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Search Op In Rajouri Enters 31st Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Operation 'Sheruwali', the massive anti-terror operation launched in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district following reports of militant presence in the Manjakote sector, entered its 31st day on Monday, making it one of the longest-running counter-terror operations in the Jammu region in recent years.

The operation was launched last month after security agencies received specific intelligence inputs about the movement of armed militants in the Gambhir Mughlan-Dorimal forest belt of Rajouri district.

What began as a cordon-and-search operation intensified after security forces established contact with suspected militants during the initial phase. Since then, a multi-layered security grid comprising the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police and the CRPF has remained in place to prevent any possible escape or regrouping by the militants.

Security sources said the operation continues to face significant challenges owing to the difficult terrain, dense forests, deep ravines and natural caves spread across the Pir Panjal range. These geographical features provide militants with ample opportunities for concealment and movement, making sustained contact difficult.

Over the past month, security forces have deployed drones, technical surveillance equipment and specialised search teams to track | [More on P6](#)

Heavy Rain, Hailstorm Lash Kashmir; Srinagar Areas Waterlogged

» Two-hour downpour inundates several city localities, disrupts traffic » MeT forecasts mainly dry weather till June 26

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms, hailstorm and gusty winds lashed several parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, inundating large parts of Srinagar, disrupting normal life and bringing temperatures down across the Union Territory. A 65-year-old woman died after being electrocuted during the downpour in downtown Srinagar.

According to officials, many parts of Kashmir witnessed rain and thundershowers during the afternoon, while several districts of Jammu division, including Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi and Udhampur, also received precipitation.

The weather activity was accompanied by brief intense



Downtown Srinagar Bears the Brunt

A spell of heavy rainfall lasting nearly two hours brought large parts of Srinagar to a standstill, particularly in the old city, where roads and lanes were submerged under accumulated rainwater.

Waterlogging was reported from several localities, including Nowpora Safakadal, Sakidafar, Ganderpora Eidgah, Waniyar, Rathpora, Daulatabad Khanyar, Main Chowk Khanyar, Naid Kadal, Zadi Masjid Safakadal, Rajouri Kadal, Firdous Colony Eidgah, Fateh Kadal and Baddemb.

Traffic movement was disrupted at many places as roads turned into streams and drains struggled to cope with the sudden influx of rainwater. Videos circulating on social media | [More on P6](#)

showers, thunderstorms, hailstorm and strong winds at several places, including along the Sonamarg-Baltal-Holy Cave and Pahalgam-Holy Cave routes. | [More on P6](#)

Hailstorm Batters South Kashmir Farms, Orchards

Fresh hailstorms accompanied by heavy rainfall battered several parts of south Kashmir on Monday, causing extensive damage to apple orchards, vegetable crops and other standing agricultural fields, further aggravating the concerns of farmers already hit

by repeated weather-related losses this season. The worst-affected areas included Shangus, Sheikhgund, Wangam, Krad and adjoining villages in Anantnag district, where hailstones pounded orchards and farmlands during the afternoon, damaging crops across | [More on P6](#)

Punjab Levies Trigger J&K Mutton Strike

Dealers Suspend Livestock Imports, Warn Stocks May Last Only 2-4 Days

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The Coordination Committee of Mutton Dealers Association on Monday announced an indefinite strike against the alleged imposition of hefty charges on livestock-carrying vehicles entering Jammu and Kashmir through Punjab, warning that the move could disrupt mutton supplies across the Union Territory within days.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, committee members including Mehraj Din Ganie, Khurshid Ahmad, Adil Ahmad and Khair Mohammad said that no livestock-carrying vehicle would enter or leave mutton mandis until the issue is resolved.

The committee also appealed to marriage function organisers and the general public

to make necessary adjustments in view of the strike. "We request people, especially those planning marriage functions and other events, to adjust their arrangements accordingly as the ongoing issue may affect the availability of mutton," the committee members said.

They warned that the existing stock of mutton in Jammu and Kashmir would last only two to four days. "The available stock can sustain the market for only two to four days. If the issue is not resolved immediately, consumers may face shortages and a further increase in prices," they said.

The traders alleged that livestock-carrying vehicles entering Jammu and Kashmir via Punjab are being charged between Rs 15,000 and Rs 20,000 at the Simbu | [More on P6](#)

KPs Celebrate Kheer Bhawani Mela With Fervour



LG Pays Obeisance At Tulmul; Prays For Peace

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday paid obeisance at the revered Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tulmul in Ganderbal district on the occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami and offered prayers for peace, prosperity and the well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The Lieutenant Governor extended his greetings to devotees and expressed hope that the blessings of Mata Ragnya Devi would continue to guide people towards harmony, progress and spiritual fulfilment. During his visit to the shrine, Sinha interacted with | [More on P6](#)

Observer News Service

Thousands of devotees on Monday participated in the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela at the revered Ragnya Devi Temple in Tulmulla village of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, offering prayers for peace, prosperity and the return of displaced Kashmiri

Pandits to their homeland.

Observed on the occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami, the mela is one of the most significant religious events of the Kashmiri Pandit community. Devotees from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir as well as other parts of the country began arriving at the shrine from the early morning | [More on P6](#)

Need Synergy Among Agencies For Safe Yatra: DGP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Monday reviewed the security arrangements and counter-insurgency measures for the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra, stressing the need for close coordination among security agencies to ensure the smooth and safe conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

According to a police spokesperson, the DGP chaired a comprehensive Security Review Meeting (SRM) to assess the prevailing security situation and preparedness for Amarnath Yatra 2026.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from all security formations deployed in south Kashmir, including the Army's Victor Force, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF) and Indo-Tibetan Border

Police (ITBP). Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) from the concerned districts made detailed presentations on the existing security scenario, counter-insurgency measures and the multi-layered security arrangements being put in place for the pilgrimage.

During the meeting, Prabhat reviewed the operational preparedness of various security formations and directed officers to maintain close coordination and information sharing to effectively address any security challenges.

He underscored the importance of synergy among all agencies involved in securing the pilgrimage and stressed the need for sustained vigilance and robust security measures along the yatra routes.

The DGP also assessed the preparedness of security personnel | [More on P6](#)

SMC Corruption Case

CBI Registers FIR; In-Charge SE Absconding

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a formal FIR against an Executive Engineer of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), who was also holding additional charge as In-Charge Superintending Engineer, and a peon in connection with an alleged bribery case involving the processing of a contractor's bill and signing of an official agreement.

While the peon was arrested during a trap operation conducted by the CBI, the Executive Engineer is absconding and is reportedly evading arrest.

According to the FIR, a contractor approached the CBI



alleging that his firm had been awarded a project for the installation of a 9-metre high mast pole and a 200-watt high mast light at Saderbal Chowk in Srinagar in April 2025. The work was completed within the stipulated time and the bill was subsequently submitted to the department. However,

the payment process remained pending as the required agreement had not been signed by the concerned Executive Engineer.

The contractor alleged that when he met Executive Engineer Er Sajad Kawoosa on June 18, 2026, regarding the issue, the officer demanded a bribe of Rs 10,000 for signing the agreement and facilitating the clearance of the bill. Unwilling to pay the alleged bribe, the contractor lodged a written complaint with the CBI seeking action.

The complaint was taken up for verification by the agency. During the verification process, the CBI allegedly established a demand for a bribe of Rs 5,000 by Sajad Hussain Bhat, a peon posted in the | [More on P6](#)

CAT Asks Govt To Reconsider Tehsildar's 4-Yr Suspension

KO Correspondent

Srinagar: The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has directed the Revenue Department to review the case of a Tehsildar who has remained under suspension for nearly four years in connection with a corruption case and take a reasoned decision within three weeks, while considering the inquiry officer's recommendation for his reinstatement.

The petitioner, Majid Choudhary, has challenged his suspension order issued on August 4, 2022, and its subsequent | [More on P6](#)

NTA Dismisses Video Claiming Paper Leak As 'Fake'

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The National Testing Agency (NTA) has termed as fake a video being circulated on social media claiming that the NEET-UG 2026 paper was leaked.

In a statement on X, the agency said the exam was conducted successfully under comprehensive security and surveillance.

"NTA's attention has been drawn to a fabricated video being circulated on social media regarding NEET (UG) 2026. The video is fake and the claims it makes are false," the statement said.

"The video is FAKE and the claims it makes are false," it said.



The agency said manufacturing and deliberately circulating such misinformation to defraud or alarm students was a "serious offence."

"NTA, with the support of I4C and law-enforcement agencies, is taking action against those responsible for originating this content," the agency said. | [More on P6](#)

159 Samples Fail Quality Standards Across India

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Central Drugs Laboratories found 46 drug samples manufactured by various firms to be "not of standard quality (NSQ)" in its monthly drug alert for May, health ministry officials said on Monday.

Further, the State Drugs Testing Laboratories have identified 113 drug samples as NSQ, they said.

According to routine regulatory surveillance activity, the list of NSQ and spurious drugs is being displayed on the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) portal on a monthly basis.

"For the | [More on P6](#)



Reinforcing Body Clock Rhythms May Help Brain Recover From Stroke: Study

Press Trust Of India

Improving sleep by reinforcing the body's natural daily rhythms could help the brain recover after a stroke, potentially providing a new strategy to enhance the brain's waste clearance and outcomes, according to a new study.

The findings, published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation, show that interventions designed to reinforce the body's natural circadian rhythms, such as timed light exposure, melatonin or a body clock-targeting drug, improved recovery in mouse models of stroke.

Researchers from the University of Rochester Medical Center also found improvements in the glymphatic system -- the brain's waste-clearing network -- and reduced levels of inflammatory molecules that can linger in the brain after a stroke.

The system moves cerebrospinal fluid along blood vessels and through brain tissue, delivering nutrients and helping remove waste products and inflammatory signals.

"The discussion of stroke recovery really starts with the idea that stroke is not just a vascular event, but also a disorder of timing," lead author Lauren Hablitz, a neuroscientist at the University of Rochester Medical Center, said. Strokes are considered to follow predictable time-of-day patterns, with their likelihood of occurring being higher in the morning. They can also be often more severe near the end of the sleep period.

At the same time, many stroke patients experience disrupted sleep-wake cycles after their injury, and those disruptions are associated with poorer recovery, depression, and lower quality of life, the researchers said.

"That led us to ask a simple question. If timing is broken after a stroke, can we improve recovery by reinforcing the biological clock?" Hablitz said.

The researchers added that previous studies show an impaired glymphatic function after stroke, potentially limiting the brain's ability to clear harmful molecules that accumulate during recovery.

The team evaluated interventions known to influence the body's internal clock, including timed light exposure, melatonin, a clock-targeting drug called 'KL001', and time-restricted feeding -- each could enhance glymphatic function in healthy animals.

The "most promising" approaches -- KL001 and time-restricted feeding -- were then tested in mouse models of stroke. Treatment began three days after stroke, well beyond the narrow treatment window for clot-busting drugs and other acute interventions, the researchers said.

However, despite the delay, the animals receiving an intervention showed an improved motor recovery, smaller lesion volumes, enhanced glymphatic flow, and lower levels of inflammatory cytokines in the brain.

Scientists Develop Blood-Based Indicator Of Organ Age

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have developed a blood-based indicator of age of an organ that can be used to assess its current age and predict the risk of a disease that might affect it 10 years later.

One's biological age measures how well the body functions, compared to the chronological age. However, the organs inside the body are all said to be ageing at different speeds.

The researchers, including those from the US' Stanford University, looked at 11 separate organ systems -- brain, muscle, heart, lung, arteries, liver, kidneys, pancreas, immune system, intestine and fat.

"We've developed a blood-based indicator of the age of your organs. With this indicator, we can assess the age of an organ today and predict the odds of your getting a disease associated with that organ 10 years later," senior author Tony Wyss-Coray, professor of neurology and neurological sciences, Stanford University School of Medicine, said.

Findings published in the journal Nature Medicine showed that the biological age of one particular organ, the brain, plays an "outsized" role in determining how long an individual might live.

Nearly 45,000 people of ages 40 to 70 were randomly selected from the UK Biobank and monitored for up to 17 years for changes in their health status.

Using a commercially avail-



able lab technology, the researchers counted amounts of about 3,000 proteins in each participant's blood. Around 15 per cent of the proteins could be traced to single-organ origins, and many others to multiple-organ generation.

An algorithm was developed that found how much the composite protein "signature" for each organ being assessed differed from the overall average for people of that age.

Thus, a biological age was assigned to each of the 11 distinct organs or organ systems assessed for each participant using 'plasma proteomics', a large-scale analysis of proteins circulating in the blood plasma.

One-third of the participants were found to have

at least one organ that was either 'extremely aged' or 'extremely youthful', while one in four had multiple 'extremely aged' or 'extremely youthful' organs.

For the brain, 'extremely aged' translated to being among the 6-7 per cent of the study participants' brains whose protein signatures fell at one end of the biological-age distribution, and 'extremely youthful' brains fell into the 6-7 per cent at the opposite end.

Further, the link between having an extremely aged brain and developing Alzheimer's disease was found to be particularly powerful -- 3.1 times that of one with a normally aging brain.

However, an extremely youthful brain was especially protective against

Alzheimer's -- barely one-fourth that of a person with a normally aged brain, the researchers found.

"The brain is the gatekeeper of longevity. If you've got an old brain, you have an increased likelihood of mortality. If you've got a young brain, you're probably going to live longer," Wyss-Coray said.

Wyss-Coray added that brain age was the best single predictor of overall mortality.

Having an extremely aged brain increased the participants' risk of dying by 182 per cent over a roughly 15-year period, while those with extremely youthful brains had an overall 40 per cent reduction in risk of dying over the same duration, he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Manzoor Ahmad Nove, S/o Gh. Mohd Nove, R/o Tangpora, Pattan, do hereby declare that due to an inadvertent clerical error, my surname/caste has been recorded as "Navoo" instead of "Nove" in my J&K Bank account and certain related records.

That my correct and actual name is:
 "Manzoor Ahmad Nove S/o Gh. Mohd Nove, R/o Tangpora, Pattan."

The surname/caste "Nove" is correctly reflected in my other official documents and records. Therefore, I hereby declare that henceforth I shall be known and identified as "Manzoor Ahmad Nove" and request all concerned authorities to read and record my surname/caste as "Nove" instead of "Navoo". Any person having any objection to this correction may file the same within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Sd/-
 Manzoor Ahmad Nove
 S/o Gh. Mohd Nove
 R/o Tangpora, Pattan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

Correction of Particulars In Bank Records

I, Arshad Hussain Dar, S/o Bilal Ahmad Dar, R/o Kawa Pora, Trigam, maintain a Savings Bank Account with J&K Bank, Branch Shadipora under Account Number: 0868040100000412. In my bank passbook records, my name has been erroneously recorded as Irshad Ahmad Dar. However, as per my official Aadhaar Card and Class 10th School Grade Card issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), my correct details are as follows:
 Correct Name: Arshad Hussain Dar
 Father's Name: Bilal Ahmad Dar
 Date of Birth: 25/10/2008

I have applied to the J&K Bank Shadipora branch for the rectification of my name and particulars to align them with my official identity documents. If anyone has any objection to this correction, they should file it in writing with the Branch Manager, J&K Bank Shadipora, within seven (7) days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after the expiry of the said period.

Applicant: Arshad Hussain Dar
 R/o Kawa Pora, Trigam

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my old name from Faraque Ahmad Rather S/O Gh Ahmad Rather to new name Farooque Ahmad Rather S/O Gh Ahmad Rather. In future I will be known by my new name Farooque Ahmad Rather S/O Gh Ahmad Rather. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the passport office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Farooque Ahmad Rather
 S/O Gh Ahmad Rather
 R/o Goshbugh Tehsil Pattan

fko

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Sub: Application of Syed Mohammad Ishaq S/O Habibullah R/o Kreeri Tehsil, Kreeri for the issuance of EWS (Economically Weaker Section) in favour of Syed Aasiya Ishaq

NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of EWS in favour of his daughters namely Syed Aasiya Ishaq. In this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village Kreeri. The family details are given below

S. NO	NAME OF DEPENDENT	RELATION WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION
1	Syed Mohammad Ishaq	Self	54	Labour
2	Syed Haseena Begum	Wife	55	H/W
3	Syed Arfat Bukhari	Son	16	Student
4	Syed Aasiya Ishaq	Daughter	21	--
5	Syed Munaza Bukhari	--	18	--

According to report of Patwari Concerned the applicant's family has not more than 5 acres of land and does not have egrater than 1000 sqft of residential house. The applicant has not any residential house or residential plot in municipal area. The applicant's residential plot is not more than 200 sq ft and the applicant's family income is not more than 8 lakhs per year. Moreover the applicant does not belong to any backward area.

Therefore through this notice Objections are being sought from general public, if any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) positively from the date the notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

fko Naib Tehsildar

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Sub: Application of Irshad Ahmad Parry S/o Abdul Khaliq Parry R/o Kohilina seeking issuance of Legal Heir Certificate

NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, in this context a detailed report was sought from the concerned patwari Halqa which reveals that Abdul Khaliq Parry S/o Habibullah Parry passed away on 10-06-2024. Further the report of patwari concerned points out that the deceased left behind the following legal heirs as below

S. NO	NAME OF DEPENDENT	RELATION WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION
1	Bashir Ahmad	Son	50	Labour
2	Nazir Ahmad	Son	48	Labour
3	Fameeda Begum	Daughter	42	H/W
4	Mehfooza Begum	--	38	H/W
5	Irshad Ahmad	SON	34	Labour

The applicant has applied for issuance of Legal Heir certificate. As such the instant matter is published through news paper, if any one is having any kind of objection may approach this office within 7 days (Seven Days) from the date of publication of this notice after passing of stipulated time of 7 days (Seven Days), no objections will be entertained.

fko Naib Tehsildar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mymoona Ali, W/o Kousar Ali Malik and D/o Ali Mohammad Wani, R/o Whadatpora, Budgam, hereby inform the general public that my Passport bearing No. H9444918 has been lost/misplaced.

Despite diligent efforts, the said passport could not be traced. Therefore, I am publishing this notice for information to the general public and concerned authorities.

If anyone finds the above-mentioned passport, he/she is requested to hand it over to the undersigned or the nearest Police Station. If any person has any objection regarding the issuance of a duplicate/replacement passport in my name, the same may be communicated to the concerned authorities. Otherwise, it shall be presumed that no objection exists.

Name: Mymoona Ali
 W/o: Kousar Ali Malik
 D/o: Ali Mohammad Wani
 Address: Whadatpora, Budgam
 Passport No.: H9444918
 Sd/-
 (Mymoona Ali)
 R/o Whadatpora, Budgam

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Bilal Ahmad son of Syed Mohamad Sharief residing at Kreeri hereby announce that my name and my father's name were incorrectly recorded in my aadhar as Syed Bilal Ahmad Hamdani and Syed Mohammad Sharief Hamdani under aadhar no. 7553 5081 1010. Now I want to correct the same in my aadhar.

The correct particulars are:
 My Name Bilal Ahmad
 Father's Name Syed Mohamad Sharief
 Any person having an objection to these corrections may contact the aadhar authorities within 15 days.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public that I, Sajad Ahmad Bhat S/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat, R/o Devpora Darpora, have lost the Bank No Objection Certificate (NOC) pertaining to my tractor bearing Registration No. JK05G-5860. The said document was lost/misplaced at Devpora Darpora and despite best efforts, the same could not be traced.

If anybody finds the said document or has any claim, objection, or concern regarding it, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, I shall proceed to obtain a duplicate Bank NOC from the concerned authority, and no claim thereafter shall be entertained.

Sd/-
 Sajad Ahmad Bhat
 S/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat
 R/o Devpora Darpora
 Date: 20-06-2026

fko

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Half the Lights Defunct at Mehjoor Nagar Foot Bridge

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Locals and regular commuters have expressed concern over the deteriorating condition of the Mehjoor Nagar Foot Bridge in Srinagar, alleging that nearly half of the installed lights on the structure are either defunct, damaged or missing, making it difficult for pedestrians to use the bridge safely during evening and night hours.

The pedestrian bridge, constructed across the Jhelum River flood channel at an estimated cost of around Rs 4.95 crore, was built to improve connectivity between localities on either side of the channel. However, users say inadequate maintenance and repeated acts of vandalism have significantly affected its utility.

According to commuters, nearly 10 of the approximately 20 decorative lights installed along the bridge are no longer functional. Several fixtures are reportedly loose or damaged, while bulbs have been removed from a number of lamp posts.

Locals told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that the situation becomes particularly challenging after sunset, with women and elderly pedestrians facing difficulties while crossing the bridge due to poor illumination.

"There are damaged lights at multiple spots

and some bulbs are completely missing. People use this bridge every day, but nobody seems to be looking after it," said a local commuter.

Several residents alleged that despite visible deterioration, no meaningful effort has been made to repair the lighting system or identify those responsible for damaging public property.

The concerns come months after reports surfaced regarding the theft and vandalism of decorative fixtures and other components installed on the bridge. Locals claim that no visible deterrent action followed those incidents, encouraging further damage to the public infrastructure.

As per KNT, many commuters said they are unsure which department is responsible for addressing such grievances and alleged that repeated complaints often fail to reach the appropriate authorities.

They urged the Srinagar Municipal Corporation and other concerned agencies to restore the damaged lighting system, inspect the condition of all fixtures and initiate action against those involved in vandalizing or stealing public property.

They said identifying and prosecuting those responsible would help prevent further damage and ensure that public assets created at considerable public expense remain protected.



Rain Exposes Srinagar's Drainage Woes; Elderly Woman Killed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A heavy downpour that lashed Srinagar on Monday inundated several low-lying areas of the city, disrupted traffic movement and renewed concerns over the city's drainage infrastructure, while an elderly woman lost her life after reportedly being electrocuted in a waterlogged locality of downtown Srinagar.

The rainfall, which intensified during the afternoon, led to widespread waterlogging in several areas, including Khanyar, Khayam, Nawakadal, Kadi Kadal and Eidgah. Roads, lanes and bylanes were submerged, forcing pedestrians and motorists to wade through accumulated rainwater as normal life was affected across parts of the city.

Residents shared photographs and videos on social media showing flooded streets, stranded vehicles and

overflowing drains, highlighting the recurring problem of urban flooding during spells of intense rainfall.

The most tragic incident was reported from the Naidkadal area, where a 65-year-old woman, identified as Shameema, wife of late Ghulam Nabi Makhdoomi of Shamspora, allegedly came into contact with an electric pole near Rangar Masjid while passing through a waterlogged lane.

She was immediately shifted to a hospital, where doctors declared her dead.

The incident sparked concern among residents, who questioned the safety of electrical infrastructure in inundated areas and called for preventive measures to avoid such accidents during adverse weather conditions.

Traffic movement remained slow at several locations as vehicles navigated submerged roads and commuters

ers faced delays during peak hours. In some localities, water entered residential compounds, adding to the difficulties faced by residents.

People from the affected areas alleged that the existing drainage network failed to cope with the volume of rainwater, resulting in flooding in neighbourhoods that routinely experience water accumulation during heavy showers.

The fresh inundation has once again brought the issue of urban drainage management into focus, particularly in densely populated parts of Srinagar where residents say waterlogging continues to occur despite repeated assurances of infrastructure upgrades.

According to reports, water levels receded in some areas by evening, though several localities continued to witness stagnant water and slow drainage.

Islamic Calligraphic Landmark Inaugurated at Alamgari Bazar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: MLA Zadibal and Chief Spokesperson of the National Conference, Tanvir Sadiq, on Monday inaugurated an Islamic calligraphic landmark at Alamgari Bazar, describing it as a significant step towards enhancing the area's aesthetic and spiritual identity.

The landmark features the sacred names of Allah (SWT), Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Hazrat Ali (AS), Hazrat Fatima Zahra (AS), Imam Hasan (AS), and Imam Hussain (AS), symbolizing faith, devotion, and Islamic heritage.

Speaking on the occasion, Sadiq said the project fulfilled a long-cherished aspiration and marked the beginning of a broader beautification initiative in the constituency.

"Alhamdulillah, today I dedicated an iconic Islamic calligraphic landmark at Alamgari Bazar. This is a dream I have long cherished to begin our beautification efforts with the name of Allah (SWT)," he said.

He expressed hope that the landmark would contribute to the beauty and distinct identity of Zadibal while strengthening its spiritual character.

"I hope this landmark adds to the beauty, identity and spiritual character of Zadibal and serves as a symbol of faith, unity and devotion for generations to come," Sadiq added.

Residents and local representatives present at the inauguration welcomed the initiative, saying the structure reflects the area's rich religious and cultural heritage while adding to the visual appeal of the locality.

The newly inaugurated landmark is expected to become a prominent feature of Alamgari Bazar and a symbol of the constituency's commitment to preserving its cultural and spiritual values.

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

AIRPORTS
 SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS
 • SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
 • ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
 • BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
 • BIJBHARA: 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: 35
ZUHR	12:33
ASR	5: 33
Magrib	7: 49
ISHA	9: 31

HIJRI CALENDAR
 07 Muharram
 1448

This Day In History

- 1713- The French residents of Acadia are given one year to declare allegiance to Britain or leave Nova Scotia, Canada
- 1724- Russia and Turkey sign Treaty of Constantinople
- 1757- Robert Clive defeats army led by Suraja Dowlaat Plassey, wins control of Bengal
- 1758- Seven Years' War: Battle of Krefeld - British forces defeat French troops at Krefeld in Germany
- 1760- Battle of Landshut Silesia: Austria beats Prussia
- 1794- Russian Empress Catherine II (Catherine the Great) grants Jews permission to settle in Kiev
- 1821- Dutch troops conquer Palembang
- 1828- Miguel I declares himself King of Portugal after leading an absolutist uprising against Maria II
- 1890- In an effort to solve the "Uitlander" (British and foreign) grievances regarding voting rights, President of Transvaal Paul Kruger institutes a Second Volksraad voting chamber, responsible for controlling local matters
- 1898- Emilio Aguinaldo issues a decree replacing his dictatorial government with a revolutionary government, with himself as President
- 1900- British Governor Frederick Hodgson and some of his British supporters flee Fort Coomassie, Gold Coast, Africa, where they have been under siege since 6 April
- 1900- The Young Turks present a manifesto to the major foreign embassies in Constantinople demanding that these foreign powers end the Ottoman Sultan's rule
- 1908- Shah Mohammed Ali leads a successful counter-revolution in Persia, aided by the Russian legation and a Cossack brigade
- 1908- The USA suspends diplomatic relationships with Venezuela after the refusal of Cipriano Castro's government to compensate Americans for injuries suffered in the uprising of 1899
- 1914- Battle of Zacatecas: Pancho Villa's División del Norte attacks and takes the strategic city of Zacatecas, held by President Victoriano Huerta's Constitutionalist forces
- 1915- Italians launch the first of what will become 11 battles to dislodge the Austrians from the Isonzo River, which keeps the Italians from Trieste
- 1919- Nitti government forms in Italy
- 1925- British warship fires on Hong Kong harbor strikers
- 1928- Commencement of West Indies cricket's first ever Test match; England go on to win by an innings and 58 runs at Lord's
- 1935- UK Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden offers Benito Mussolini a Somali harbor
- 1939- France turns over Sanjak of Alexandretta (Hatay) to Turkey
- 1940- After conquering France, Adolf Hitler visits Paris and views the Eiffel Tower and the grave of Napoleon Bonaparte
- 1940- RAF bombs Schiphol, Netherlands
- 1941- Germany occupies Telz, Lithuania
- 1942- World War II: Germany's latest fighter, a Focke-Wulf FW190 is captured intact when it mistakenly lands at RAF Pembrey in Wales.
- 1943- RAF discovers Werner von Braun's V1/V2-base in Peenemunde
- 1952- US airplanes bomb energy centers at Yalu Korea
- 1960- Japan signs security treaty with the US
- 1961- The Antarctic Treaty, ensuring that Antarctica is used for peaceful purposes; for international cooperation in scientific research; and does not become the scene or object of international discord, comes into force

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My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Nadhiya Gulzar D/o Gulzar Ahmad Teli while my correct name as per School records is Nahida Jan D/O Gulzar Ahmad Talie. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
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Poison in the Orchard Economy

Repeated crop losses linked to suspect pesticides expose a regulatory failure that threatens the Valley's most important rural industry and the families whose futures depend on it.



Dr. Ishtiyaq Ahmad Shah



Apple industry stands as one of the valley's greatest economic assets. Its longevity depends on the confidence of the people who invest their savings, labour, and hopes into orchards every year. Strong regulation, rapid testing, transparent communication, and firm accountability would protect livelihoods, rural prosperity, and a cornerstone of Kashmir's economy.

KO VIEW

Verdicts Before Facts

A dispute over a pacemaker procedure involving a Kashmir cardiologist has ignited widespread discussion online. But beneath the controversy lies a deeper concern about a culture that often treats allegations as conclusions and suspicion as proof.

Shortly after news of the incident surfaced, social media platforms erupted with commentary. Large sections of Facebook had already reached a verdict even before investigators examined records, gathered testimony, or established facts.

A dangerous inversion has taken root in many online spaces. Guilt now comes first, while proof is expected later. Reputations stand trial before inquiries even begin.

Authorities have ordered an investigation and placed the doctor under scrutiny. That process exists for a reason.

Government inquiries assess evidence, examine documentation, hear competing accounts, and determine responsibility through established procedures. Public confidence in accountability depends upon that process.

Social media outrage, however passionate, cannot replace it. Recent events elsewhere in Kashmir demonstrate why restraint remains essential. Allegations of misconduct against a college principal triggered intense criticism and administrative action. Public opinion hardened rapidly, but inquiry findings later cleared him, leading to his reinstatement.

Facts eventually emerged, though considerable damage had already been done.

Such episodes reveal how digital discourse increasingly drifts toward personal attacks rather than informed debate. Character assassination often overshadows serious discussion. Long professional careers become reduced to allegations whose veracity remains untested.

Social media then risks becoming a venue where personal rivalries, grievances, and score-settling masquerade as public concern.

Traditional media operates under editorial scrutiny, legal obligations, and professional standards. Mistakes occur, though mechanisms exist to verify information before publication and correct errors when they arise.

But social media functions under a different logic. Speed frequently outruns verification, while emotion frequently overrules judgment.

Freedom of expression remains one of the great strengths of the digital age. Citizens possess unprecedented ability to participate in public life and scrutinize powerful institutions.

But while responsible engagement strengthens that freedom, reckless allegations diminish its value.

This argument does not seek a clean chit for the doctor under investigation. Responsibility, if established, must attract accountability. Public interest demands nothing less.

A fair society, however, cannot abandon the principle that conclusions follow facts rather than precede them.

Apple orchards form the economic foundation of rural Kashmir. Income from a successful harvest funds education, health-care, housing, and household expenses while supporting a wider network of labourers, truck drivers, traders, packaging units, and cold-storage businesses.

When an apple crop succeeds, entire communities benefit. But when it fails, the consequences ripple far beyond the orchard.

That is why recurring reports of crop damage linked to substandard pesticides, fungicides, insecticides, and fertilizers should command immediate attention from regulators.

What appears at first glance to be a technical issue involving agricultural inputs has evolved into a larger economic problem with direct consequences for thousands of farming families.

Recent complaints from horticulture-rich districts tell a troubling story.

Growers reported that apples began falling from trees shortly after fungicides were sprayed. Farmers who had invested heavily in pruning, spraying, irrigation, and orchard maintenance watched fruit drop at a stage when harvest prospects looked promising. Months of work vanished within days.

Such incidents have become routine in Kashmir's apple belt. Similar complaints surface season after season. Farmers purchase products from licensed dealers with the expectation that government oversight has verified their quality and safety. That expectation forms the foundation of trust in any agricultural market.

Once that trust erodes, uncertainty enters every farming decision.

The central problem lies in the way regulation functions. Authorities often respond after damage has occurred. Samples are collected following complaints. Tests begin after products have reached orchards. Advisories arrive after growers have already sprayed their trees.

By that stage, the financial loss belongs to the farmer, while investigations continue through administrative channels.

A sector as important as horticulture cannot operate on a system built around damage control. Prevention must become the guiding principle.

Mandatory testing before the spraying season would mark a strong first step. Products entering the market should pass verification before reaching dealers' shelves. Farmers should know that approved chemicals have undergone rigorous scrutiny.

Such a system would reduce the chances of orchardists unknowingly purchasing ineffective or harmful products.

Regular inspections also need far greater attention.

Random sampling from agrochemical shops should become routine during the active spray season. Laboratory analysis must follow immediately. Products that fail quality standards should disappear from the market without delay, while suppliers and dealers found violating regulations should face meaningful penalties.

Testing infrastructure remains another weak link. Delays often stem from limited laboratory capacity and lengthy verification procedures. Block-level testing facilities in major horticulture districts would accelerate analysis and allow authorities to identify problematic products before damage spreads through entire farming regions.

Faster testing creates faster action, and faster action saves crops.

Technology can strengthen this effort, as most growers today use mobile phones and messaging applications. The Department of Horticulture should build a digital alert system that shares approved product lists, failed sample reports, spray advisories, and safety updates in real time.

A farmer deciding what to spray should have access to reliable information with a few taps on a screen. Transparency would strengthen confidence further.

Public disclosure of approved products, failed samples, and blacklisted suppliers would help growers make informed decisions while encouraging greater accountability throughout the supply chain.

Compensation also needs a place in this discussion.

When investigations establish that substandard agrochemicals caused crop damage, farmers should have access to a transparent grievance mechanism and financial relief.

Orchardists already face weather risks, pest pressures, and market fluctuations. Losses caused by defective products should rest with those responsible for placing them in circulation.

Regular awareness programs can help growers verify products, identify warning signs, and follow safe application practices.

Independent monitoring committees that include scientists, horticulture experts, and farmer representatives would add credibility to oversight efforts and strengthen public confidence.

Apple industry stands as one of the valley's greatest economic assets. Its longevity depends on the confidence of the people who invest their savings, labour, and hopes into orchards every year.

Strong regulation, rapid testing, transparent communication, and firm accountability would protect livelihoods, rural prosperity, and a cornerstone of Kashmir's economy.

Another season should begin with confidence rather than apprehension. Apple growers have done their part. The institutions responsible for safeguarding this industry must now do theirs.

— The author hails from Baghbal, Kulgam, and can be reached at shahishtiyaaq11@gmail.com.

The Food-Cancer Connection

With gastrointestinal cancers placing a growing strain on Jammu and Kashmir, systematic food testing and transparent surveillance should become a central pillar of the region's cancer-prevention strategy.



Dr. Umer Majeed Khaja

Cancer prevention rarely begins where most people imagine.

It does not start in an oncology ward, a chemotherapy unit, or a screening camp. It starts much earlier, in the food markets people visit every day, in the spices stored on kitchen shelves, in the cooking oils used by restaurants, and in the systems that determine whether harmful contaminants ever reach a consumer's plate.

That reality holds special significance for Jammu and Kashmir.

The region faces a growing burden of gastrointestinal cancers, particularly stomach and colorectal cancers. The seriousness of the challenge prompted the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to strengthen cancer screening and prevention efforts in Jammu and Kashmir.

Such attention from India's leading biomedical research institution signals a public health concern that extends well beyond hospitals and clinics.

Screening, diagnosis, and treatment remain essential. Prevention, however, holds equal importance.

A meaningful cancer strategy examines environmental exposures, dietary habits, and the quality of the food supply that millions rely upon every day.

Food safety belongs at the center of that conversation. Food sustains life and protects health. Contaminated food

can produce the opposite outcome. The World Health Organization has repeatedly identified unsafe food as a major public health challenge linked to biological, chemical, and environmental contaminants. Long-term exposure to substances such as arsenic, lead, mycotoxins, and prohibited chemicals has been associated with cancer and other chronic illnesses.

Regulators around the world routinely detect industrial dyes, unauthorized colorants, pesticide residues, heavy metals, and other contaminants entering food chains.

Such discoveries illustrate a simple lesson: effective food safety depends on constant vigilance.

The Sudan family of dyes presents a striking example.

Sudan I, II, III, and IV are synthetic industrial dyes prohibited in food products in many jurisdictions because of evidence pointing to genotoxic and carcinogenic potential. Scientific studies have raised concerns about their ability to damage genetic material and contribute to cancer development in experimental settings.

Food regulators therefore prohibit their use in foods intended for human consumption.

Other non-permitted colorants, including Metanil Yellow and Rhodamine B, have generated similar concern. Food safety agencies continue to monitor these substances because of their toxicological risks.

Attention must also extend beyond artificial dyes.

Food safety experts routinely track pesticide residues, heavy metals, contaminants generated during processing, and harmful compounds formed through repeated heating of cooking oils.

Aflatoxin contamination needs particular scrutiny. Improper storage of grains, nuts, spices, and related commodities can create conditions that allow aflatoxins to develop. Aflatoxin B1 ranks among the most powerful naturally occurring carcinogens known to science and maintains a well-established connection with liver cancer.

Regular surveillance for aflatoxins should therefore form a key component of any food safety program.



Current public information does not establish widespread use of banned carcinogenic dyes or contaminants in foods sold in Jammu and Kashmir. Claims suggesting routine contamination lack scientific support without laboratory confirmation.

Cooking oils present another challenge. Recent dietary guidance from ICMR highlighted concerns surrounding repeatedly heated oils. Reuse can generate oxidation products, trans fats, and other compounds associated with adverse health effects.

Commercial establishments that repeatedly recycle cooking oil warrant closer monitoring as part of a broader public health strategy.

These concerns acquire greater significance in Jammu and Kashmir because of the region's cancer profile. Stomach and colorectal cancers already represent an important public health burden. Cancer prevention policies should therefore account for every plausible source of avoidable exposure.

That objective begins with scientific evidence.

Current public information does not establish widespread use of banned carcinogenic dyes or contaminants in foods sold in Jammu and Kashmir. Claims suggesting routine contamination lack scientific support without laboratory confirmation.

Absence of evidence, however, should never be confused with proof of safety.

Scientific testing provides the only credible answer.

Regulators and public health authorities should therefore address a series of straightforward questions: Are spices

sold in local markets screened for prohibited industrial dyes? Do food colours remain within legally permitted limits? Do sweets, snacks, and processed foods undergo routine testing for adulterants? How frequently are fruits and vegetables examined for pesticide residues? Are heavy metals such as lead, cadmium, arsenic, and mercury assessed periodically? Do surveillance programs screen for aflatoxins? How closely are street-food vendors monitored for compliance? What systems evaluate cooking oil quality in commercial establishments?

Public health policy should rest on verified answers rather than assumptions.

Modern technology already makes such surveillance possible. Analytical tools such as High-Performance Liquid Chromatography, Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry, and Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry can identify contaminants with remarkable precision.

Jammu and Kashmir should strengthen laboratory capacity and expand routine testing of spices, processed foods, sweets, beverages, street foods, cooking oils, fruits, vegetables, and commodities vulnerable to aflatoxin contamination.

Public confidence grows when citizens can see how regulatory systems function.

Authorities should publish regular reports detailing the number of samples tested, products examined, contaminants screened, violations identified, and enforcement actions taken.

Such disclosure strengthens accountability while building trust.

Kashmir has already recognized the rising cancer burden and expanded screening efforts.

The next step lies in building a stronger food surveillance system that prevents banned dyes, unauthorized additives, excessive contaminants, and other harmful substances from entering the food chain.

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From Siffin to Karbala

Long before the sands of Karbala became sacred ground, a struggle for authority had already transformed the Muslim world.



Saqib Ali Mir

The desert plain of Karbala lay under the harsh Iraqi sun when Husayn ibn Ali stood before an army that dwarfed his small caravan.

Men who had travelled with him for weeks watched the horizon fill with soldiers. Women and children waited in tents behind them. Water had become scarce, escape had ceased to be an option, and a political dispute that had simmered for decades now approached its final act.

Ashura, the tenth day of Muharram in 680 C.E., occupies a singular place in Islamic memory. Husayn's martyrdom transformed a local confrontation into a story that still resonates fourteen centuries later.

Karbala, however, emerged from a chain of events that began long before Husayn reached Iraq.

Its roots lay in struggles over authority, justice, and leadership that followed the death of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, and intensified during the caliphate of Uthman ibn Affan.

Uthman's assassination in 656 C.E. marked a turning point. Historical accounts describe the third caliph reading the Quran when rebels entered his home and killed him.

Shock spread through the rapidly expanding Muslim world. Questions surrounding responsibility, accountability, and succession immediately surfaced. Political uncertainty gripped the community, while competing factions sought influence during a period of upheaval.

Ali ibn Abi Talib, cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet, assumed the caliphate soon afterward. He inherited a state burdened by internal divisions and public anger. Demands for swift punishment of Uthman's killers came from influential figures who viewed justice as the first priority.

Ali focused on restoring order before launching a formal investigation.

Supporters saw prudence in that approach, but critics viewed it through a different lens. Disagreement soon hardened into confrontation.

Tension erupted in Basra. Aisha, widow of the Prophet, joined Talha ibn Ubaydullah and Zubayr ibn al-Awwam in mobilizing support around the demand for justice. Efforts aimed at reconciliation produced hope for a settlement. But circumstances on the ground pushed events toward violence instead.

The Battle of the Camel became the first major civil war in Islamic history. Thousands died. Ali emerged victorious, though victory brought little peace. Deep political fractures had already entered the Muslim community.

Another challenge soon emerged from Syria.

Muawiya ibn Abi Sufyan, governor of the province and a relative of Uthman, refused recognition of Ali's authority until Uthman's killers faced punishment.

Syria possessed a disciplined administration, a loyal military force, and substantial resources. Muawiya's position transformed a dispute over justice into a broader struggle for leadership. Rival centers of power now competed for legitimacy.

Conflict culminated at Siffin in 657 C.E.

Armies loyal to Ali and Muawiya faced one another near the Euphrates. Contemporary sources describe a prolonged and brutal contest.

Momentum gradually shifted toward Ali's forces. Muawiya's camp then raised copies of the Quran and called for arbitration.

Appeals to scripture resonated deeply among soldiers weary of bloodshed. Ali accepted arbitration despite objections from some supporters who feared political consequences.

Their fears soon proved well founded.

Arbitration failed to resolve the dispute and generated fresh divisions within Ali's camp. A faction that rejected the process broke away and became known as the Kharijites. Opposition now confronted Ali from multiple directions. Muawiya remained a powerful rival, while former allies turned into fierce critics.

Years of conflict exhausted the



Years of conflict exhausted the Muslim world. Violence reached another turning point in 661 C.E. when a Kharijite assassin struck Ali with a poisoned sword while he prayed in the mosque of Kufa. He died shortly afterward. One of the most revered figures in Islamic history left the stage amid civil war. Reports from early Islamic sources describe his burial taking place at night. Generations later, a shrine rose over the site associated with his grave in Najaf.

Muslim world. Violence reached another turning point in 661 C.E. when a Kharijite assassin struck Ali with a poisoned sword while he prayed in the mosque of Kufa. He died shortly afterward.

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Reports from early Islamic sources describe his burial taking place at night. Generations later, a shrine rose over the site associated with his grave in Najaf.

Leadership then passed to Ali's eldest son, Hasan. Iraq had endured years of warfare and political turmoil. Loyalty within Hasan's ranks weakened under pressure. Some commanders pursued personal interests while others drifted toward Muawiya. Hasan chose a different path.

He entered into a peace agreement that transferred political authority to Muawiya and brought an end to active conflict. Supporters viewed the decision as a measure

that preserved lives and restored stability.

Muawiya emerged as sole ruler and established the Umayyad Caliphate. His administration presided over a period of consolidation and relative order. But one decision near the end of his life altered the course of Islamic history.

Leadership had traditionally rested on consultation among leading figures of the community. Muawiya designated his son Yazid as successor, introducing dynastic succession into the caliphate.

Many accepted the arrangement as a means of preserving stability. Others viewed it as a profound shift in political culture. Husayn ibn Ali stood among the most prominent critics. Abdullah ibn Zubayr and several respected companions shared similar concerns.

Questions surrounding legitimacy now stood alongside questions of governance.

When Muawiya died in 680 C.E.,

Yazid moved swiftly to secure pledges of allegiance. Husayn regarded the issue through a moral lens rather than a political one. Support for Yazid, in his view, would endorse a model of leadership detached from the principles he believed should guide the Muslim community. He declined to pledge allegiance.

Messages soon arrived from Kufa. Thousands of letters urged Husayn to come and assume leadership. Muslim ibn Aqil, Husayn's cousin, travelled there to assess support.

Initial enthusiasm appeared strong. Umayyad authorities responded with pressure and intimidation, but support rapidly evaporated. Muslim ibn Aqil was eventually captured and executed.

News of his death, however, reached Husayn after his journey had already begun.

Husayn continued toward Iraq with relatives, companions, women, and children. His caravan

resembled a household on the move rather than a force preparing conquest. Umayyad troops intercepted the group near Karbala and restricted its movement.

Negotiations continued for days, positions hardened, and water supplies dwindled.

Ashura brought the crisis to its conclusion.

Husayn's camp numbered around seventy fighting men, opposing forces counted in the thousands.

One companion after another entered battle and fell. Abbas, standard-bearer and brother of Husayn, died while attempting to secure water. Ali Akbar, Husayn's young son, was killed. Historical tradition also remembers the death of his infant son, Ali Asghar.

Husayn eventually stood alone.

Accounts preserved through centuries describe a final charge marked by extraordinary determination. He fought despite exhaustion, wounds, and overwhelming odds. His death ended the battle. Its meaning extended far beyond the battlefield.

Military history records Karbala as a small engagement, but human memory preserved it as something larger.

Yazid secured political victory, while Husayn secured a place in moral history. His stand came to symbolize resistance to authority viewed as unjust and fidelity to principle under extreme pressure.

Centuries passed, dynasties rose and fell, palaces crumbled, and empires disappeared into history, but Husayn's story endured.

Millions still gather each year to remember Karbala. Their remembrance centers on a choice made under impossible circumstances. Husayn possessed paths that promised security and accommodation. He pursued a different course because he believed principle demanded it.

That conviction transformed a desert battlefield into a permanent point of reference for people confronting power, injustice, and moral compromise.

Karbala survives in memory because it speaks to a question that extends beyond any single faith or era: what remains when principle and power move in opposite directions?

The answer echoes through history in the name of Husayn.

—The author is a Kashmir-based industrialist, and can be reached at mirsaqibali@gmail.com.

Bandipora's Time Has Come

Strategic investment in eco-tourism, heritage and recreation could turn Bandipora into a major economic engine for North Kashmir.



Mudasser Wani

The late afternoon sun cast a silver glow over Wular Lake as families gathered along the waterfront. Children ran toward the edge of the water, young men paused for photographs, and visitors watched fishing boats drift through one of Kashmir's grandest landscapes.

Then scene felt familiar and surprising at the same time.

Familiar because Kashmir has long drawn visitors with its scenery. Surprising because this setting lay in Bandipora, a district that rarely features in discussions about the valley's tourism plans.

Tourism narratives in Kashmir usually gravitate toward destinations such as Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg. Bandipora occupies a different place on the map and in the public imagination. Nestled beside Wular Lake

and framed by forests, mountains, historic sites and revered shrines, the district possesses a remarkable collection of natural and cultural assets. Much of that potential remains waiting for sustained investment and strategic planning.

Wular dominates the landscape and the district's future prospects. As India's largest freshwater lake and one of Asia's major freshwater bodies, it gives Bandipora a tourism resource that many regions spend decades attempting to replicate.

Villages line its shores, migratory birds visit its waters, and changing seasons transform the scenery throughout the year.

Standing along the lakefront, it becomes easy to picture a broader tourism ecosystem taking shape. Boating facilities, birdwatching routes, photography trails, waterfront cafés, recreational zones and lakefront accommodation could extend visitor stays and deepen local economic activity.

Similar lake-based destinations elsewhere have built thriving visitor economies around their waterfronts. Wular already possesses the natural foundation.

Additions such as Nishat Park and Wular Vintage Park have demonstrated public interest in the area. Weekend visitors increasingly travel to Bandipora seeking open spaces and views of the lake. Those projects serve



as a starting point rather than a final destination.

Heritage centres, cycling tracks, cultural venues, food courts featuring local cuisine and craft villages showcasing regional artisans could connect these attractions into a larger visitor experience.

A short distance away, another chapter of Bandipora's story unfolds beneath tall trees at the Chhattarnar Forest Campus.

The historic Kashmir Forest Training School, established in 1911, remains one of the country's oldest forestry institutions. Forest officers and trainees pass through a landscape rich in

biodiversity and environmental history.

Chhattarnar presents an opportunity that extends beyond traditional sightseeing. Guided forest walks, biodiversity parks, nature education camps, environmental research programmes and wildlife observation points could attract students, researchers and eco-tourists.

Such initiatives would strengthen conservation efforts while generating income for surrounding communities.

Bandipora's tourism map also includes a network of important religious sites. Shrines

such as Aham Sharief, Kousar Afghan, Baba Shukur-ud-Din, Baba Sahib Malangam, Dade-Mooj Bathoo, Sharda Temple at Kaloosa and Peer Baba Razdan Top hold deep spiritual and historical significance.

Better roads, visitor facilities, parking spaces and heritage conservation projects could support pilgrimage tourism throughout the year while strengthening local businesses.

Athwato provides another glimpse of what may lie ahead.

Recently declared a tourist destination, the area combines sweeping views with natural surroundings suited to trekking,

camping, family outings and rural tourism experiences.

Integrated with Wular and nearby attractions, Athwato could become an important stop within a wider Bandipora tourism circuit.

Evidence of what focused planning can achieve already exists nearby.

Gurez Valley transformed from a little-known destination into one of India's most admired mountain escapes through improved connectivity, sustained promotion and targeted investment. Guest houses, restaurants, transport services and homestays followed the growth in visitor numbers, creating new income streams for local residents.

Bandipora possesses many of the same ingredients. Tourism development here could support guides, boat operators, photographers, artisans, restaurant owners, transport providers, event managers, cultural performers, homestay operators and digital content creators.

Economic benefits would reach far beyond hotels and tourist facilities.

Such growth requires a comprehensive tourism master plan. Lakefront development, improved connectivity, public transport, visitor amenities, heritage preservation, hospitality training, entrepreneurship programmes and digital

promotion all form part of the equation.

Private investment and public-private partnerships could accelerate progress while ensuring local participation.

Environmental stewardship remains central to that vision. Sustainable tourism models around the world demonstrate how visitor economies can support conservation through responsible planning, visitor management and habitat protection.

Wular Lake and the surrounding forests represent the district's greatest assets, making their preservation an economic priority as much as an ecological one.

As evening settled over the lake, visitors continued to gather along the waterfront. Their presence showed something larger than a pleasant outing.

Bandipora already possesses the landscapes, heritage and cultural depth required to draw travellers. The district's evolution depends on transforming those assets into opportunities that generate livelihoods, strengthen communities and place North Kashmir's overlooked gateway firmly on the tourism map.

—The author holds a Master's degree in Tourism and Travel Management and can be reached at wanimudasir-nazir@gmail.com.

15 Killed, Several Injured in Major Fire at Lucknow Coaching Hub

Press Trust Of India

Lucknow: A major fire blazed through a three-storey commercial building housing an animation centre in a posh north Lucknow neighbourhood on a busy Monday afternoon, leaving at least 15 people, mostly students, dead and seven injured, officials said.

Many of the victims were trapped on the second floor of the building, located on Usha Mehta Marg in a residential part of Aliganj, where students were attending classes at the centre.

Preliminary information suggested the fire may have started

in the building's AC duct and the smoke led to suffocation due to the absence of a proper exit route, UP Urban Development and Energy Minister A K Sharma said, adding possible lapses in building standards would be probed.

Eyewitnesses said several people jumped out of the building, which was completely gutted in the fire. Some people were seen rappelling down the wires to escape the blaze. The victims had to be brought out from the terrace of an adjoining building, where rescue teams had to drill two large openings into the affected building to gain access

while the fire was still raging.

Panic-stricken friends and family members of victims, who rushed to the site after receiving frantic calls for help from inside, pleaded with rescuers to save their kin.

Around two dozen cats and dogs at a pet facility located on the ground floor and basement were also caught in the fire but most of them were rescued in time, except four or five animals in the basement.

Nineteen fire tenders, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and other rescue personnel were deployed

to douse the blaze reported at around 3 pm.

"A total of 22 people were brought to the Trauma Centre of King George's Medical University (KGMU) following the incident. Of them, 15 were declared brought dead, while five injured persons were admitted for treatment and their condition was stable," King George Medical University (KGMU) PRO Prof K K Singh told PTI.

"Due to two children jumping, they suffered back injuries, so they are also being treated after CT scans and other procedures," said Dr Anil Agrawal, medical superintendent at the trauma

centre.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath cut short his visit to Aligarh and reached the site to review the situation. He later visited the injured at the hospital. Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who had reached the spot as the rescue operation was underway, said a high-level inquiry had been ordered.

He said that the children had come during summer holidays to learn animation at the centre. "The fire broke out suddenly. While there is no immediate clarity about the sequence of events, it seems that the children ran towards the back side

when the fire broke out but they couldn't survive," he said.

With tears welling in his eyes, the deputy chief minister said he had seen 14 bodies at the spot. "They were our children. It is a very tragic incident," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President C P Radhakrishnan, Defence Minister and Lucknow MP Rajnath Singh and others expressed anguish at the loss of lives. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi sent condolence messages.

PM Modi announced an

ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000. The UP CM also declared an ex-gratia assistance of Rs 5 lakh each for the families of those who died in the fire and Rs 50,000 each for the injured.

UP minister A K Sharma, who visited the site on Monday night, said the incident would be thoroughly investigated, including possible lapses in building standards, and strict action would be taken.

This fire incident in Lucknow comes within weeks of a massive blaze in a south Delhi restaurant that killed over 20 people.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Heavy Rain, Hailstorm

showed vehicles stranded in flooded streets, auto-rickshaws partially submerged and commuters wading through waterlogged roads.

Officials said dewatering operations were launched in affected localities to drain out accumulated water and restore normal movement.

Woman Dies of Electrocuting

The rainfall turned tragic in Naid Kadal, where a woman lost her life after receiving an electric shock during the downpour.

Officials identified the deceased as Shamima Makhdoomi (65), wife of Ghulam Nabi and a resident of Naid Kadal. She reportedly came into contact with a live electric pole during the rainfall and was shifted to a hospital in critical condition, where doctors declared her brought dead.

Residents in parts of Srinagar and south Kashmir's Anantnag district also reported hailstorms, while gusty winds accompanied the rainfall in several other areas.

Rain Brings Relief from Heat

According to data released by the Meteorological Department, Srinagar recorded 2.2 mm rainfall between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm on Monday. Pahalgalam received 2.8 mm rainfall, while Gulmarg recorded 4.4 mm during the same period.

The rainfall brought significant relief from the recent spell of hot weather, with temperatures falling across Jammu and Kashmir.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 26.6 degrees Celsius, 2.6 degrees below normal, while the minimum settled at 15.4 degrees Celsius. Qazigund recorded 25.2 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 25.3 degrees Celsius and Kupwara 26.5 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgalam recorded a maximum temperature of 21.6 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg registered 17 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 35.8 degrees Celsius, 1.8 degrees below normal. Banihal recorded 24.7 degrees Celsius, Batote 25 degrees Celsius, Katra 32.2 degrees Celsius and Baderwah 22.5 degrees Celsius.

Residents Question Drainage Infrastructure

As floodwaters receded, residents and traders expressed anger over recurring urban flooding and what they described as the failure of Srinagar's drainage system.

At Khanyar Chowk and other affected markets, shopkeepers were seen removing water from their premises and salvaging damaged goods hours after the rain had stopped.

Gulam Mohammad, a shopkeeper, said water entered his shop within minutes, causing substantial losses.

"This is not the first time. Every year we suffer losses because the drainage system fails whenever it rains," he said.

Another trader, Zahoor Ahmad, said the flooding had further added to the difficulties faced by small businesses.

"A few hours of rain should not be enough to flood markets and damage businesses," he said.

Residents said Monday's rainfall once again exposed the vulnerability of Srinagar's civic infrastructure and highlighted the need for long-term solutions to recurring waterlogging in low-lying areas.

MeT Issues Advisory

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department advised people to remain indoors during thunderstorms and lightning activity and stay away from electric poles, overhead wires, loose structures and old trees.

Authorities also advised suspension of boating and shikara operations during periods of thunderstorms and gusty winds.

The department warned that brief intense showers at isolated places could trigger minor flash floods and mudslides, particularly in vulnerable areas of Kashmir and parts of Ramban, Banihal and Kishtwar districts.

According to the forecast, weather is likely to remain generally dry from June 23 to June 26, although brief spells of light rain and thundershowers cannot be ruled out at a few places.

From June 27 to June 29, the Union Territory is expected to witness partly to generally cloudy weather with light rain, brief intense showers, thunderstorms and gusty winds at scattered places. A fresh spell of rain and thundershowers accompanied by brief heavy showers is likely between June 30 and July 1.

The MeT department has advised farmers and orchardists to undertake spraying operations during the early morning hours when weather conditions are expected to remain favourable.

Search Op In

the suspected militants. Area domination exercises have also been carried out regularly in vulnerable pockets as part of efforts to restrict militant movement and maintain operational pressure.

Sources said troops have repeatedly combed large stretches of forestland while acting on intelligence inputs regarding the presence of terrorists in the area.

The Rajouri-Poonch belt has remained a major focus of counter-terror operations in recent years, witnessing several encounters, infiltration attempts and militant activities. Security agencies have increasingly concentrated on forested and high-altitude routes that have traditionally been

used by militants for movement and concealment.

While no fresh exchange of fire has been reported in recent days, officials said the search grid remains intact and the operation is continuing on the basis of credible intelligence inputs.

Security officials indicated that the operation would continue until the area is fully sanitised and all intelligence leads are exhausted.

Hailstorm Batters South

large stretches of agricultural land.

Residents said the sudden spell of adverse weather left farmers anxious about the fate of their produce and urged the administration to immediately assess the losses and provide relief to affected families.

Orchards in Tral Hit Hard

In Tral's Arpal belt, including Satora and surrounding villages, hailstorm activity continued for a considerable period, pelting orchards and cultivated fields with large hailstones.

Residents reported widespread damage to apple orchards, vegetable fields and other standing crops. Orchard owners said the hailstones bruised young apples and damaged foliage, raising concerns about both the quality and quantity of this year's harvest.

"Many farmers had pinned their hopes on a good season after months of hard work. The hailstorm has caused significant losses and left growers worried about their livelihoods," said an orchardist from the area.

Kulgam Farmers Report Losses

Similar reports emerged from Buchroo in Kulgam district, where heavy rainfall accompanied by hailstorm damaged crops and triggered concern among farming communities.

Residents said recurring weather disturbances were taking a toll on agricultural production and feared that continued losses could severely impact household incomes dependent on farming and horticulture.

Repeated Weather Shocks

The latest hailstorm comes amid a series of weather-related disruptions that have affected several parts of Kashmir over the past few weeks.

South Kashmir, in particular, has witnessed repeated hailstorms this season, leaving orchardists and farmers counting losses. The recurring incidents have intensified concerns over the growing vulnerability of the region's horticulture sector to erratic weather patterns.

Horticulture forms the backbone of the rural economy in many parts of Kashmir, with apple cultivation providing livelihood support to thousands of families. Growers say repeated hailstorms not only reduce fruit production but also affect fruit quality, forcing them to sell their produce at lower prices.

Demand for Compensation, Crop Insurance

Farmers and residents from the affected areas have urged the administration to deploy revenue and horticulture department teams to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the damage.

They have demanded adequate compensation for losses and called for long-term protective measures, including subsidised hail-protection nets to safeguard orchards from recurring weather-related disasters.

The affected growers also reiterated their demand for the immediate implementation of a comprehensive crop insurance scheme in Jammu and Kashmir, saying such a mechanism had become essential in the face of increasingly unpredictable weather conditions. (inputs from KNO)

Traffic Curbs On

issued by traffic authorities and avoid unnecessary halts on the highway to minimize inconvenience.

Authorities said the restrictions have been put in place to ensure the smooth passage of Amarnath Yatra convoys and maintain the safety and security of pilgrims during the annual pilgrimage.

Police have appealed to the public to strictly adhere to the notified timings to avoid travel disruptions and congestion along the highway.

Need Synergy

deployed along the twin routes leading to the holy cave shrine and reviewed arrangements aimed at ensuring the safety of pilgrims.

The 57-day Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to commence on July 3 and conclude on August 28 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

Pilgrims will undertake the journey through the traditional 48-kilometre Nunwan-Pahalgalam route in Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-kilometre Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

Officials said a comprehensive security grid is being established along both routes to facilitate the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage and ensure the safety of devotees.

KPs Celebrate

hours to pay obeisance to Goddess Ragnya Devi, popularly known as Mata Kheer Bhawani.

Nestled under towering chinar trees, the temple complex wore a festive look as devotees carrying flowers and offerings queued up to enter the shrine. Religious rituals, special prayers and offerings of milk and kheer were performed at the sacred spring within the temple complex.

The annual congregation was held amid elaborate security arrangements, with a multi-layered security grid established around the shrine and along approach roads. Authorities also put in place

extensive facilities relating to accommodation, drinking water, sanitation, transport and health-care for visiting devotees.

Many devotees expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and highlighted the support extended by local residents.

"There is tremendous support from the local community at every level. They have always stood with us during the mela," said Chinmay Pandita, a devotee from Jammu.

Another devotee, Mansi, praised the security and administrative arrangements, saying visitors felt safe and comfortable throughout the event.

A unique aspect of the shrine is the sacred spring surrounding the temple. Devotees believe that changes in the colour of its water indicate future developments in Kashmir. This year, the water appeared clean and milky white, which many devotees viewed as a positive sign.

The mela was also marked by prayers for communal harmony and the revival of Kashmir's shared cultural ethos. Community leaders described the event as a symbol of Hindu-Muslim brotherhood that has endured through decades of turmoil.

Meanwhile, thousands of displaced Kashmiri Pandits also celebrated Jyeshtha Ashtami at Kheer Bhawani Peeth in Jammu's Janipur area, regarded as a replica of the original Tulmulla shrine.

The temple, established after the migration of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley in the early 1990s, witnessed day-long religious ceremonies, including special prayers, havan, devotional singing and distribution of prasad.

Devotees said the shrine serves as an important spiritual and cultural link to their roots in Kashmir. Many prayed for the well-being of their families and expressed hope for a dignified return to their homeland.

Temple authorities said elaborate arrangements had been made for the occasion, including the preparation of more than 20,000 earthen lamps offered by devotees as part of the celebrations. Thousands of devotees on Monday participated in the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela at the revered Ragnya Devi Temple in Tulmulla village of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, offering prayers for peace, prosperity and the return of displaced Kashmiri Pandits to their homeland.

Observed on the occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami, the mela is one of the most significant religious events of the Kashmiri Pandit community. Devotees from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir as well as other parts of the country began arriving at the shrine from the early morning hours to pay obeisance to Goddess Ragnya Devi, popularly known as Mata Kheer Bhawani.

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LG Pays Obeisance

members of the Kashmiri Pandit community and assured them that comprehensive arrangements had been put in place to ensure a smooth and spiritually fulfilling experience for devotees attending the annual mela.

He commended the efforts of the district

administration and other departments involved in organizing the event, saying the administration remains committed to strengthening infrastructure and support services to accommodate the growing number of pilgrims visiting the shrine from across the country.

The Lieutenant Governor also appreciated the coordinated efforts of various stakeholders in ensuring the successful conduct of the annual congregation.

On the sidelines of the mela, Sinha met representatives of several Kashmiri Pandit organisations, PM Package employees and members of civil society. He listened to their concerns and assured them of the administration's continued commitment to their welfare and well-being.

Speaking to reporters, the Lieutenant Governor said he had prayed for peace, prosperity and the welfare of all people.

"May the blessings of Mata Kheer Bhawani be upon everyone. This year, the number of devotees visiting the holy shrine is higher compared to previous years. The administration has made comprehensive and foolproof arrangements to ensure the convenience, safety and smooth conduct of the pilgrimage for all devotees," he said.

Thousands of devotees from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir and across the country participated in the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela at the shrine, one of the most important religious occasions of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

Punjab Levies

and Madhopur checkpoints. "These charges are unfair and unjustified. Mutton traders from Jammu and Kashmir do not procure livestock from Punjab. We purchase animals from states such as Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi, yet our vehicles are being subjected to hefty levies," the committee said.

Expressing concern over what they termed an "illegal tax" being collected at Madhopur in Punjab, the traders said the levy was causing severe hardships for mutton dealers and affecting the smooth movement of livestock into Jammu and Kashmir. "The imposition of such charges is adding to the financial burden on traders and ultimately contributing to the rise in mutton prices. This is directly impacting ordinary consumers across Jammu and Kashmir," they said.

The committee members demanded immediate intervention from both the Punjab Government and the Jammu and Kashmir administration to resolve the issue. "We urge the Jammu and Kashmir Government to take up the matter with the concerned authorities and ensure relief for traders at the earliest," they said. The traders also appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to personally intervene and raise the matter with the concerned authorities to ensure that the alleged charges are withdrawn. Reiterating their stand, the Coordination Committee made a unanimous appeal for the protection of traders' interests and the removal of hurdles affecting the livestock and mutton trade in Jammu and Kashmir. The committee warned that the strike would continue until the issue is resolved and the alleged levy at the Punjab checkpoints is removed.

159 Samples Fail

month of May 2026, Central Drugs Laboratories have identified 46 drug samples to be Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) and State Drugs Testing Laboratories have identified 113 drug samples as NSQ," a health ministry statement said.

Identification of drug samples as NSQ is done based on failure of the drug sample in one or the other specified quality parameters. The failure is specific to the drug products of the batch tested by the government laboratory and it does not warrant any concerns on the other drug products available in the market, it said.

Further, in May 2026, one drug sample from Assam was identified as a spurious drug, which was manufactured by unauthorised manufacturers using a brand name owned by another company; the matter is under investigation and action will be taken according to the Act and Rules.

This action of identifying NSQ and spurious medicines is taken on a regular basis in collaboration with state regulators to ensure that these drugs are identified and removed from the market.

NTA Dismisses

The NTA appealed to students, parents and the public to rely only on the official website and the agency's verified social media handles for information and not to amplify such material.

"Our 20 lakh-plus aspirants deserve a calm and fair process," it said.

More than 20 lakh medical aspirants took a second shot at the NEET re-exam on Sunday after the original test was cancelled due to paper leaks, an issue that became a hot potato for the government and triggered a popular protest movement.

Abhishek Singh, the Director General of the National Testing Agency (NTA), which has been receiving flak following the paper leak, said a "whole-of-government" approach helped it to conduct the mammoth exercise in record time.

In a statement, NTA said more than 20 lakh candidates appeared for the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination across 5,440 centres in India and 14 centres abroad. The exam was conducted in 13 languages, including Hindi and English.

"This was not the NTA acting alone. It was Team Bharat - a chain of people across the country who

showed up so that, for each candidate, the only thing that mattered that morning was the paper in front of them," the agency said.

"In all, around 7 lakh officials - police teams, observers and examination staff - were mobilised across India to conduct this examination, and it was done in a record 37 days. NTA is especially grateful to the experts from academic institutions across the country who gave their personal time to help prepare multiple sets of question papers," the NTA said.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan reviewed arrangements for the smooth conduct of the re-examination at the NTA headquarters in Delhi's Okhla.

"NTA apprised the minister of the logistical and technical arrangements put in place for the efficient and transparent conduct of the examination," the Ministry of Education said.

The NTA said extensive arrangements were made for all candidates, including more than 10,000 Persons with Disabilities.

"Special arrangements were put in place for around 81 candidates with medical conditions, among them a child who had been in a road accident, and a child undergoing chemotherapy, who were determined not to miss an exam they had prepared for years," it said.

The agency said Aadhaar-based biometric and face authentication, CCTV surveillance, jammers and two-layer frisking with the support of state police were deployed at examination centres.

"Command and control centres for CCTV monitoring were established at the national level - at the NTA and at the Ministry of Education, at 34 Centrally Funded Institutions of the Department of Higher Education, in every State, and at District Collectorate," it said.

"There were some minor reports regarding people coming with wrong admit cards, people coming with some forged admit cards at a few places; impersonation cases were also found out," NTA DG Abhishek Singh said.

"At a few places, somebody was trying to take a mobile phone; action has been taken on that because that's the purpose of putting frisking, when you put CCTV cameras, when you put handheld metal detectors, to not allow any unfair means... and there were a few people who were trying to do that, but they were not able to," he said.

While a probe is underway into the alleged paper leak, the newly formed Cockroach Janta Party, led by Abhishek Dipke, which started as an online campaign, has been holding protests in the country, demanding the education minister's resignation.

The NTA said the conduct of the exam drew on the support of CAPF and several central ministries.

CAT Asks Govt

confirmation by the government, seeking reinstatement along with consequential benefits. He argued that his suspension had not been periodically reviewed as required under service rules and that prolonged suspension had become punitive in nature. Counsel for the petitioner submitted that an inquiry officer, in a report dated October 17, 2023, had already recommended his reinstatement. The petitioner also cited various judicial pronouncements, contending that prolonged or indefinite suspension causes undue hardship and cannot be allowed to continue without periodic review in accordance with the law.

The Revenue Department, represented by Deputy Advocate General, informed the Tribunal that the petitioner was facing serious charges and that a charge sheet had been filed before the competent court, though he could not confirm whether any review of the suspension had been conducted.

After hearing both sides, CAT Member (Judicial) M.S. Latif issued notice to the authorities and directed them to file objections within three weeks.

"In the meantime, it is ordered that respondents shall conduct review of the suspension of the petitioner by holding a review meeting in accordance with law within the aforesaid period of three weeks and also take note of the recommendation of the Enquiry Officer dated 17-10-2023," the Tribunal said, adding, "It is expected that the competent authority will take note of the law laid down by the apex court from time to time mandating that the period of suspension should always be minimum."

CBI Registers FIR;

office of the Executive Engineer, Left River Works Division (LRWD), Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

According to the verification report, the demand was allegedly made by the peon in conspiracy with Executive Engineer Er Sajad Kawoosa, who is also accused of communicating the demand through hand gestures.

Following the verification, the CBI laid a trap on Friday and caught the peon red-handed while allegedly accepting the bribe amount of Rs 5,000 from the complainant. He was subsequently taken into custody.

The investigating agency also conducted searches at the residence of Er Kawoosa near Gurdwara Shaheed Bunga in the Bhagat Barzulla area of Srinagar. However, the officer could not be apprehended and remains absconding, sources said.

Based on the findings of the verification and trap proceedings, the CBI registered FIR No. RC1232026A0006 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended, read with Section 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), against Er Sajad Kawoosa and Sajad Hussain Bhat.

Embrace AI, Future Challenges With Courage: LG Tells Students

Honours Class 10, 12 toppers at Amar Ujala event; says future belongs to those who combine skills with empathy, innovation and lifelong learning

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday felicitated meritorious Class 10 and 12 students and honoured educators at the Amar Ujala Medhavi Chhatra Samman Samaroh in Srinagar, urging the younger generation to embrace artificial intelligence and emerging technologies while remaining rooted in values of compassion, empathy and responsibility.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said the world is witnessing rapid changes driven by AI and modern technologies, which are reshaping classrooms and workplaces alike.

"We are living in an era of constant change. AI and modern technologies are reshaping our classrooms. It's an opportunity for students and teachers to rise higher, think more deeply and take bolder steps. Let's embrace the challenge and shape the future," he said.

Sinha said the transformation taking place across sectors de-



mands excellence, courage and a willingness to adapt. He noted that many traditional jobs may become irrelevant in the future while new opportunities will emerge, making innovation and problem-solving critical skills.

"In such a scenario, brilliance is measured not only by numbers or medals but also by futuristic thinking and the ability to imagine solutions," he said, adding that true brilliance lies in the relentless pursuit of improvement and the courage to

embrace change.

The Lieutenant Governor also stressed the evolving role of teachers, saying their responsibility now extends far beyond completing the syllabus. He urged educators to cultivate creativity, critical thinking and lifelong learning skills among students.

"Teachers should inspire values such as compassion and empathy. Rather than preparing students to compete with machines, they should guide them

to become more humane so that they grow into people who are both sensitive and strong," he said.

Sinha said the future belongs to those who combine professional skills with sensitivity and values, expressing confidence that today's students will emerge as innovators, leaders and responsible citizens.

Addressing the students, he urged them to carry their achievements with humility and use their success to contribute

positively to society.

"Always remember that your success will be judged by what you have contributed not just for yourself, but for others. The true reward will be the lives you touch and the communities you strengthen," he said.

Describing the students as the builders of tomorrow, the Lieutenant Governor said they would go on to become scientists, engineers, artists, innovators and leaders, but above all responsible citizens committed to compassion, empathy and justice.

Among those present on the occasion were Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson of the J&K Waqf Board; Yasha Mudgal, Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives Department; Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg; Director Information Shreya Singhal; SSP Srinagar G.V. Sundeep Chakravarty; and senior officials and representatives of the Amar Ujala Group.

Tears, Memories and Homecoming: Two Sisters Rediscover Kashmir at Kheer Bhawani

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The moment two Kashmiri Pandit sisters, now settled outside the Valley, stepped inside the revered Kheer Bhawani shrine at Tulmulla Gandarbal, words deserted them. Instead, there were tears.

Standing beside the sacred spring, one sister from the United States and the other from Mumbai struggled to hold back emotions that had travelled with them across continents and years. Around them stood their children, quietly witnessing stories they had grown up hearing suddenly come alive.

"This is the place our mother would always talk about," one of the sisters said, her eyes fixed on the shrine.

"She would tell us stories about coming here, about the festival and about Kashmir. Today, it feels like we are walking through her memories," she said.

The sisters, whose names could not be recorded amid the large gathering of devotees and emotional scenes at the shrine, said they had last visited Kashmir in 2010.

This year, they made a special journey to attend the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela, determined to introduce their children to a place that has remained central to family conversations for decades.



For them, the pilgrimage was not merely a religious visit. It was a return to an inheritance of memories. "As we walked through the shrine complex, familiar sights brought back memories of childhood summers, family gatherings and our mother's affectionate descriptions of the Valley," one of them said before breaking down in tears.

Their children, witnessing the deeply personal moment, were equally moved. "They have grown up listening to stories about Kashmir and this temple," one of the sisters said. "We wanted them to see it, feel it and understand where a part of their identity comes from."

The family said the visit offered a sense of belonging that is diffi-

cult to put into words. "You can live anywhere in the world, but some places always remain a part of you," one of them said.

Notably, the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela, dedicated to Goddess Ragnya Devi and observed on Jyeshtha Ashtami, is among the most significant religious gatherings for Kashmiri Pandits. Every year, devotees return to the historic shrine at Tulmulla to offer prayers and reconnect with their cultural and ancestral heritage.

As per KNO, this year, too, thousands of devotees thronged the shrine. Amid the prayers and festivities, scenes of reunion, remembrance and emotional homecomings quietly became some of the most poignant moments of the day.

J&K Govt Orders Identification, Disposal of Unserviceable Assets

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Finance Department has directed all government departments and offices to identify and dispose of obsolete and unserviceable assets in a time-bound manner, aiming to improve inventory management, prevent wastage and ensure compliance with financial regulations.

In a circular issued by Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department, Shailendra Kumar, the government observed that large quantities of dead stock have remained undisposed in several offices for prolonged periods, resulting in unnecessary occupation of storage space, deterioration of assets and inefficient utilisation of government resources.

The circular noted that the practice is inconsistent with Rules 217 to 223 of the General Financial Rules (GFR), which govern the management and disposal of obsolete, surplus and unserviceable government property.

To address the issue, all Administrative Departments, Heads of Departments, Treasury Officers and Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) have been instructed to immediately conduct physical verification of

stores and inventories, identify dead stock items and have them declared unserviceable by the competent authority in accordance with GFR provisions.

The Finance Department said the disposal process must be carried out in a transparent manner through public auction, tender, e-auction or any other approved method to ensure fairness and maximise government revenue.

Departments have also been directed to maintain proper stock registers, survey reports and disposal records for audit purposes. The proceeds generated from the disposal of assets must be deposited into the government treasury under the appropriate head of account, with treasury challans and related documents preserved for future verification.

The circular further asked Director Finance and Financial Advisors of all departments to closely monitor the exercise and submit monthly progress reports to the Finance Department. Emphasising the importance of the initiative, the department said the disposal drive should be accorded top priority to strengthen transparency, accountability and efficient asset management across government institutions in Jammu and Kashmir.

AMARNATH YATRA Security Forces Conduct Mock Drill in Awantipora

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As part of the security preparations for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026, Police, in coordination with the 50 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) and 185 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), conducted a joint mock drill along the designated Yatra route in Awantipora.

The exercise was aimed at assessing operational preparedness and strengthening the emergency response mechanism ahead of the annual pilgrimage. Various contingency scenarios were simulated to test coordination, communication, and the response capabilities of the participating security agencies.

Senior officers monitored the exercise and reviewed the readiness of the deployed personnel, emphasizing the importance of seamless coordination during the Yatra.

The joint drill reaffirmed the commitment of the Police, Army, and CRPF to ensuring a safe, secure, and smooth conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

Housing & Urban Development Department Receives Two Prestigious SKOCH National Awards

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir Housing & Urban Development Department (J&K H&UDD) has achieved a significant milestone in the field of digital governance by securing two prestigious SKOCH National Awards – Gold and Silver for its innovative and citizen-centric digital transformation initiatives.

Both projects were conceptualized and initiated under the visionary directions and continuous guidance of Ms. Mandeep Kaur, IAS, Commissioner/Secretary, J&K Housing & Urban Development Department, with the objective of transforming public service delivery and enhancing digital governance across the Urban Development sector. Her unwavering focus on innovation, transparency and technology-enabled governance has played a pivotal role in the successful implementation of these initiatives.

On behalf of J&K H&UDD, Sh. Anush Kapoor, Chief Informatics Officer & Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), J&K H&UDD, received the awards during the SKOCH Awards Ceremony held in New Delhi.

The awards were conferred for the following flagship projects:

Automated Building Permission System (ABPS) using AutoDCR technology integrated with GIS-based Land Use and J&K Gati Shakti GIS Asset Mapping System for comprehensive GIS-based asset mapping, monitoring and infrastructure planning.



The Automated Building Permission System has revolutionized the process of granting building permissions by introducing automated scrutiny of building plans through AutoDCR technology integrated with GIS-based land use verification. The system has significantly reduced processing time, enhanced transparency, ensured compliance with planning regulations and improved ease of doing business for citizens and stakeholders.

The J&K Gati Shakti GIS Asset Mapping System has enabled digital mapping and monitoring of public infrastructure assets across Urban Local Bodies and government agencies. The platform supports evidence-based planning, inter-departmental coordination, efficient asset management and informed decision-making through advanced GIS technology.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj to organise Regional Workshop

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is organising a Regional Workshop titled Seva Se Samridhi: Panchayat-led Service Delivery at Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir on 23rd June 2026. The workshop will be inaugurated by Shri Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. Shri Javid Ahmad Dar, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Government of Jammu and Kashmir; Shri Vivek Bhadraraj, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj; Ms. Palka Sahni, Joint Secretary, MoPR; and Shri Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Jammu and Kashmir, will also be present on the occasion.

The workshop is being held in collaboration with the Common Services Centre Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC-SPV), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. It forms part of a sustained series of initiatives undertaken by the Ministry to facilitate improved service delivery and strengthen Ease of Living in Grameen Bharat through empowered, accountable, and responsive

Panchayati Raj Institutions and Rural Local Bodies.

The workshop will bring together Panchayat functionaries, elected representatives, and Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs), along with State Government officials from seven States: Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh. Representatives from civil society organisations, academic and research institutions, and organisations working in rural technology and digital public infrastructure will also participate, contributing diverse perspectives on last-mile governance and service delivery.

As part of the workshop, high-performing Gram Panchayats and outstanding Common Service Centres (CSCs) from the participating States will be recognized and felicitated. Deliberations will focus on strengthening Panchayat-led service delivery through digital transformation, citizen participation, innovation, and improved accessibility of public services at the grassroots. Panel discussions, technical sessions, and State-level experience-sharing sessions will provide a structured platform for inter-State knowledge exchange and the dissemination of scalable governance models.

Rahim Rather Visits Fire Affected Dara-ul-Aloom Site In Pakherpora

BUDGAM: Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today visited the site of the fire incident at Dara-ul-loom, Pakherpora, to assess the situation on the spot and express solidarity with the affected students, staff and local residents.

During his visit, the Speaker expressed deep grief and sorrow over the unfortunate incident that caused huge damage to the educational institution. He interacted with the students, management and members of the local community and assured them of all possible support in restoration of the institute.

Abdul Rahim Rather emphasized the importance of the institution and assured the affected people that Dara-ul-Uloom would be re-established at the earliest. He stated that every effort would be made to ensure that educational activities resume without undue delay.

The Speaker also directed the district administration to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the damages caused by the fire and initiate the reconstruction process on a priority basis. He urged the concerned authorities to expedite all necessary formalities to facilitate the early rebuilding of the institution.

The local residents and members of the institute's management expressed gratitude to the Speaker for his assurance of timely support and rehabilitation measures. (Observer News Service)

Kathua Administration Intensifies SANJY Preparations at Lakanpur

KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today visited Lakanpur to review the preparedness and arrangements being made for the convenience of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the upcoming Yatri Facilitation Centre and reviewed the arrangements related to essential facilities, including safe drinking water supply, uninterrupted power availability, sanitation and toilet facilities, cleanliness measures and healthcare services. He also inspected the RFID and e-KYC counters being established at the centre for the facilitation of pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner was apprised that over 90% of the civil works of the Yatri Facilitation Centre have been completed, while the remaining finishing and facilitating works are on at full pace. He was informed that the facility shall be made fully operational at least one week before the commencement of the Yatra.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers and executing agencies to expedite the remaining works while adhering to quality standards. He stressed maintaining close coordination among departments, timely completion of all arrangements and provision of seamless facilities to the visiting pilgrims.

Reviewing the arrangements for setting up Langars, the Deputy Commissioner informed that the permissions for the same shall be issued soon after completion of the requisite formalities. (Observer News Service)

Foundation Stone Laid For Redevelopment Of Sabzi Mandi At Parade Jammu

JAMMU: In a significant initiative aimed at modernising the city's traditional vegetable market, the foundation stone for the redevelopment of the Sabzi Mandi at Parade in the Jammu East Assembly constituency was laid today by local MLA Yudhvir Sethi in the presence of Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation and CEO Jammu Smart City, Dr. Devanish Yadav.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi said that the redevelopment of the Sabzi Mandi would usher in a new era for one of Jammu's oldest and busiest markets by providing modern infrastructure and improved facilities for vendors and visitors alike. He said the project would enhance hygiene standards, improve traffic circulation and create a more organised and customer-friendly trading environment.

The redevelopment project, with an estimated DPR cost of 5.88 crore, aims to transform the existing mandi into a clean, well-planned and user-friendly market equipped with upgraded civic amenities and durable infrastructure.

As part of the project, a spacious Mild Steel (MS) covered shed will be constructed to provide weather-protected vending space for traders. The facility would accommodate 117 vendor platforms, each measuring 1.8 metres x 2.1 metres, ensuring systematic and orderly market operations.

The shed area would have Kota stone flooring, while the vendor platforms would be furnished with granite cladding and granite tops to ensure durability, hygiene and ease of maintenance.

KU Celebrates International Day of Yoga -2026 with Enthusiastic Participation

SRINAGAR: The University of Kashmir (KU) on Sunday celebrated International Day of Yoga (IDY)-2026 at the Athletic Track, Sports Ground, with enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, officers and non-teaching staff.

The programme was organized by the Department of Students' Welfare (DSW), KU in collaboration with the Directorate of Physical Education & Sports (DPE&S) KU.

Held under the theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing", the event sought to promote physical fitness, mental well-being and holistic development through the practice of yoga.

The event was led by Vice-Chancellor, KU Prof. Nilofar Khan, and witnessed the participation of Registrar KU Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Dean Students' Welfare Prof. Seema Singh, Chief Proctor Prof. Imtiaz Khan, Coordinator DPE&S Dr. Surjeet Singh, besides faculty members, officers, students, research scholars, hostel boarders and non-teaching staff of the University.

As part of the celebrations, Prof. Nilofar Khan, administered the Yoga Pledge to the participants, reaffirming the University's collective commitment towards adopting yoga as a means of achieving physical, mental and emotional well-being. The pledge ceremony was followed by a collective yoga session during which participants performed various yoga asanas and breathing exercises.

Addressing the gathering and interacting with the participants, Prof. Nilofar Khan emphasized the importance of integrating yoga into daily life. She said, "Yoga should be a part of our life. I realize how important it is for everyone to engage in regular exercise and physical activity. We need to take such initiatives forward. The vision introduced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the country has today reached all parts of the world, with yoga emerging as a global movement for health and wellness." She further said that the University remains committed to the holistic development of its students and expressed hope that KU students would continue to excel and represent the institution at both national and international levels. (Observer News Service)

Lionel Messi Breaks World Cup Scoring Record With His 17th Goal For Argentina

AP

ARINGTON : Lionel Messi broke the World Cup scoring record with his 17th goal in defending champion Argentina's match against Austria on Monday, coming about a half hour after he had missed a penalty kick.

The record goal for a 1-0 lead came in the 38th minute and two days before Messi's 39th birthday, and amid the concern of an ailing father back at home. It was the sixth consecutive World Cup game in which Messi has scored.

Messi had equaled Germany striker Miroslav Klose for the most goals in the World Cup at 16 with his first hat trick at the tournament in Argentina's 3-0 win over Algeria in the Group J opener last Tuesday night in Kansas City.

With a chance to break the record in the ninth minute on Monday, Messi missed a penalty kick.

Messi's left-footed kick went just wide of the right post. He is now 4 of 7 on penalty kicks in regulation play at the World Cup with misses in three consecutive tournaments.

Lautaro Martinez was running free in the box when he was tackled from behind by Xaver Schlager and Stefan Posch, the defender playing with a broken jaw. Schlager got a foot on the ball, but Posch drew the



penalty because he did not touch the ball as Martinez tumbled to the ground.

Play continued for more than a minute with Martinez still on the ground near the goal. When play was stopped for him, officials went to review the play.

Messi's hat trick in the previous game, in his 200th international appearance, came 20 years to the date of his World Cup debut, when he also scored. He is playing in sixth World Cup, and Monday was his FIFA-record 28th match in the tournament.

Klose played in 24 World Cup matches for Germany, which wrapped up his fourth tournament by winning the 2014 final 1-0 in extra time over Messi and Argentina.

Messi's father has been undergoing medical treatment for an undisclosed illness, the family said in a statement last week while not providing any specifics.

The 68-year-old Jorge Messi has played a key role in his third son's soccer career, acting as his agent and managing his business affairs off the field.

Lionel Messi was overcome with emotion after scoring his first goal against Algeria, and said after that match his tears came following some tough days not related to soccer.

Team India Finishes Second Among 11 Asian Nations At AESF Pokémon UNITE Event



Press Trust of India

BANGKOK: India delivered a standout performance at the AESF-sanctioned Pokémon UNITE Asia International Tournament, finishing runners-up after an impressive campaign in a competition featuring 11 national teams from across Asia.

The closed international tournament, sanctioned by the Asian Electronic Sports Federation (AESF), featured national teams from Hong Kong, Japan, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Nepal.

The participating teams

first competed in the online qualification stage on June 14. Delivering an impressive performance, Team India topped its group to secure qualification for the Grand Finals, which were held in Bangkok, Thailand, on Sunday.

Team India showcased resilience, strategic depth and composure throughout the tournament to secure a place in the Grand Finals and finish second overall.

Led by captain Adnan Mohammed Badshah, alongside Sai Krishna Nalluri, Dipjyoti Laxman Nath, Rudra Narayan Nayak, Reuben Godfrey Fernandes and Deepkumar Vipulbhai Patel, under the guid-

ance of coach Zeren Wang, the Indian side opened its campaign with a 2-1 victory over Singapore in Round 1.

India then faced Japan in the upper-bracket semifinals but fell short against the eventual tournament leaders, dropping into the lower bracket. The team responded strongly by defeating Singapore once again to secure a place in the Grand Finals and set up a re-match against Japan.

Facing Japan for a second time in the tournament, India pushed the eventual champions in a hard-fought three-game Grand Finals series before ultimately settling for a runner-up finish.

Pakistan Team Under Fire After First Round Exit In Women's T20 World Cup

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Pakistan team and head coach Wahab Riaz are facing criticism for their off-field activities following their disappointing performance in the Women's T20 World Cup, in which the team crashed out in the first round.

Pakistan were among the first teams to be knocked out of the race to the semifinals following defeats to arch rivals India,

Bangladesh, and South Africa in Group A of the 12-team tournament.

The criticism came after videos of their recreational activities during the tournament circulated on social media.

Former men's team Test captain Rashid Latif said while everyone wanted to support women's cricket and should extend their support, it was also a fact that women's cricket was not moving forward.

"The Pakistan women's team has been active for many years now and we need to wonder why we don't see the required progress every time there is an ICC event," Latif said on a podcast.

The videos showed players having dinner at a restaurant including senior player Aliya Riaz and her husband, Ali Younis, who is also the younger brother of former Pakistan captain Waqar Younis.

The videos have led to speculations about some players even skipping practice.

Former Test cricketer and ex women's team head coach Kabir Khan questioned the inability of seasoned players to come good.

"These established players are not lacking in any facilities or international exposure," he said.

"I just think our players are just not mentally or temperamentally strong enough to handle pressure and derail. You look

at the way they lost low-scoring games to South Africa and Bangladesh in this World Cup."

Before the Women's T20 World Cup, Pakistan had lost to the West Indies and Ireland in a tri-series marred by bad weather.

Kabir said the current players must pay heed to the fact that they can be role models for younger generations.

"But if you keep on disappointing, it is women's cricket

that will not progress in Pakistan," he said.

However, former Test pacer Saleem Jaffar said critics must also consider the differences in culture of men's and women's teams.

"For one, the women's talent pool is not as vast as men's cricket, and secondly, there are so many social and cultural taboos when it comes to coaching the women players," Jaffar said.

"I give you an example as

head coach. I couldn't have a one-to-one discussion with any player without the manager being present in the conference room."

"Male coaches have to avoid touching players in any way while coaching them in the nets. We can't remain in the dressing room during matches because of privacy issues for the players, so all this makes it more difficult to coach the women players," Jaffar added.

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

Small amount, big corpus

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

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