 2,126-km journey to Recife two days before their match against Germany.

Four years ago in Qatar, all stadiums were within 50-km of downtown Qatar, enabling teams to stay in one hotel throughout the tournament.

Australia flogs the Netherlands, Bangladesh beats Pakistan at Women's T20 World Cup

AP

SOUTHAMPTON (ENGLAND): Australia earned a third convincing win at the Women's Twenty20 World Cup when it beat the Netherlands by 98 runs Saturday.

Australia reached 200 in the World Cup for the first time and equaled the highest-ever tourna-

ment total, 219-6. The Netherlands was kept to 121-3 at the Rose Bowl.

Bangladesh then eliminated Pakistan by 23 runs with two great comebacks to stay in the hunt for a first semifinal.

Mooney retires hurt but OK

Opening batter Beth Mooney gave Australia a scare when she retired on 74 off 42 balls with a

stiff back. But she said afterward she was fine. "I'm all good, just precautionary," Mooney said. "Probably just not used to all the bus travel we've been doing."

Mooney shared 50 runs off 28 balls for the opening wicket with Georgia Voll (17) and 101 off 55 with Ash Gardner (58), who returned from an ankle sprain. Georgia Wareham swept Australia

past 200 with 41 off 18 including 32 runs from boundaries.

With Mooney sidelined, Australia didn't have a backup wicketkeeper. The usual alternative, Phoebe Litchfield, was out with a quad issue. The gloves were given to Voll and she was tidy, taking a catch in the second over as pacer Kim Garth took 2-10 in her first two overs.

The Netherlands, appearing in its first World Cup, was never going to chase down 220 but captain Babette de Leede and Sterre Kalis combined for 96 from 91 balls from the fourth over to the 19th.

Kalis, dropped on 21 and 40, was bowled for 44 and captain de Leede, 56 not out off 57 balls, finished the match with Robine

Rijke, both of whom were playing their 100th T20s.

"This is a massive moment for us," de Leede said. "Australia are a quality team (so) to learn from them, see how they go about their innings, it's just incredible."

Bangladesh collapse Pakistan

Bangladesh recovered from 13-3 to post 123-6 and limited

Pakistan to 100-8. Pakistan has also lost to India and South Africa while Bangladesh has also beaten the Netherlands.

Bangladesh chose to bat first but was quickly 13-3. Captain Nigar Sultana held the innings together through the middle overs against the miserly bowling of Nashra Sandhu, Sadia Iqbal and opposite skipper Fatima Sana.

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