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Srinagar Airport Withdraws Full Closure Plan



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar International Airport will remain operational on all days this year after authorities withdrew a proposed plan to completely close the runway on Mondays and Tuesdays for maintenance work.

In an operational update, the airport said there would be no full airfield closure during 2026 and flight operations would

continue daily from 8 am to 5 pm. "Passengers are advised that there will be no full airfield closure at Srinagar Airport this year. Airport operations will continue on all days with operational/watch hours from 0800 hrs to 1700 hrs," the airport said in a post on X.

It, however, said night-time runway closures for maintenance would continue until October 2026. | More on P6

'Huge Relief For Kashmir': CM Welcomes Move

Says Tour Groups Had Started Cancelling Kashmir Visits

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said tour groups had begun cancelling planned visits to Kashmir over the proposed weekly closure of Srinagar International Airport, as he welcomed the withdrawal of the plan as a "huge relief" for the Union Territory.

"This Monday-Tuesday thing was hitting us

HC Refuses 45-Day Deadline for CIC Appeals But Says Delays Can't Be Endless

M Ahmad

Srinagar, July 4: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has refused to impose a 45-day deadline on the Central Information Commission (CIC) for deciding second appeals under the Right to Information Act, holding that courts cannot prescribe a time-line absent in the statute. At the same time, it made clear that the Commission cannot keep appeals pending indefinitely and must take steps to reduce delays and improve its functioning.

A Division Bench of the Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Mohd

Yousuf Wani passed the order while disposing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Junaid Javid, a resident of Uri in Baramulla, seeking direction upon the CIC to decide all pending appeals, particularly those filed by residents of Jammu and Kashmir, within 45 days.

The petitioner had also sought a mechanism to ensure time-bound disposal of second appeals and placed suggestions on record for improving the Commission's functioning.

The Court noted that the CIC, in its response, cited infrastructural limitations and the heavy volume of second appeals and complaints as | More on P6

AMARNATH YATRA

LG Sinha Asks Unregistered Yatris To Defer J&K Travel

Only Yatris With Valid Permits To Be Allowed; Over 32,000 Pay Obeisance In First Two Days

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday asked unregistered pilgrims to defer their travel to the Union Territory for the next few days amid an unusual rush of yatris arriving without valid permits for the Amarnath Yatra.

Sinha said only pilgrims possessing valid registration permits for their designated dates would be allowed to proceed towards the holy cave shrine.

"I appeal to all intending



pilgrims to undertake the Yatra only after obtaining a valid Yatra Registration Permit for their allotted date. Only registered Yatris for their designated date will be

permitted to proceed to the Holy Cave Shrine," Sinha said in a post on X.

The appeal came as an unusually large number of pilgrims arrived in Jammu and

Kashmir without prior registration, leading to long waiting periods and operational challenges.

Sinha made the appeal after chairing | More on P6

Keep Close Watch on Inimical Elements: DGP

Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Nalin Prabhat on Saturday directed security forces to enhance surveillance and keep a close watch on "inimical elements" across the Union Territory to thwart

any attempt to disrupt peace during the ongoing Amarnath Yatra. Prabhat issued the directions while chairing a high-level review meeting at the Police Control Room in Srinagar to assess security | More on P6

Millions Turn Out as Ayatollah Khamenei's Final Journey Begins

Neelufar Raminfar

Tehran: Long before dawn broke over Tehran, thousands of mourners had already gathered outside the sprawling Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla. Some had spent the night on pavements, clutching Iranian flags, Qurans and portraits of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, determined to be among the first to bid farewell to the man who led the Islamic Republic for nearly four decades.

Hours before the gates officially opened, the vast prayer complex was overflowing, with roads leading to the Mosalla packed with mourners streaming in from across Iran.

What began on Saturday was not merely the start of a funeral.

It marked the opening of what Iranian authorities describe as one of the largest farewell ceremonies in modern history—a six-day journey that will carry the coffins of Ayatollah Khamenei and four



members of his family across two countries and six sacred cities before the final burial in Mashhad.

The ceremonies, already drawing unprecedented crowds, are expected to culminate in the participation of millions in Tehran, Qom, Najaf, Karbala and Mashhad.

Organisers said the funeral was designed not only as a state ceremony but also as a massive public farewell reflecting what they described

as the enduring bond between the late leader and the Iranian people.

"The most important element of these ceremonies is the people themselves," officials said, pointing to the sea of mourners that had already surrounded the Mosalla hours before the programme began.

The public phase follows Friday's international tribute attended by presidents, prime ministers, parliamentary speakers, | More on P6

8 Suspended Over Books 'Glorifying Separatism'

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday suspended eight officials of the School Education Department, removed a contractual staff and ordered an inquiry into two controversial books found containing "highly inappropriate content".

The action comes after BJP, Congress and other political groups raised objections that the book allegedly "glorified" separatism. In an order, the School Education Department said the two books were withdrawn on Friday.

The books in contention are titled "Personalities and Legends of J&K", authored by Hilal Ahmad and Santosh Meena and published by Oberoi Book Service, Jammu; and "Great Personalities of Jammu and Kashmir", authored by Sushant Giri and published by Anurag Prakashan, Delhi.

According to the order, 123 copies of one of the books were supplied to Jammu, Ramban and Udhampur districts and 128 copies of the other book

were supplied to Jammu and Baramulla districts.

"It has come to the notice of the department that these books have highly inappropriate content, it is quite evident that there was serious negligence, dereliction of duty and lack of proper due diligence was carried out by the members of the Sub Committee Series 4 and Supervisory Officers while recommending such books which contained content related to separatism which has potential for creating law and order situations," the order said.

It said that keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the matter, the members of the sub-committee appear to be responsible for such serious lapses and negligence unbecoming of government servants.

Therefore, eight officials and supervisory staff of the School Education Department in terms of Rule 31(1)(a) Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, are placed under suspension, with immediate effect, the order added.

The officials | More on P6

146 J&K Schools Have Teachers, But No Students

Over 1,350 Run With Single Teachers

Agencies

Srinagar: There are more teachers than students in 146 schools across Jammu and Kashmir, and in over 1,350 others, the teaching faculty can fit in a single selfie.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) has said that in Jammu and Kashmir, at least 146 schools have reported functioning without any student enrolled and over 1355 other schools are functioning with single teachers.

"141 primary schools and five upper primary schools were reported with zero enrolment," MoE said.

It also said that 1,762 primary schools and 135 upper primary



schools had enrolment of less than 15 students, while 5,175 primary schools and 748 upper primary schools had enrolment of less than 30 students.

The Ministry said that a large number of schools with low or zero enrolment was highlighted

as a matter of concern.

The MoE advised the Jammu and Kashmir authorities to undertake a detailed analysis of these schools and adopt strategies to improve enrolment.

About the single teacher schools in | More on P6

CWC Orders CCTV Cameras In School Buses

KO WEB DESK

Srinagar: The Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Srinagar, has directed all government and private schools to install CCTV cameras in school buses, constitute child protection committees and ensure mandatory training of staff on child protection laws.

In a circular issued on Saturday, the CWC said the measures were aimed at ensuring a safe, secure and child-friendly environment in educational institutions.

The Committee, which functions as a Bench of the First Class Judicial Magistrate under the Juvenile Justice (Care and



Protection of Children) Act, 2015, directed that all teaching, non-teaching and support staff, including transport personnel, undergo periodic training on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Juvenile Justice Act, mandatory reporting obligations, positive discipline and child safeguarding practices.

Under the | More on P6

Parliament Monsoon Session From July 20

Agencies

New Delhi: The Monsoon session of Parliament will be held from July 20 to August 13, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren said on Saturday.

The 25-day session with 19 sittings comes after the ruling BJP's victories in West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry assembly polls.

The aftermath of the rebellion in the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and Shiv Sena (UBT) will also play out in the forthcoming session.

A decision by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on the demands of 20 TMC and six Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs seeking

recognition as separate groups is awaited.

In the Rajya Sabha, after newly elected and re-elected MPs took oath, the political numbers further tilted in favour of the ruling NDA.

Three rebel TMC MPs from the Upper House have quit and bypolls will help the BJP gather more strength in the Rajya Sabha.

In a post on X, Rijju said on the recommendation of the government, President Draupadi Murmu has summoned both the Houses of Parliament for the Monsoon Session 2026.

"The Session will commence on 20 July, 2026 and continue till | More on P6



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Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: Dr. Shamanur Shivashankarappa Janakalyan Trust (SSJKT) Scholarship 2026

Description: Dr. Shamanur Shivashankarappa Janakalyan Trust (SSJKT) Scholarship 2026 is designed to support deserving students domiciled in Karnataka who face financial constraints in pursuing their education.
Eligibility: Application is open to residents of Karnataka who are pursuing studies in reputed institutions and meet the required academic criteria; with minimum qualifying marks ranging from 85% to 95%, depending on the course. Applicants must have an annual family income not exceeding 1,00,000.
Prizes & Rewards: Financial support through scholarships to cover educational expenses.
Last Date to Apply: 15-07-2026
Application mode: Application Online Only
Short URL: www.b4s.in/observer/SSJKT5
QR Code: https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/dr-shamanur-shivashankarappa-



janakalyan-trust-ssjkt-scholarship-20261782807464.png

Scholarship Name 2: AMP Scholarship Fund for Higher Education 2026

Description: The AMP Scholarship Fund for Higher Education 2026 is being offered by the Association of Muslim Professionals. This program aims to offer financial support to needy and deserving Muslim students and enable them to pursue their higher and professional education with greater ease.
Eligibility: The application is open to students, who have passed Class 12 or an equivalent from any recognised board. They must be pursuing professional, vocational, or technical courses as a part of their higher education. Applicants must be enrolled in a UGC/AICTE-recognised government or private institution while demonstrating academic merit and financial need. They must be eligible to receive Zakat in accordance with the Sharia guidelines.
Prizes & Rewards: A financial assistance of 10,000.
Last Date to Apply: 31-08-2026
Application mode: Application Online Only
Short URL: www.b4s.in/observer/AHE5
QR Code: https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/amp-scholarship-fund-for-higher-edu-20261782807407.png

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of general public that the Mother's name of my daughter Sabeha Imtiaz studying in Class 4th has been incorrectly mentioned in the school records as Kulsooma Imtiaz instead of KULSUM. Now, the same needs to be rectified. In this regard, any person having any objection must submit the same to the Principal Kids World School, Radapora, Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, beyond which no objection shall be entertained.
Imtiaz Ahmed Zargar
F/o Sabeha Imtiaz
um

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my daughter's name in her Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No :- 5168 9645 3632 has been wrongly mentioned as Adiba Aijaz instead of Areeb irfan . Now I am applying for its name Correction in all official record . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.
Irfan Ahmad Lone
fko
R/O :- Kunnal .Tehsil :- Qaziabad Kralgund Distt : Kupwara.
Pin Code:- 193302 J&kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rohee Ahad, W/o Mohammad Yaseen Ganie, R/o Pusanag, Tehsil Kreeri, Post Office Kreeri, District Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir (UT), hereby notify the general public that my name has been inadvertently recorded as "Roohiahad" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 9011-3696-6607.
My correct and actual name is "Rohee Ahad". Henceforth, I shall be known and identified by the name Rohee Ahad for all purposes. A notice for correction of my name is being published in the Government Gazette.
If any person has any objection to the above-mentioned name correction, the same may be conveyed to the concerned authority within the prescribed period. Otherwise, no objection shall be entertained thereafter.
Rohee Ahad
W/o Mohammad Yaseen Ganie
R/o Pusanag, Tehsil Kreeri, P.O. Kreeri,
District Baramulla, J&K (UT)
fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

In school records the date of birth of my son Meesum Abbas Bhat student of Class 9th at Govt. Boys High School Diver Parihaspora has been recorded as 25.12.2010 while as the correct and actual date of birth as per Aadhaar Card is 25.07.2013. Now the necessary correction is to be made. In this regard if any body is having any objection may convey to Headmaster Govt Boys High School Diver Parihaspora within a period of seven days, after that no objection shall be entertained.
Nazir Ahmad Bhat F/o:Meesum Abass Bhat
R/o:Diver parihaspora

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
PUBLIC NOTICE
The registrar birth BDO Lalpora has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Riyaz Ahmad Mir s/o Abdul Rahim Mir R/o Mamooosa A/p Dhobiwan with verified date of birth 11/04/1981 . In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
Sd
FKO Naib Tehsildar Pattan

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
PUBLIC NOTICE
The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Aisha Hilal D/o Hilal Ahmad Ganie R/o Ganiepora Burn Tehsil Pattan district baramulla with verified date of birth 29/04/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
Sd
FKO Naib Tehsildar Pattan

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

Sub... Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
PUBLIC NOTICE..
The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Shareen Rafiq D/o Mohd Rafiq Dar R/o Banyari Shriki Tehsil Hajin District Bandipora with verified date of birth 31/05/2021 occurred at SDH Pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
SD
FKO Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Kaneez Fatima to (new name) Kaneez Fatima Nabi . In future i will be known as (new name)
Kaneez Fatima Nabi.
If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office srinagar, within & 7 days.
After 7 days no objection will be accepted.
Media line advt

اطلاع عام

ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بچے کی ایگریمنٹ ڈیزیز ہسپتال میں اسکو برسر نام بتائی گئی ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر لاہور ہسپتال میں میری ڈی ڈی بی ڈی کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ میرا مدعا کرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
ثناء اللہ گنائی ولد علی محمد گنائی
ساکن ڈی بی پورہ خاضا صاحب پورہ گام۔ -MBC

Health & Medical Education Department
GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG

College Campus, Dialgam Anantnag J&K-192210

** Subject: Engagement of candidate for the post of Jr. Staff Nurse on academic arrangement basis under S.O-364 of 2020, dated: 27.11.2020 in Government Medical College, Anantnag.
References: - Adv. Notice No. 03 GMCA of 2026, dated: 05.02.2026.
ORDER NO:485 GMCA of 2026
DATED:04/07/2026

Pursuant to the selection list issued vide Notification No. GMCA/Estt./Rec./2026/5085-89, dated: 05-06-2026 the below mentioned candidate who has submitted his Personal Verification Rolls (PVR) through online mode to the Criminal Investigation Department qrs. and upon receipt of the same vide Form No. 161220, dated: 30-06-2026 is hereby engaged as Jr. Staff Nurse on Academic Arrangement Basis under S.O -364 of 2020, dated: 27.11.2020 in Govt. Medical College Anantnag for a period of one (01) year, extendable upto 06 years (on yearly basis subject to the satisfactory performance) or till such posts are filled up by the competent authority on regular basis, whichever is earlier.

S. No.	Name of the candidate	Father Name	Address	Category
1.	Needa Nowreen	Khurshid Ahmad Wani	Panchalthan Chittergul Shangus Anantnag	OM

The above-mentioned selected candidate is directed to join GMC Anantnag at main campus Dialgam within a period of 21 days from the date of publication of this engagement order and shall be allowed to join on production of following documents/testimonials in original for verification.

- I. Essential Qualification Certificate(s).
- II. Marks Certificate(s) of essential qualification.
- III. D.O.B. Certificate.
- IV. 10th / 12th Marks sheet.
- V. Registration Certificate.
- VI. Domicile certificate.
- VII. Category certificate (if any).
- VIII. Health Certificate.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. In case the selected candidate(s) fails to join within a period of 21 days from the date of publication of this engagement order, it will be presumed that the said candidate(s) is/are not interested and his/her engagement shall be cancelled ab-initio.
2. If the candidate(s) is/are found guilty of impersonation or submitting fabricated or tempered documents/testimonials or making statement which are incorrect /false or suppressing material information shall render such person liable for legal action under law and his/her candidature shall be cancelled. In case such a defaulter is traced after selection, his/her contract shall be terminated.
3. The candidate(s) shall have to submit an affidavit duly attested by the Judicial/ 1st Class Magistrate to the effect that: -
 - a. That in case any adverse report about Qualification, Date of Birth, Marks Certificates, Reserved Category certificate, Domicile Certificate etc, if any, is received from the concerned authority, I shall have no right to claim my engagement as such & shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio. I will not also claim for any dues from GMC Anantnag as well in that case.
 - b. I shall not claim for any regular appointment in the department.
 - c. I will not participate in any kind of strike during my tenure.
 - d. I shall remain disciplined during my tenure of service in the institute.
 - e. I am not involved in any criminal/subjudice activity nor there is any FIR/ Court Case pending/registered in the Police Department/Court of Law against me.
 - f. I have fully understood the terms, conditions and nature of my engagement in GMC Anantnag on academic arrangement basis and will not claim for any regularization/extension after completion of the term (beyond 06 years) or at any point of time.
4. The engagement is purely on temporary basis for a period of one year on academic arrangement basis or till posts are filled on regular basis, whichever is earlier. However, the services of the engaged person shall be terminated in case his/her performance is not satisfactory/upto the mark.
5. The contractual engagement shall not confer any right on the appointee to claim extension or for regular appointment at any point of time.
6. The above engagement shall be subject to the outcome of the writ petition, if any, pending before the Hon'ble court of law.
7. The salary of the engaged candidate(s) shall be kept withheld and shall be drawn/distributed only after the receipt of verification report of documents/testimonials from the concerned quarters.

Prof. (Dr.) Junaid S Wani,
Principal,
Govt. Medical College, Anantnag.
Dated: 04 /07 /2026

Death of Teen Sparks Demand for Fencing Along Dachigam Stream

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A day after a teenager drowned in the Dachigam stream at Harwan on the outskirts of Srinagar, locals have urged the Irrigation and Flood Control Department to immediately curb illegal mining in the water body and install warning signboards and protective fencing to prevent further loss of lives.

The demand comes in the wake of the death of Basit Ali Akhoun, a resident of Mir Behri Dal, who drowned while bathing in the stream on Friday.

Locals told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that rampant illegal extraction of sand and gravel from the stream has considerably increased its depth, creating deep pits and dangerous whirlpools that pose a serious risk to bathers.

"Once a person gets trapped

in these whirlpools, it becomes almost impossible to come out," said a local resident, alleging that illegal mining has altered the natural course and depth of the stream.

As per KNT, the locals said several young lives have been lost in the stream over the years and alleged that despite repeated tragedies, no effective safety measures have been put in place by the concerned authorities.

They urged the Irrigation and Flood Control Department to immediately stop illegal mining, erect protective fencing at vulnerable spots, install warning signboards and declare the accident-prone stretch of the Dachigam stream a prohibited zone to prevent people from entering the water.

Locals said timely intervention by the authorities could help avert similar tragedies in the future and protect young lives.



Div Com Chairs Airfield Environment Management Committee Meeting

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Saturday chaired a meeting of the Airfield Environment Management Committee to review critical issues concerning aviation safety and environmental management around Air Force Station (AFS) Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Budgam, Pulwama and Anantnag, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Director Airport Authority, senior officers of Indian Air Force, and representatives of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

A comprehensive review was conducted on a range of issues impacting airfield safety and operational preparedness, including the construction of an emergency access road, regulation of brick kilns in the vicinity of the airfield, scientific management of solid waste, removal of unlit obstructions affecting flight operations, and measures to curb the menace of stray dogs in and around the airport.

During the meeting, officials informed the chair that Air Force Station Srinagar has three designated emergency exit gates for launching

search and rescue operations in the event of an aviation emergency. However, one of the emergency gates on the north-western side does not meet the operational requirements for the movement of Crash Fire Tenders.

Taking note of the issue, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioner Budgam to convene a coordination meeting with all concerned departments to expedite the development of connectivity between the Ring Road and the airport. He also instructed that the feasibility and construction of an emergency access road be taken up on priority to strengthen emergency response capabilities.

Reviewing the issue of brick kilns operating within an eight-kilometre radius of AFS Srinagar, the Divisional Commissioner observed that a standard operating procedure is already in place under which brick kilns remain closed from November to March to maintain visibility and ensure safe aircraft operations during the winter season.

The meeting also assessed the progress of the solid waste management project at the Achan-Soura dumping site, a key initiative aimed at reducing bird activity that poses a significant hazard to aircraft.

The Commissioner, SMC, in-

formed the meeting that work on the project is progressing steadily and is expected to be completed by June 2028.

Emphasising the need for a coordinated approach to waste management, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioner Budgam to strengthen solid waste collection and disposal mechanisms in villages surrounding the airfield, noting that indiscriminate garbage dumping attracts birds and adversely impacts aviation safety.

The committee further reviewed the issue of unlit obstructions that pose risks to safe flying operations. It was decided that telecom service providers would be directed to ensure proper illumination of communication towers, while a detailed survey would be undertaken to identify and rectify other unlit structures in the aircraft operational area.

Addressing the growing menace of stray dogs within and around the airport, the Divisional Commissioner described the issue as a serious threat to both air operations and public safety. He instructed the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, to get the issue addressed at the earliest.

Households Face Drinking Water Crisis in Batamaloo's Iqra Colony

Observer News Service

Srinagar Nearly 100 households in Iqra Colony, Batamaloo, are grappling with an acute drinking water crisis, with residents alleging that they have been left almost entirely dependent on water tankers due to the absence of a reliable piped water supply.

The affected inhabitants told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that several households either have no piped drinking water connection or receive no water through the existing pipelines, forcing families to wait for water tankers to meet their daily domestic needs.

They said the prolonged shortage has caused immense hardship, particularly for chil-

dren, elderly persons and women, who struggle every day to secure water for drinking and other household purposes.

According to the locals, repeated requests to the concerned authorities have failed to yield any lasting solution, with tanker supply remaining the only source of drinking water for the locality.

They urged authorities to immediately restore regular water supply to the colony and address the issue on a permanent basis instead of relying on temporary arrangements.

As per KNT, they warned that the crisis is likely to worsen if timely measures are not taken to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply to the area.

Farmers' Exposure Visit concludes at Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The five-day Farmers' Exposure Visit Programme, organized by the Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir, concluded at the Directorate Hall, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, with Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, presiding over the valedictory function as the chief guest.

The programme was designed to provide participating farmers with first-hand exposure to modern agricultural technologies, innovative farming practices and successful models of sustainable

agriculture. Throughout the five-day programme, farmers interacted with subject experts, visited important agricultural institutions and gained practical insights into improved crop management, resource-efficient farming and value addition in agriculture.

Addressing the participants, Director Agriculture Kashmir, emphasized that exposure visits are an important component of capacity building as they enable farmers to learn from successful experiences, adopt scientific interventions and replicate best practices in their own fields.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice. It is informed to general public that in my wards birth record her name was wrongly entered as Maryam instead of Maryam Manzoor now it needs to be corrected so in this regard if anybody have any objection he or she may file his or her objection at office of the registrar of birth and death record block Pampore within the period of one week from the date of publication of this notice after due date no objection will or shall be accepted or entertained. Name :Sheikh Manzoor Ahmad. F/O:Maryam Manzoor. Mother's Name: Muzamil Shamim. R/O:Samboora Pampore. A/P: 138,behind Jamkash Green Park A Hyderpora Badgam,Jammu and Kashmir 190014. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public that my name has inadvertently been mentioned as "Razwan Mushtaq" and "Rizwana Begum" in the school records of my wards, Ms. Zoha Showkat and Ms. Zainab Showkat respectively. My correct name is "Rizwana Mushtaq" and the same has to be reflected in the said school records. It is further notified that the year of birth of Ms. Zoha Showkat has been incorrectly recorded as 2013 and should be corrected to 2012 in all relevant school records. Now, therefore, if anybody has any objection regarding this name/DoB correction, he/she may file the same within 03 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no claim or objection shall be entertained. Mobile No: 7889444388 R/o: Sumlar Shokbaba, Bandipora Tehsil & District: Bandipora inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

The electricity connection with consumer id 0203010001485 with installation no. 22252-RI registered in the name of Zahoor Ahmad Shah S/O Gh mohiudin Shah R/O NRC B Bemina is to be transferred in favour of Hajra Begum W/O Gh Ahmad Bhat R/O NRCB Bemina if any person having any objection in this regard may contact AEE sub div watalkadal Hajra Begum W/O Gh Ahmad Bhat R/O NRCB Bemina inf

Remembrance

IN LOVING MEMORY OF A WONDERFUL LADY

5TH JULY

DEAR GRANDMA

It has been since 1 year you had left us
 You meant so much to me
 But you are still in my heart
 My favorite memories are the with you
 Where you taught me how to behave,
 talk and value the people
 The memories you made with me last forever
 I don't believe you are not with me.
 I know heaven called you,
 But I wished you could have stayed.
 I remember your talks, your laughter,
 the way you used to talked.
 You were the person filled with love
 You were same both inside aswell as outside
 I recall all the things we used to do
 You were my gem
 I loved you then, now and forever.
 I wanted to see you
 I wanted to share alot with you.
 There is so much inside me that I wanted to share
 I felt your presence everywhere
 I miss the way we used to talk, fight, and Crack jokes.
 I miss the way you used to look
 The way you used to carry your handbag
 The way you wear wrist watch and the way you used to wear classy shoe
 No one can try to meet your standard
 You were literally rich my Heart
 I will always try to follow the path you taught me.
 I will carry you in my heart until we meet in heaven
 I carry your strength with me
 Your legacy and memories will live on in my heart forever

BAZIL

- 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
- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 19 Muharram 1448	PRAYERS
	FAJR 3: 41
	ZUHR 12:35
	ASR 5: 35
	Magrib 7: 50
ISHA 9: 29	

This Day In History

- 1813- War of 1812: Three weeks of British raids on Fort Schlosser, Black Rock and Plattsburgh, New York begin.
- 1814-Americans defeat British & Canadians at Chippewa, Ontario
- 1830-France invades Algeria, begins a 40 year conquest
- 1865- Great Britain delegate's world 1st maximum speed laws
- 1914- Germany offers Austria war aid to fight against Russia in Serbia
- 1940- Diplomatic relations broken between Britain & Vichy government in France
- 1941- German occupiers disband political parties
- 1943- Liberator bombers sink U-535 in Gulf of Biskaye
- 1945- World War II: Liberation of the Philippines declared.
- 1954- B-52A bomber made its maiden flight
- 1962- Algeria gains independence after 132 years of French rule

From KO Archives

Towering Desperation Pushes Youth To New Heights

Jobless Electropaths Threaten to Jump Off Mobile Phone Tower

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- To draw the attention of the government towards their plight, jobless graduates in electropathy who are on a relay hunger strike for the past two-and-a-half months today threatened to commit suicide by jumping off a mobile tower, while several strikers were taken into custody when they tried to set themselves ablaze. The strikers spent the day atop the tower and were still there late at night, with a couple of policemen keeping watch at the base.

The strikers demand that electropathy be recognized as a part of Indian Systems of Medicine and employment avenues be made available to them. The government, however, has been persistently refusing to recognize their degrees. The strikers, who have been camping in the press enclave here for the past two-and-a-half months, tried a novel method this morning to grab the attention of the government and to shake it out of its apathy: three of them, Rasheed Ahmad, Sajjad Ahmad, and Mushtaq Ahmad, scaled the mobile phone tower near the Khidmat Press, and draped in white shrouds and waving the banner of their association, raised slogans against the Government.

As news spread that, the unemployed graduates intended to leap off the tower as a mark of protest, scores of policemen, paramilitary personnel and news crews gathered at the scene. The police established contact with the precariously perched strikers with a view to persuade them to come down, but they refused to do so unless the government gave some assurance about recognizing their qualifications and opening opportunities for their employment.

One of the strikers atop the tower, Arshad Ahmad, told the CNS on mobile phone that they had been forced to take this extreme step because no one had paid heed to their peaceful protests.

Accepting that suicide was expressly forbidden by religion, the graduate said that it was the government that had forced them to take this desperate course.

Earlier, when the strikers were climbing the tower, four of their colleagues on the ground, Abdul Qayum, Hilal Ahmad, Nisar Ahmad and Abdul Hamid, tried to set themselves on fire.

The police, however, overpowered them just in time, and shifted them to the Kothi Bagh police station.

When contacted about the electropathy graduates' strike and their subsequent suicide bid, the divisional commissioner for Kashmir, Mahboob Iqbal, said that the administration had been activated, and a magistrate had been assigned to keep an eye on the situation in the press enclave.

He said that the strikers have held a meeting with the secretary health, Kulbhushan Jandial, and minister for health, Mangat Ram Sharma, and that he was hopeful of an acceptable solution to the issue soon.

(Kashmir Observer, 05 July, 2007)

The Phone-First Family

A student survey in Kashmir set out to measure screen time. It found fathers who beat their children, mothers accused of infidelity, and teenagers who have given up on being noticed.



Mir Uzair Javied

A group of public administration students walked into schools across Pulwama district on June 13 expecting to measure a habit. What they documented instead was a household under siege.

The survey, conducted by students at Amar Singh College under the guidance of Dr. Zubair Nazeer Malik, head of the public administration department, set out to study what researchers call “technoference”, the way digital devices intrude on family life.

The method was simple: sit down with students in grades eight through ten, ages 13 to 15, and ask them to describe what phones have done to their homes.

The findings should alarm anyone who assumes a smartphone is a neutral object sitting on a kitchen table.

Start with the baseline.

Some 91.3 percent of the students surveyed use mobile phones regularly. That figure alone surprises no one who has watched a teenager anywhere in the world. What follows does.

Investigators found that 21.4 percent of students said their fathers hit them for extended phone use, regardless of whether homework and chores had been finished.

Punishment, in these homes, has stopped tracking behaviour.

A child can meet obligations completely and still be struck, because the trigger is the phone itself, not what the child failed to do.

Beyond discipline, that is a household mistaking a symptom for a crime.

The psychological toll runs alongside the physical one.



“The survey authors ended with a plea: turn the phones off, take children outside, teach them to read and sketch and travel as families again. It sounds modest. Given what this survey uncovered, it is closer to triage.

More than 42 percent of students admitted they hide their real opinions out of fear of ridicule or online harassment.

One girl described the anxiety of guarding her Snapchat streaks with friends, a compulsion so consuming she said she would sacrifice her own peace of mind rather than let one lapse.

She is 13 or 14 years old, and she has already learned to treat a social media metric as something worth her mental health.

Siblings fare no better. Nearly 39 percent of students

reported fighting with brothers and sisters over shared devices, a scarcity that turns ordinary households into daily battlegrounds.

When a family owns one phone and three children want it, resentment becomes furniture.

But the most damning numbers in this survey point upward, at the adults.

Some 17.3 percent of girls said they barely speak with their fathers anymore, because the men come home from work and disappear into their screens.

These girls described years of feel-

ing invisible next to a device, until eventually they stopped minding.

That resignation is worse than the original hurt.

A child who still aches for her father's attention has hope, but a child who has stopped caring has adapted to neglect.

More than 70 percent of students said phone use sparks open conflict between their parents, and many described fathers who blame mothers for the children's screen habits, a finger-pointing exercise that ignores the fact that the accusing parent is often on a device at the same moment.

More than 7 percent of boys said their own fathers stay glued to Facebook at home, showing little interest in family conversation or their children's schoolwork.

Some of these boys have started leaving tea and a phone outside their mother's door before retreating to their rooms, silently opting out of a household they no longer expect anything from.

Then come the stories that data alone cannot hold.

One student, in tears, described a cousin's family nearly destroyed after the father spent his nights on his phone in the bedroom. His wife suspected infidelity.

Nothing was proven, no divorce followed, but the accusation detonated screaming matches, killed her trust, and left the children afraid their family could dissolve at any moment.

Another boy confessed to secretly using his parents' credit card to fund an online gaming addiction, chasing approval from friends he had never met in person.

He said he got away with it once and never tried again, but he had already shown other children in his circle exactly how it could be done.

Beyond isolated glitches, these household habits describe a generation of parents who have outsourced attention to a screen and a generation of children absorbing the lesson that devices outrank people.

The survey authors ended with a plea: turn the phones off, take children outside, teach them to read and sketch and travel as families again. It sounds modest. Given what this survey uncovered, it is closer to triage.

Pulwama classrooms just handed Kashmir a mirror. The question is whether any household looking into it is willing to put the phone down long enough to see its own reflection.

The author is a student in the Department of Public Administration at Amar Singh College. He can be reached at miruzairjavied121@gmail.com.



Danish Ah Mir

A false story keeps spreading about students like me. Self-proclaimed campus activists insist that the Economically Weaker Sections category comes with a lower cutoff score, so students admitted through it must have worked less than those admitted on open merit. Nobody stops to ask why the cutoff sits lower to begin with.

I want to answer that question, because I lived it. Recently I watched a clip posted by an open-merit activist named Sahil Parray, discussing NEET admissions.

He claimed candidates scoring above 600 marks got shut out of government medical colleges while reserved-category students got in with 300.

His number is wrong, as last year's boys' cutoff under the open quota sat around 521, but the 300 figure was aimed squarely at EWS candidates.

The message underneath his 'mistake' is the one that sticks: poor students, he implies, get seats they haven't earned.

That framing ignores a basic fact. Only a small fraction of economically and socially disadvantaged students ever reach university at all.

That same framing now shadows Jammu and Kashmir's plan to cut EWS reservation from 10 percent to 3 percent.

Officials say the EWS population here is small. Many of us have asked for the survey or the household data behind that claim, and none has surfaced.

Policies that decide who gets into medical school and who doesn't should rest on evidence rather than on assumption peddled as fact.

Beyond the numbers sits a process almost nobody discusses: the paperwork.

Getting an EWS certificate takes documentation that exhausts families who already have little time or money to spare. Powerful people sometimes exploit the category, and that abuse is real. But judging an entire group of applicants by the misconduct of a few punishes the families doing everything honestly.

My father earns roughly 70,000 a year as a daily-wage labourer. Private school sat outside anything our family could afford, so government school became my only option.



The Myth of the 'Easy Seat'

Behind every EWS admission is a story of poor schools, missing opportunities, and a system that mistakes privilege for merit.

Anyone who knows those schools in Jammu and Kashmir knows the shortage of teachers, the missing academic guidance, the buildings falling apart around the students inside them.

Passing Class 10 felt like scaling a mountain. I studied ten to twelve hours a day and still scored just 288 out of 500. Class 12 brought the same discipline and 354 out of 500.

A teacher in Class 7 once told us to avoid private schools after Class 8, warning that competing against those students would prove nearly impossible.

I took her advice and enrolled in a nearby government

higher-secondary school instead.

Most of my new classmates had come from well-funded private institutions, and every test exposed the gap.

I had ranked near the top of my middle school, but suddenly I struggled to reach average marks. I blamed myself for years of insufficient effort I hadn't actually made.

But hard work alone couldn't fix a conceptual foundation nobody had built.

I memorized answers I didn't understand because nobody around me could explain them, and even memorizing took more effort than anything I had faced in middle school.

Mathematics became my greatest fear.

By the end of Class 9, only one friend and I passed. Most of our middle-school classmates failed outright.

I assumed Class 10 would defeat me too, until I confided in a village friend who had studied at a private school and was already preparing for medical entrance exams.

He taught me mathematics and science from scratch, rebuilding a foundation that should have existed since Class 6.

When he asked me to state the Pythagorean theorem, I put my head down in silence. He couldn't believe a tenth-grader didn't know it.

Be it science, English, Urdu, or social studies, the same gaps ran through every subject.

His patience, paired with my relentless studying, got me through Class 10 with 58 percent.

He steered me toward the arts stream for Class 12, and even that felt like a constant fight against years of missing groundwork.

My story, however, isn't unusual.

Former classmates now work as carpenters, cobblers, and day labourers. Not one pursued higher education or passed a competitive government exam. They weren't unintelligent or unwilling, they simply lacked teachers, guidance, and educated parents who could answer the questions curious children ask.

Looking back, it feels like government schools prepared us for the workforce instead of equipping us to compete for anything beyond it.

So when people ask why EWS candidates score lower or why our cutoff sits below the open-merit line, I ask them a different question first: did we start this race from the same line they did?

A lower cutoff doesn't mean lower merit. It measures a disadvantage built over years, one most open-merit candidates never faced.

Reservation remains the only realistic path for candidates like me toward a government job, despite every hour we have put in.

Jammu and Kashmir's reservation policy could use real rationalization. Cutting EWS quota by seven points based on an unproven population claim is an unfair blow against candidates who already started behind.

Government policy should follow verified data rather than the deafening voices online.

Silence from students like me has never meant fair treatment. It has meant nobody asked.

The author is a doctoral candidate at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He can be reached at danishmeer18@gmail.com.

The Business of Black Magic in Kashmir

How fraudulent faith healers turn illness into curses, deception into proof, and desperation into a profitable enterprise in the valley.



Syed Nissar H. Gilani

Kashmir holds two types of belief in its hands at once.

One is gentle: the smoke of wild rue at a wedding, a bird's call at the window, and a shoe flipped right-side up to keep the peace at home.

The other is predatory: a man calling himself a pir who tells a sick woman that her migraines come from a curse, then produces a knotted thread from beneath a rug to prove it.

Both traditions share a vocabulary of omens and spirits, but only one of them empties bank accounts and leaves disease untreated.

The failure to separate them, in public discourse and in law, is what keeps the con running.

Start with the business itself, because it is a business, built on a repeatable method.

The fraudulent pir does not seek out the confident or the skeptical. He looks for people already worn down, often women, suffering from migraines, mental exhaustion, or long illnesses that doctors have failed to resolve.

Chronic pain erodes judgment, and a person who has spent months chasing a diagnosis becomes

a person willing to entertain a stranger's confident diagnosis instead, especially when that diagnosis names an enemy, black magic or an evil force, rather than a disease with no easy cure.

Naming the invisible thing that hurts you is its own relief, and that relief is exactly what the fraudster sells first, before he sells anything else.

The second stage is theater, and it works because it looks like proof.

The pir stages what amounts to a magic show dressed as an exorcism: a taweez pulled from beneath an undisturbed rug, charred needles drawn from a fistful of clay, knotted threads produced from inside a cushion no one touched.

Sleight of hand, nothing more.

But a frightened observer watching an object materialize from a place it could not possibly have been does not see a card trick. She sees a curse made visible.

Once belief and evidence merge in someone's mind, argument becomes useless. The illusion has done its work, and skepticism has nowhere left to stand.

What follows is the part that should alarm anyone who cares about public health as much as fraud.

The victim, now convinced, pays for rituals, amulets, and rounds of spiritual cleansing that can run into significant sums. Money flows toward the fraudster while the actual illness, including the migraine, the exhaustion, and the underlying condition goes untouched by any doctor.

This is the real cost of the con, and it is measured twice: once in the family's savings, and once in a body still sick because it was never treated for what was actually wrong with it.

A curse cannot be cured



KASHMIR'S CULTURE CAN KEEP ITS BULBULS AND ITS BLACK CATS, but what it cannot keep tolerating is a class of men who dress fraud in the language of faith and collect payment for a cure they never intended to deliver.

with medicine that never gets prescribed.

None of this describes the smaller superstitions that fill ordinary Kashmiri life, and the distinction is worth making precisely because critics of superstition too often blur it.

The scent of isband, wild rue seed once abundant in Srinagar's old

Malkha quarter, still gets swirled through rooms at weddings and engagements to ward off Nazar, the evil eye.

A bulbul chirping at a windowsill still gets read as a sign that guests will soon appear.

Among Kashmir's minority community, the old ritual of Shig once

sent a man back through his own gate to start his morning over if a female relative crossed his path on the way out. A sudden sneeze conveyed the same omen.

A black cat crossing the road still draws a pause and a silent prayer, the same instinct that governs superstition in cultures thousands of

miles away.

A twitching right eye still promises good news to a man, a twitching left eye bad. A slipper found upside down still gets flipped immediately, before it can invite an argument into the house.

These customs cost nothing and harm no one. They belong to memory and habit rather than to greed.

The moment someone starts charging for protection against them, the moment folklore becomes a fee schedule, the line into exploitation has been crossed, and it should be treated as such by families, clerics, and law enforcement alike.

Kashmir does not lack for genuine religious guidance. Sincere, God-fearing teachers exist throughout the region, and they preach exactly the opposite of what the fraudulent pir sells: humility before God rather than fear of curses, patience rather than payment, medicine alongside prayer rather than magic instead of it.

These are the voices that deserve amplification because they expose the manipulators hiding behind folklore.

Distinguishing a wedding's isband smoke from a con artist's cushion trick is not a matter of splitting hairs. It is the only way to protect people who are sick, scared, and looking for someone to trust.

Kashmir's culture can keep its bulbuls and its black cats, but what it cannot keep tolerating is a class of men who dress fraud in the language of faith and collect payment for a cure they never intended to deliver.

—The author is a former civil servant from the administrative service. He can be reached at nisargilani57748@gmail.com.

The Attention Economy's Biggest Casualty

As platforms compete for every second of our focus, they are silently rewiring the brain's ability to sustain attention and resist distraction.



Iffat Aurooj

One review focused on adolescents found heavy short-form use, more than three hours daily, linked to attention performance two full standard deviations below what's typical for their age group, and identified a feedback loop that tightens rather than levels off: low attention endurance pushes people toward shorter content, and shorter content weakens endurance further.

Watch someone open Instagram or YouTube right now. Count how long they let a video play before their thumb moves.

Three seconds, maybe four.

The content isn't the problem. Something in the design of these platforms has trained an entire generation to feel discomfort the moment anything fails to deliver its payoff fast enough.

Reels and Shorts run on a simple loop. A video plays, the brain receives a small hit of reward, and the next clip loads before the last one fades.

Autoplay removes any natural stopping point, making it harder to close the app.

Over time, the brain stops expecting things to take time. It starts expecting everything to happen the way a video does: instantly.

This isn't casual observation anymore, researchers have quantified it.

A large review spanning nearly a hundred thousand participants found heavy short-form video use linked to weaker cognition, particularly attention span and impulse control. Fourteen separate studies, pulled together in a second review, connected heavy use with shorter attention spans and worse academic outcomes.

The neuroscience narrows the picture further: short-form video appears to weaken executive control, the brain



regions responsible for regulating attention and holding back impulses, while activity in self-control regions actually drops during viewing, nudging behaviour toward reactive responses over thoughtful ones.

Here's what makes this an attention crisis rather than a media-habit quirk: the deficit generalizes.

Once brains adjust to instant payoff delivered several times a minute, anything slower, like a buffering screen, a line, or a friend who takes a while to finish a sentence, starts registering as an irritant rather than an ordinary part of life.

One psychology coach who studied this described speeding through content as evidence of a "decline in the

ability to focus on and process information at a normal pace," tied to "growing impatience with how information is delivered."

She also noted that rapid consumption keeps the brain in heightened arousal, a clinical description of feeling perpetually on edge.

Then the platforms escalated the problem instead of correcting it.

Instagram introduced 2x playback for Reels, and the framing around that launch told its own story.

Coverage noted the company had effectively conceded that people often lack the patience to sit through a full Reel, so it built a fast-forward button as the fix.

Even writers favourable to the feature

couldn't dismiss the cost: speeding footage up risks losing meaning, since pace determines emotion, nuance, and storytelling, and some experts worried users would "zap" through videos rather than watch them.

A feature meant to save a few seconds amounts to a confession: fifteen seconds now feels like too much to ask.

Students absorb the sharpest damage, because studying is one of the last activities that cannot be compressed.

One study tracking more than a thousand college students found short-form video addiction produced academic procrastination by weakening attention control, which then made coursework harder to manage.

A separate review covering several

years of research reported that heavy TikTok-style use correlated with shorter attention spans, weaker academic performance, and measurable changes in the brain tissue tied to behavioural control, with younger users especially vulnerable, since their brains are still developing.

Parents and teachers already know this without needing research to confirm it.

A student sits down to read, gets through half a page, and feels a physical pull toward the phone that has little to do with willpower.

Their nervous system has been trained on reward cycles lasting eight seconds. A forty-five-minute study session doesn't fit that timing at all.

One review focused on adolescents found heavy short-form use, more than three hours daily, linked to attention performance two full standard deviations below what's typical for their age group, and identified a feedback loop that tightens rather than levels off: low attention endurance pushes people toward shorter content, and shorter content weakens endurance further.

That tightening loop probably explains the anger, too.

It stops being about videos at some point. It becomes a baseline expectation that everything should resolve quickly, and the frustration that builds whenever real life refuses to cooperate.

Adults display the same impatience adolescents do now, and it shows up as bickering, isolation, and doomscrolling instead of time spent with people nearby.

The real concern is how easily the habit of endless scrolling erodes our ability to stay present with everyday life.

—The author is a final year undergraduate at the department of Political Science, Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi and can be reached at aurooj.iffat@gmail.com.

Govt Puts Telegram On Notice Over Pirated Content

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Centre has served a notice to popular messaging app Telegram, directing it to crack down on the "widespread dissemination" of pirated films, OTT content and other audio-visual material through its platform, government officials said on Saturday.

In its notice, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting sought an Action Taken Report from Telegram within 15 days, with officials underlining that the government's approach marks a shift from piecemeal takedowns of pirated content to "platform accountability". History The ministry is learnt to have told Telegram, which was

temporarily blocked in India in June as a precautionary measure to prevent any paper leak during the NEET re-examination, that copyright infringement is not merely a civil violation, but also a criminal offence under the Copyright Act, 1957, and the Cinematograph Act, 1952. "The Ministry has made it clear that Telegram cannot

merely wait for the government to identify each piracy channel one by one. A purely reactive, channel-by-channel takedown approach may not be enough to demonstrate due diligence by the platform, as required under the IT Act, 2000, and the IT Rules, 2021," officials said. The notice to Telegram follows the Centre's recent

regulatory action against Meta. On Wednesday, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued a notice to Meta questioning the planned username feature on WhatsApp and, later in the week, decided to summon the company over Instagram ads allegedly promoting child sexual abuse material.

Meanwhile, the I&B Ministry has also sought details of Telegram's grievance redressal mechanism for producers, OTT platforms and law enforcement agencies, sources said. Telegram has been reminded that, as an intermediary, it is required to observe due diligence under the IT Act and the IT Rules, they added. "The Government has made

it clear that the continued availability of pirated content, evasive compliance, or an incomplete response may invite further examination and action under the applicable legal framework. The action has been taken to protect India's creator economy, film industry, broadcasters, OTT platforms, producers, and distributors," an official added.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Srinagar Airport

The airport said the previously proposed Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) for full runway closure on Mondays and Tuesdays had been withdrawn.

"Airlines will continue to update their schedules in accordance with the prevailing operational timings," it said.

Passengers have been advised to check their flight status with their respective airlines before proceeding to the airport and rely only on official channels for updates.

Earlier, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) had proposed shutting the Srinagar airport runway on Mondays and Tuesdays from July, followed by a fortnight-long closure in October, to carry out essential repair and maintenance work.

The proposed closure had triggered concerns over possible flight disruptions and its impact on Kashmir's tourism sector.

Last month, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had taken up the issue with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu.

'Huge Relief For

very hard. Just yesterday, I spoke to some people from the tourism sector and many of their groups had started cancelling," Omar told reporters.

The Chief Minister said he had repeatedly taken up the proposed airport closure with the Centre, including with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Ever since this news came out, I have been continuously making efforts. I spoke to the Defence Minister and the Civil Aviation Minister, and even when I met the Prime Minister, I raised the issue with him," he said.

Abdullah said the decision to allow normal flight operations on Mondays and Tuesdays for now had come as a major relief.

"If the outcome of this is that the Monday-Tuesday schedule will remain normal for now, it is a huge relief for us," he said.

The Airports Authority of India has withdrawn the proposed Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) for full closure of the Srinagar airport runway on Mondays and Tuesdays for repair and maintenance work.

The airport will now remain operational on all days, with flight operations continuing between 8 am and 5 pm. Night-time runway closures for maintenance will, however, continue until October 2026.

Omar said that if the Srinagar airport was required to shut for maintenance in October, alternative arrangements should be made to operate civilian flights from the Awantipora Air Force base.

Later, in a post on X, the Chief Minister thanked Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu for accepting the request to suspend the airport closure plan.

"This closure had created a lot of difficulties for regular travellers and forced tour groups and tourists to cancel planned visits," he said.

HC Refuses 45-Day

reasons why it could not adhere to a fixed disposal timeline.

Observing that the RTI Act does not prescribe any timeline for deciding second appeals and complaints, the Bench held that it could not, through a judicial direction, mandate a 45-day disposal period as sought by the petitioner.

However, the Court emphasized that the Commission cannot allow appeals to remain pending for years.

"It cannot be said that the CIC can sit over the appeals for an unduly long period and keep them undecided for years together," the Bench observed, adding that the Commission needs to improve its working and establish a mechanism to reduce the backlog while effectively handling fresh appeals and complaints.

Disposing of the PIL, the High Court directed the CIC to take appropriate measures to improve its functioning, subject to infrastructural constraints and the inflow of appeals. It also observed that the Commission may consider the petitioner's suggestions if they are found to be genuine and practical.

Javid had alleged that several RTI applications and first appeals were pending before different public authorities and the CIC in Jammu and Kashmir for unduly long periods.

The petitioner stated that after being dissatisfied with the responses of the first appellate authorities, he filed second appeals before the CIC in respect of three RTI applications dated November 13, 2024, January 9, 2025, and November 27, 2025. However, he submitted that for months, the CIC had neither listed the appeals for hearing nor passed any order.

In the plea, he had sought directions to ensure timely disposal of RTI applications and appeals in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

LG Sinha

a high-level meeting to review the management and ground situation of the ongoing pilgrimage.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat and senior officers of the civil administration, police, security forces, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, Intelligence Bureau and Home

Department.

The Lieutenant Governor reviewed pilgrim movement, traffic management, security arrangements, accommodation, registration and other logistical aspects of the yatra.

Officials informed the meeting that a large number of pilgrims were arriving without valid registration, resulting in long waiting periods.

The LG said the pilgrimage was being conducted in accordance with the prescribed ceiling on pilgrim movement along the yatra tracks in pursuance of Supreme Court directions.

Strict adherence to the registration schedule, he said, was essential to ensure the safety, security and convenience of pilgrims.

The administration has asked intending pilgrims to complete the mandatory registration process and obtain a valid Yatra Registration Permit for their allotted date before travelling to Jammu and Kashmir.

Pilgrims without confirmed registration will not be permitted to undertake the yatra.

Sinha also reviewed security and logistical arrangements and directed departments and security agencies to maintain close coordination and continuous liaison with langar organisations, service providers and other stakeholders.

Meanwhile, 32,313 devotees paid obeisance at the Amarnath cave shrine during the first two days of the pilgrimage.

Official figures showed that 20,145 pilgrims performed darshan at the cave shrine on the second day, compared to 14,515 on the corresponding day last year.

The second-day pilgrims included 14,611 men, 4,480 women, 379 children, 142 sadhus, 35 sadhvis, 17 transgender devotees and 481 security personnel.

A total of 12,168 pilgrims had paid obeisance at the shrine on the opening day.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg said many pilgrims had reached Jammu and Kashmir without registration and were facing inconvenience.

"Tatkal quota is limited and only a few pilgrims are allowed under it. Those who have arrived without registration will have to wait for a few days as RFID cards cannot be issued to them and they cannot proceed on the yatra as of now," Garg said.

He said only registered pilgrims would be issued mandatory RFID cards and allowed to proceed towards the shrine.

Garg also said several pilgrims had arrived in Jammu and Kashmir well ahead of their allotted yatra dates.

"We appeal to them to undertake the yatra only on their registered date so that no one faces any inconvenience," he said.

Meanwhile, the third batch of 4,812 pilgrims reached the twin base camps of Pahalgam and Baltal after leaving the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu early Saturday.

The pilgrims travelled in a convoy of 259 vehicles under multi-layered security cover. Of them, 2,041 proceeded towards Baltal, while 2,771 headed for the traditional Pahalgam route.

The 57-day Amarnath Yatra began on July 3 simultaneously from the 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal.

The pilgrimage will conclude on August 28, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan.

Keep Close Watch

and logistical arrangements for the annual pilgrimage, which began on July 3.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the J&K Police, Army, Central Armed Police Forces, Traffic Police, Railway Police and intelligence agencies, including the General Officer Commanding of the Army's 15 Corps.

Officials presented a comprehensive review of security arrangements, traffic management and the implementation of standard operating procedures aimed at ensuring the safe and smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

The DGP directed all security agencies to maintain the "highest level of operational preparedness" and ensure seamless inter-agency coordination.

He called for intensified area and night domination exercises, particularly along the national highway, critical road corridors and routes leading to the Amarnath cave shrine.

Prabhat also directed field formations to strengthen surveillance and maintain a close watch on inimical elements across Jammu and Kashmir to prevent attempts to disturb peace.

Reviewing the movement of pilgrims, the police chief called for strict verification of identity credentials and effective use of the RFID-based tracking system for real-time monitoring of registered yatis.

He said issues concerning unregistered pilgrims should be handled "proactively and humanely" in close coordination with the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, while ensuring that only duly registered pilgrims are allowed to undertake the yatra in accordance with prescribed protocols.

The DGP also reviewed disaster preparedness and directed agencies to keep contingency plans and adequate resources ready to respond to weather-related disruptions.

MHA Designates

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the action was in pursuance of the Centre's "zero tolerance" policy against terrorism.

"Pursuing PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji's vision of

zero tolerance against terror, the MHA today declared 23 dreaded terror functionaries affiliated with banned organisations as terrorists under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act," Shah said in a post on X.

He said the designated operatives were involved in anti-India activities, carrying out terror attacks, inciting terrorism, trafficking arms, infiltrating across the border, facilitating terrorist organisations, raising funds and recruiting terrorists.

According to the Ministry, the operatives were involved in recruiting and training terrorists, facilitating infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir, planning attacks and supplying arms and ammunition through drones and cross-border networks.

Several of them are also accused of raising funds, managing logistics and operating terror training camps.

Among those designated is Masood Ilyas Kashmiri, described by the government as a close confidant of JeM chief Masood Azhar and a key coordinator for infiltration into Kashmir. He is accused of recruiting youth through social media, raising funds and orchestrating the April 2022 attack on a police checkpoint near the PDP office in Sunjwan, Jammu.

Mufti Mohammad Asghar Khan, a JeM operative, has been described as the outfit's chief and head of its military wing in PoK. The government has linked him to the Nagrota Army camp attack and accused him of running training camps in Muzaffarabad.

Firdous Ahmad Bhat, currently based in Pakistan, is accused of serving as a LeT "launching commander" and facilitating the movement of foreign terrorists across the Line of Control. He is also accused of supplying weapons to overground workers and recruiting youth from south Kashmir.

Haroon Rashid Ganai, who is also based in Pakistan, has been accused of inciting youth in the Valley to join terrorist ranks and supplying arms and ammunition to overground workers.

Bilal Ahmed Mir, operating from Muzaffarabad, is linked to LeT and TRF and allegedly manages the supply of arms, ammunition and logistical support into Kashmir.

Abid Qayoom Lone is accused of planning attacks on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir, raising funds for LeT and smuggling narcotics from Pakistan into India, with the proceeds allegedly used to finance terror activities.

Nazir Ahmed Gujjar, who crossed the Line of Control into PoK in 2006, is accused of recruiting youth to revive militancy in Doda and Kishtwar and facilitating the delivery of arms and ammunition through drones across the Samba and RS Pura sectors.

Owais Farooz, who travelled to Pakistan on a valid Indian passport in 2018, is accused of subsequently joining LeT and engaging in terror activities.

The list also includes senior Pakistan-based operatives Abdul Rauf, Hafiz Khalid Waleed, Maulana Saifullah Khalid, Maulana Yusuf Taibi, Qari Yaqub Sheikh, Rana Iftikhar, Ashfaq Ahmed and Maulana Imdad Ullah Makki.

In a separate notification, the MHA accused Mohammad Shahid Faisal of links with LeT, JeM, Al-Qaeda and ISIS modules.

Faisal is accused of recruiting youth through social media, arranging weapons training in Pakistan, raising funds and training operatives in encrypted communications and the use of fake identities.

The government said formally designating the 23 individuals as terrorists would help curb their financial networks, movement, recruitment capabilities and terror-linked activities, while strengthening coordinated legal and investigative action against them.

The Centre exercised its powers under Section 35 of the UAPA to add the names to the Fourth Schedule of the Act. With the latest additions, the number of designated individual terrorists under the law has risen to 80.

8 Suspended Over

have been identified as Fazil Imran Saddiqui, Coordinator Library, Samagra Shiksha; Gurjeet Singh, Assistant Coordinator, Samagra Shiksha; Sanjeev Sharma, Principal GHSS, Kore Pannu; Shazia Kouser, Academic Officer, SCERT Jammu; Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir, Lecturer BHSS Wathooru Budgam; Niranjan Sharma, Lecturer GHSS Badhat Kishtwar; Renu Mengi, Lecturer DIET Jammu; and Rajmohini, Lecturer GCHSS Poonch.

During the period of suspension, they shall remain attached with the administrative department of the School Education Department, the order said.

According to the order, Sheikh Suheil Ahmad, Computer Assistant (Contractual) assisting the Coordinator Library, Samagra Shiksha is hereby disengaged with immediate effect from his contractual engagement, it said.

The LG also ordered an inquiry into the matter. "Keeping in view the seriousness of the matter and misconduct of the aforementioned officials, it is ordered that Ashwani Kumar, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Power Development Department is appointed as Inquiry Officer to conduct an enquiry into the matter," the order said.

Mr Rohit Sharma, Additional Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department is appointed as the Presenting Officer in the case, it said.

The inquiry officer shall submit his report to the competent authority within 30 days, the order added.

The LG also ordered that the aforementioned authors and publishers are hereby banned and blacklisted, henceforth, in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Furthermore, any printed material authored or published by them shall also be withdrawn from Jammu and Kashmir, the order said.

The controversy erupted after political parties raised objections over the content of the book.

The BJP alleged that the books glorify terrorists, separatists and stone-pelters and demanded an immediate ban on them and the sacking of J-K Education Minister Sakeena Itoo.

Calling the issue a criminal matter rather than merely an academic lapse, Leader of Opposition in J-K Assembly Sunil Sharma alleged it was a part of "academic jihad" intended to poison young minds to revive separatism by using the education system to propagate a Pakistan-sponsored narrative.

Sharma said the book "glorifies convicts, murderers, terrorists, separatists, and stone-pelters".

"It is deeply regrettable that the Jammu and Kashmir Education Department has distributed this book to schools under the logo of the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. This is a grave offence," the BJP leader said.

He alleged that the publications promoted an anti-national narrative and demanded their immediate withdrawal.

The Congress demanded a high-level probe into the distribution of the controversial book, allegedly glorifying separatist leaders and terrorists, to government schools in Jammu and Kashmir under the Samagra Shiksha Mission.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) demanded an immediate ban on the books.

"There is no place for such mischief... if the book carries objectionable content as being learnt, a high-level probe should be conducted to identify the culprits who allowed the book to be supplied to schools and government institutions," JKPCC chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said in a statement issued here.

He said the book should be banned till completion of the inquiry. "The conspiracy behind the publication of the book needs to be exposed."

The Jammu and Kashmir Peoples' Forum (JKPF) in Jammu also claimed the books glorified separatist leaders and terrorists by portraying them as "great personalities" and "legends" of Jammu and Kashmir.

Millions Turn Out

senior clerics, academics, resistance leaders and official delegations from scores of countries.

According to the National Headquarters for the Farewell and Funeral Ceremonies, dozens of foreign delegations participated in the opening events, ranging from heads of state and government to ministers, special envoys and parliamentary leaders.

Iman Attarzadeh, spokesperson for the organising committee, said preparations for the ceremonies had begun immediately after Ayatollah Khamenei was killed but were delayed because of wartime security conditions.

Throughout every stage of the journey, the coffin of the late leader will be accompanied by those of four members of his family, including the tiny coffin of his 14 month old granddaughter, who were killed in the same attack.

The first public ceremonies are being held at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla on July 4 and 5 before the massive funeral procession through the Iranian capital on July 6.

From Tehran, the funeral will move to the holy city of Qom before taking an unprecedented international turn.

On July 7, the cortege will cross into Iraq, where ceremonies are scheduled in the shrine cities of Najaf and Karbala.

According to organisers, the coffin will be carried through the shrine of Imam Ali in Najaf before commemorative ceremonies continue at the shrines of Imam Hussain and Hazrat Abol Fazl Abbas in Karbala.

The final stage of the journey will unfold in Mashhad on July 8, where Ayatollah Khamenei will be laid to rest near the shrine of Imam Reza after final prayers and a concluding public procession.

Observers here describe the cross-border funeral as unprecedented, linking the three holiest shrine cities of Shia Islam—Najaf, Karbala and Mashhad—in a single farewell journey.

Authorities say the massive public participation represents not only a final tribute to the late leader but also a renewed pledge of allegiance to the ideals of the Islamic republic.

Ayatollah Khamenei was assassinated on February 28 in a joint American-Israeli attack on his residence that also claimed the lives of several members of his family, senior officials and civilians.

The attack triggered a regional war that saw Iran launch more than massive retaliatory strikes against American and Israeli strategic targets across the region.

During the war, Tehran imposed restrictions on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, disrupting global energy supplies before the United States announced a unilateral ceasefire on April 7.

Now, more than four months later, Tehran has transformed into the epicentre of a farewell that political observers say will be remembered not only for its scale but also for its symbolism—a funeral stretching across borders, linking sacred cities and bringing together millions of mourners and international dignitaries in one of the most consequential public ceremonies in the history of West Asia.

146 J&K Schools

Jammu and Kashmir, MoE said that there are 1278 primary and 77 upper primary schools with single teachers in the UT.

MoE urged the Jammu and Kashmir authorities to undertake a detailed review and appropriate corrective measures, and ensure compliance with RTF norms at all levels.

Earlier in March, the Jammu and Kashmir government had said that over the past four years, nearly 3200 schools in the UT were either functioning with less than ten or zero student enrolment—leaving over 2500 teachers deployed in empty schools.

The figures were revealed in the Legislative Assembly that said 3192 schools in Jammu and Kashmir reported less than ten or zero enrolment since 2022 including 1494 schools in Jammu and 1698 in Kashmir region respectively.

The house in the March was also informed that 2518 teachers were posted in these schools including 1934 teachers in 1494 schools of Jammu division and 584 teachers in 1698 institutions of Kashmir region.

In 2024, it was reported that nearly 4400 government run schools were closed in Jammu and Kashmir owing to 'zero or extremely low' enrolment of students.

In the year there were a total of 23,117 government run schools in Jammu and Kashmir out of which 4394 were deleted from the UDISE data.

In 2024, the official figures had revealed that a total of 12,977 government primary schools were functioning in Jammu and Kashmir. However, after the merger, only 8966 primary schools were functional.

Similarly, 392 government middle schools, three high schools and one higher secondary were deleted from the UDISE+ list.

Overall, Jammu and Kashmir used to have over 28,800 government and private schools. However, as per the official figures, the count has reduced to nearly 24,00 schools. (KNO)

CWC Orders

directions, every school bus and van must be equipped with functional CCTV cameras covering the passenger compartment. The surveillance system must remain operational throughout the journey and recordings preserved for production before competent authorities whenever required.

Schools have also been directed to ensure that buses and vans do not carry children beyond the approved seating capacity and comply with all prescribed transport safety norms.

The CWC asked educational institutions to conduct regular awareness and sensitisation programmes on peer bullying, cyberbullying, ragging, emotional abuse, discrimination and conflict resolution.

Schools have been told to put in place an effective anti-bullying mechanism and a confidential reporting system to allow students to raise grievances without fear.

The circular also calls for periodic, age-appropriate awareness sessions on personal safety, body autonomy, good touch and bad touch, personal boundaries and online safety.

Students should also be sensitised about the importance of reporting any form of abuse to trusted adults or designated authorities, the Committee said.

The CWC directed schools to adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards harassment, intimidation or abusive behaviour by students against female teachers and women staff members. Appropriate counselling and disciplinary action should be taken in accordance with law and institutional policy.

Every educational institution has also been asked to constitute and operationalise a Child Protection Committee or School Safety Committee to oversee child protection measures, address complaints and periodically review safeguarding practices.

Schools have been directed to regularly engage counsellors or trained professionals for awareness and counselling sessions on child protection, mental health and emotional well-being.

The Committee also called for value-based education sessions and co-curricular activities to promote empathy, compassion, mutual respect, discipline and gender sensitivity among students.

The Child Helpline number 1098 must be prominently displayed in bold letters at school entrances, notice boards, corridors, staff rooms and counselling rooms, as well as on the rear glass of every school bus and van.

Reiterating the statutory obligations under the POCSO and Juvenile Justice laws, the CWC directed school authorities to report every suspected case of child abuse, neglect, exploitation or any offence against a child to the Special Juvenile Police Unit, police or other competent authorities without delay.

Failure to report such incidents would amount to a violation of statutory provisions and could attract legal consequences under applicable laws, the Committee warned.

Parliament Monsoon

13 August, 2026 for meaningful debate, discussion and decisions on issues of national importance," he said.

The last session ended in disappointment for the BJP-led NDA government as a Constitution amendment bill to implement reservation for women in legislatures in 2029 and increase the number of seats in the Lok Sabha was defeated in the Lower House.

Div Com Urges Registered Pilgrims to Stick to Scheduled Yatra Dates

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Saturday said that more than 26,000 pilgrims have paid obeisance at the holy Amarnath cave shrine during the first two days.

Addressing a joint press conference with IGP Kashmir V.K. Birdi, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, according to KNO, said the Yatra, which commenced on July 3 through the twin routes of Pahalgam and Baltal, has been witnessing a smooth flow of pilgrims amid elaborate arrangements put in place by the administration and the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board.

The Divisional Commissioner urged devotees to undertake the pilgrimage strictly according to their allotted registration dates to ensure seamless management



and avoid overcrowding.

Div Com Garg said comprehensive facilities, including accommodation, healthcare, drinking water, sanitation, rest shelters, disaster management teams, emergency response services and adequate lighting along the Yatra tracks, have been put in place to ensure a

safe, comfortable and hassle-free pilgrimage for devotees.

He said the administration is strictly adhering to the Supreme Court-mandated carrying capacity for the pilgrimage. "Online registration for the Yatra began on April 15 and registered pilgrims are being facilitated after completing all mandatory

formalities," he said.

The Divisional Commissioner, said that a number of devotees have arrived in Jammu and Kashmir without prior registration, resulting in inconvenience for both pilgrims and the authorities.

He urged such pilgrims to wait for their turn, reiterating that only those holding valid registration for their allotted date will be permitted to undertake the pilgrimage. Garg also clarified that 'the Tatkal quota' is limited and depends on vacancies created by registered pilgrims who fail to report.

Appealing to devotees who have reached Jammu and Kashmir ahead of their scheduled dates, Garg said they should undertake the pilgrimage only on the dates mentioned in their registration slips to facilitate smooth movement and effective

crowd management.

He also advised pilgrims planning to undertake the Yatra in the coming days to complete the online registration process well in advance to avoid inconvenience.

Div Com Garg said the administration, in close coordination with the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, security agencies and other stakeholder departments, is making every possible effort to ensure that the pilgrimage remains safe, smooth and incident-free.

Pertinently, Amarnath Yatra commenced on July 3 amid multi-tier security arrangements across Jammu and Kashmir. Pilgrims are undertaking the pilgrimage through the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route and the shorter 14-km Baltal route in South and Central Kashmir respectively.

MLAs Raise Constituency Specific Developmental Issues with CM

SRINAGAR: Several Legislators called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Raabita here Saturday and apprised him of various developmental and constituency-specific issues requiring the government's attention.

Among those who met the Chief Minister were MLA Bani, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, and MLA Banihal, Sajad Shaheen. The legislators highlighted a range of issues concerning infrastructure development, public services and other matters related to their respective constituencies.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the legislators and discussed the issues raised by them in detail. He assured them that all genuine concerns projected during the meetings would be examined on priority and addressed in a time-bound manner.

Reiterating his government's commitment to equitable development and responsive governance, the Chief Minister said that the concerns and aspirations of the people from every region of Jammu and Kashmir would continue to receive focused attention to ensure balanced and inclusive development. (Observer News Service)

Mughal Road Sees Unprecedented Tourist Rush

SRINAGAR: The historic Mughal Road, the picturesque highway linking Shopian in south Kashmir with Poonch and Rajouri districts of Jammu division, is witnessing an unprecedented influx of tourists and commuters this summer. The growing popularity of the scenic route has, however, brought into sharp focus the glaring absence of basic infrastructure and public facilities, prompting locals, transporters and tourism stakeholders to demand immediate government intervention.

The 84-kilometre road, renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, alpine meadows and historic significance, has emerged as one of Jammu and Kashmir's most sought-after tourist destinations. Every day, hundreds of vehicles carrying local tourists, families and adventure enthusiasts pass through iconic spots such as Peer Ki Gali, Dubjan and Alibad Sarai.

However, while the number of visitors continues to increase, commuters say the infrastructure has failed to keep pace with the growing traffic.

Officials told KNO that tourist arrivals on the Mughal Road have witnessed a significant rise over the past few months, particularly during weekends and holidays, as visitors from both Kashmir and the Pir Panjal region flock to the high-altitude destinations to escape the summer heat.

Despite being declared a National Highway nearly three years ago, travellers say the route continues to lack even the most basic facilities required for a safe and comfortable journey.

"The natural beauty is unmatched, but once you enter the road, you are virtually cut off from the outside world. There is no mobile network for long stretches, no emergency assistance, no public washrooms and very few places where families can stop and rest," said Shubay Jan, a tourist from Srinagar who recently visited Peer Ki Gali with her family.

Regular commuters said the absence of roadside services makes travelling on the highway particularly difficult in the event of mechanical failures or emergencies.

"The stretch between Hirpora and Peer Ki Gali is breathtaking, but if a vehicle develops a fault, there is no mechanic or recovery service nearby. Travellers are left stranded for hours," said Abdul Majid, a driver who frequently uses the route. (Observer News Service)

FDA Imposes Prohibition on Gutkha, Pan Masala & Tobacco-Mixed Food Products

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu & Kashmir, has issued a comprehensive ban on the manufacture, storage, transportation, distribution, and sale of all food products containing tobacco and nicotine as ingredients.

The order is issued by Commissioner FDA, J&K, who is also designated as Commissioner of Food Safety, J&K, in the interest of public health and in exercise of powers under Section 30(2)(a) & (b) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, in accordance with Regulation 2.3.4 of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011, keeping in view directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, and advisories issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Government of India.

The prohibition covers Gutkha, Pan Masala containing tobacco/nicotine, and all chewable or flavoured food products containing tobacco and/or nicotine, whether sold as a single product or in separate packages intended to be mixed and consumed together. The order

will remain in force across the entire Union Territory for a period of one year starting June 2026.

The measure aims to safeguard public health, particularly protecting children, adolescents, youth and other vulnerable groups from the harmful effects of tobacco and nicotine consumption.

The Commissioner has directed all Designated Officers, Food Safety Officers and enforcement teams across the Union Territory to intensify market surveillance, inspections and enforcement drives. Special focus has been laid on educational institutions, public places, transport hubs, wholesale markets and areas frequented by young consumers.

The Food & Drugs Administration has appealed to general public, educational institutions, civil society organizations, traders' associations and other stakeholders, to support the initiative and report any instances of manufacture, storage, transportation or sale of prohibited products to the concerned authorities through the Toll-Free Number 104, by email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in, or through the FSSAI consumer grievance portal, <https://foscoss.fssai.gov.in/consumergrievance>.

Ban Anti-National Book from Schools: Sunil Sharma



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Saturday called for an immediate ban on a book allegedly available in government school libraries, accusing the Education Department of allowing what he described as "anti-national propaganda" to reach students and demanding a high-level investigation into the entire approval process.

Addressing a press conference in Jammu, as per KNS, Sharma alleged that the book, Personalities and Legions of J&K, published by Paradise Publishers, contains material that glorifies separatists, terrorists and stone-pelters while presenting India in a negative light.

Calling the publication an assault on the education system, Sharma said such content has no place in academic institutions and accused those responsible of attempting to influence young minds under the guise of educational material.

"A book that glorifies separatists and terrorists cannot be allowed in government schools. It must be banned immediately, and every individual involved in its approval, publication and distribution must be identified and held accountable," Sharma said.

The BJP leader alleged that the publication was cleared by a committee constituted by the Education

Department before being supplied to government school libraries, raising serious questions over the functioning of the department.

Demanding a comprehensive inquiry, Sharma said the investigation should cover all officials involved in the approval process, including those holding senior administrative and ministerial responsibilities.

He also sought the immediate dismissal of the Education Minister, alleging that the department had committed a grave lapse by allowing the book to enter government schools.

Drawing a comparison with measures taken during the Lieutenant Governor's administration, Sharma said around 25 books carrying similar content had earlier been withdrawn or banned and urged the present government to adopt the same approach.

Responding to questions from reporters, Sharma alleged that the publication refers to individuals convicted or accused in terror-related cases as "martyrs" while ignoring the sacrifices made by security forces.

Reiterating his demand for strict action, Sharma urged the Jammu and Kashmir government and investigating agencies to immediately examine the matter and initiate legal proceedings against the authors, publishers, distributors and members of the committee who approved the book.

Minister Sakeena Announces New Projects for Nandimarg

Observer News Service

KULGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo visited Nandimarg in Kulgam district, where she held a Public Darbar to directly engage with the people and listen to their grievances and developmental concerns.

During the interaction, people from the area projected several developmental demands and highlighted issues requiring immediate attention.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the concerns raised by the public and assured them that all genuine demands would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo said that the present dispensation is committed to ensuring inclusive and equitable development across all regions.



She emphasised that public outreach programmes and direct interactions with people remain central to the government's approach towards delivering responsive, transparent and accountable governance.

The Minister urged the concerned departments to work in close coordination to ensure the timely completion of developmental projects and reiterated that the welfare and development of the people would continue to receive the highest priority.

Sakeena Itoo also highlighted various initiatives undertaken by the Government for the welfare of the people and outlined measures being implemented to ensure the holistic development of the region.

During her visit, the Minister laid the foundation stone for a road project in the area, which is expected to significantly improve connectivity and promote socio-economic development in Nandimarg and its adjoining villages.

Assault on Congress MLA Violates Democratic Norms: Karra

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra on Saturday condemned the alleged manhandling of Congress MLA Nizamuddin Bhat in Bandipora and urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to order an impartial inquiry and take strict action against those responsible.

In a statement, Karra described the alleged assault on Bhat by workers of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, reportedly led by Jalal Akbar Lone, the younger brother of Sonawari MLA Hilal Akbar Lone, as a serious departure from democratic norms and contrary to the spirit of alliance dharma.



He said political differences were a natural part of democracy but could never justify intimidation or physical confrontation.

Karra said the alleged involvement of workers belonging to a constituent of the ruling alliance made the incident more unfortunate and raised concerns about mutual respect among alliance partners.

The JKPC chief said he had written to Chief Minister Omar

Abdullah, seeking his personal intervention and calling for an impartial examination of the incident along with strict action against those responsible.

In his letter, Karra said elected representatives in the Union Territory were already functioning under a challenging dual-control administrative system and stressed the need for democratic forces to work together to safeguard the dignity of elected institutions.

He expressed hope that the chief minister's intervention would help restore confidence among alliance partners and uphold alliance dharma, warning that any recurrence of such incidents or attempts to justify them would weaken trust and goodwill within the coalition.

Cop Among 4 Killed In Two Separate Road Accidents

JAMMU: A Special Police Officer (SPO), his sister, and two more were killed in separate road accidents in Rajouri and Kishtwar districts, officials said on Saturday.

SPO Shubam Kumar and his sister Rainu Choudhary were travelling in a car which had a head-on collision with a bus at Bagnoti along the Jammu-Poonch National Highway in Rajouri on Friday, the officials said. Choudhary's husband Rakesh Kumar and daughter Swati Choudhary were also seriously injured in the incident and are undergoing treatment at a hospital, they said.

In another incident, a man and his son were killed and two persons were injured when a load carrier plunged into a deep gorge at Gulabgarh in Kishtwar district Friday. The deceased were identified as Anurudh Singh and his son Deepak Kumar, while the injured Sapoot Singh and Ravinder Singh were admitted to a hospital.

Minor Girl Raped In Kishtwar; Accused Arrested

JAMMU: A 12-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a youth in the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, prompting a manhunt and the subsequent arrest of the accused, a senior police officer said on Saturday.

Senior Superintendent of Police Naresh Singh said the accused was arrested by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) following the registration of an FIR under the relevant provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

He said a man lodged a written complaint, alleging that his granddaughter had been sexually assaulted.

The police arrested the accused, identified as Imran Hossain, a resident of Bhugrana Badhat, and further investigation is underway, the officer said. (PTI)

'Let's Connect': JKCPJ Organises Mental Health Session At Polo Ground Park

Jahangeer Ganaie

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Centre for Peace and Justice (JKCPJ) on Saturday organised Chapter 4 of "Let's Connect" at Polo Ground Park, bringing together participants for an engaging session focused on mental health, self-awareness, and peer support.

The session created a safe and

welcoming space where participants explored themselves through interactive activities while building meaningful connections with one another. The programme emphasised the importance of emotional well-being and the role of peer support in fostering resilience and community.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer

(KNO), participants took part in a series of thoughtfully designed activities, including Unique Introduction, Drawing a River, and the Ice Water Game, each encouraging self-reflection, communication, trust, and emotional expression. These activities helped participants better understand themselves while strengthening their ability to support others.

Artificial Light at Night Increases Type 2 Diabetes Risk: Lancet study

SRINAGAR: A growing body of scientific evidence has linked exposure to artificial light at night—including light emitted from mobile phones, televisions, tablets and brightly lit indoor environments—to an increased risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, prompting public health experts to advocate healthier lighting and sleep habits.

According to a recent study published in The Lancet Regional Health – Europe, accessed by KNO people who experience higher exposure to artificial light at night (ALAN) are significantly more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes than those exposed to darker nighttime environments. In contrast, greater exposure to bright natural daylight was found to have a protective effect against the disease.

The large prospective cohort study analysed data from more than 85,000 adults enrolled in the UK Biobank and followed participants for a median of 9.6 years. Researchers found that the association between nighttime artificial light exposure and diabetes remained significant even after accounting for factors such as age, sex, body mass index, diet, physical activity, sleep duration, socioeconomic status and shift work.

Issuing the advisory, Dr S. Muhammad Salim Khan, Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College Srinagar, said that maintaining a healthy light-dark cycle should be viewed as an important component of diabetes prevention.

"Modern lifestyles have dramatically increased our exposure to artificial light after sunset. This disrupts the body's natural circadian rhythm, suppresses melatonin production, affects insulin sensitivity and can contribute to elevated blood sugar levels. Along with a healthy diet and regular physical activity, adopting healthier lighting habits may help reduce the risk of Type 2 diabetes," he said. (Observer News Service)

Russia Warns of Iran's 'Thermonuclear' Sea Weapon

Trans Asia News

MOSCOW – Former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev on Saturday warned that Iran possesses strategic leverage capable of shaking the global economy, describing the Strait of Hormuz as Tehran's "nuclear weapon" and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait as its "thermonuclear weapon" in the event of a wider regional war. Speaking to journalists after returning from Tehran, where he represented Russian President Vladimir Putin at the funeral ceremonies of Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman said Iran had already demonstrated its power by disrupting shipping through the Strait of Hormuz during the recent conflict. "Iran has found itself another weapon instead of an actual

nuclear arm—one that is no less powerful, namely the Strait of Hormuz," Medvedev said. He noted that Tehran had shown its ability to influence one of the world's most critical energy corridors. "By blocking traffic, Iran has, of course, demonstrated its strength in that respect, and discussions and agreements are now focused on how this strait will operate going forward," he said. But Medvedev warned that Hormuz was only part of Iran's strategic arsenal. "I believe Iran has more than just this 'nuclear weapon' in reserve. It also has a 'thermonuclear weapon'—the Bab el-Mandeb Strait—which could come into play in the event of future military conflicts, creating a situation in which all oil shipments and other maritime traffic would effectively come to a halt," he said.



"I hope it never comes to that, but every country seeking conflict in the region should keep this in mind," he added. The Bab el-Mandeb Strait links the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean and serves as the gateway to the Suez Canal. Any disruption there, analysts say, would severely impact

global trade and energy supplies. Medvedev travelled to Tehran as President Vladimir Putin's special envoy to attend the funeral ceremonies of Ayatollah Khamenei and to deliver Moscow's official condolences to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. According to Russia's RIA Novosti news agency, the two leaders discussed expanding cooperation under the Russia-Iran Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement. Medvedev described Tehran as "a vibrant and rapidly developing city" that had left a positive impression on him. Reflecting on the recent conflict, the former Russian president said Iran had "passed one of the toughest tests with dignity" despite sustained attacks. He also launched a scathing attack on Washington, describing the US military strikes on Iran as "completely unjustified".

"The strikes were launched while negotiations were still underway," he said, calling the attacks further evidence of "a breakdown in international legal norms". Reaffirming Moscow's support for diplomacy, Medvedev said Russia continued to favour a peaceful settlement of Iran's nuclear issue. "Negotiations are always better than no negotiations," he remarked, while cautioning that securing a comprehensive agreement between Tehran and Washington would remain "extremely difficult". He said the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between Iran and the United States could provide a basis for future talks but acknowledged that not all political forces in Washington favoured lifting sanctions on Tehran. Medvedev also warned that

financing Iran's reconstruction after the war would pose a major challenge. During talks with President Pezeshkian, he said, both sides explored the idea of creating a "Platform of Sanctioned Countries" to coordinate efforts against unilateral economic sanctions. The initiative, first proposed by Iran several years ago, could eventually evolve into an international organisation bringing together countries such as Russia, Iran, China and other states facing Western sanctions, he said. Medvedev was among dozens of senior international dignitaries who travelled to Tehran for the state funeral of Ayatollah Khamenei, whose assassination on February 28 triggered a regional war that disrupted global energy markets and reshaped security dynamics across West Asia.

Messi Scores 20th World Cup Goal, Takes Golden Boot Lead

MIAMI GARDENS: Lionel Messi's goal-scoring streak lived on, and he made it look easy. His hopes of a second consecutive World Cup title also lived on — and that accomplishment was anything but easy. Messi's goal in the 29th minute was the 20th of his World Cup career, extending his record and moving him two ahead of France's Kylian Mbappé on the all-time list. It was the opener of what became a wild night, with Argentina escaping with a 3-2 win over Cape Verde in extra time against a huge underdog. Messi was pictured later at his media conference with a large bump on his head after apparently being hit with a knee during a collision with a Cape Verde player. "It hurts a little but I'm good," he was quoted in comments translated from Spanish about the goose-egg over his right eye. Messi — who now has goals in a record eight consecutive World Cup games going back to Argentina's run to the 2022 title — seemed relieved after the match, and lauded Cape Verde's



defense for giving his club fits. "We did good things," Messi said in his native Spanish, "and we have to correct the bad things." Messi has seven goals in this World Cup — one more than Mbappé in the race for the Golden Boot as the top scorer of the tournament — and has scored 12 times during his eight-game World Cup streak. He has been great, and Argentina has needed him to be great.

"For me, it represents a lot to be friends with him," said Rodrigo De Paul, Messi's teammate with Argentina and Inter Miami. "For me, friendship is one of the most important things that we all have and I consider myself fortunate to be there, to share these moments with him." And there has been no shortage of moments. Messi had the game's first good chance Friday, his all-world left foot sending a shot skidding across the goal mouth but outside of the right post in the 15th minute. After getting taken down, he had a 25-yard free kick three minutes later that was easily gobbled up by Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha. But the momentum was shifting, and before long, Messi broke through for a 1-0 lead. He timed his run perfectly on a ball played into the box by defender Lisandro Martinez to stay onside, controlled the pass and then lifted a shot over Vozinha's left shoulder from close range for his 124th international goal. Only Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, with 146, has more. Messi stretched his arms and pointed to Martinez, saluting the pass, before teammates mobbed him in celebration.

MD & CEO interacts with trainees at J&K Bank's Ladakh Football Academy

SRINAGAR: Reaffirming the Bank's commitment to nurturing sporting talent and creating opportunities for young athletes to excel, J&K Bank MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee interacted with the trainees and coaching staff of the Bank's Ladakh Football Academy in Leh. On the occasion, the MD & CEO also unveiled the official uniform of the academy in the presence of Chief General Manager Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat, Zonal Head Ladakh Tsewang Dorjai, Special Secretary to MD Tanveer Hussain, AGM (Sports/Culture) Bilal Ahmad kuchhay, Cluster Head Tsewang Dorjay and other senior Bank officials. Drawing upon his own experiences as a sportsman during his formative years, Amitava Chatterjee highlighted the transformative role of sports in shaping



character and building life skills. He said, "Sports instils discipline, physical fitness and keeps you focused on your goals. The discipline that you learn on the field must also reflect in your life beyond it. Sports also teaches you the importance of timing, perseverance, and commitment. Always respect your coach and value every lesson you receive, irrespective of the circumstances." "Talent alone is never enough. It must be refined through dedicated practice and proper guidance," he added. Reiterating the Bank's long-term commitment to

committed to playing the role of a catalyst in helping talented sportspersons succeed at the highest level." Speaking on the occasion, Chief General Manager Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat said that sports has emerged as a promising career avenue for the youth. He urged the trainees to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to the game and assured them of the Bank's continued support in providing the necessary facilities and infrastructure required for their development. Coach of the academy Ringzin Angdu expressed gratitude to the Bank's management, particularly the MD & CEO, for their unwavering support and encouragement. He assured the gathering that the players would leave no stone unturned in their efforts to excel and bring laurels to the academy, the Bank, and the region.

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