

KO Classifieds

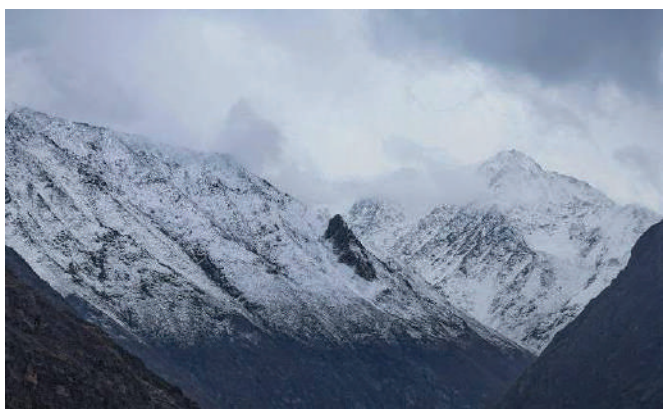
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Kashmir's Higher Reaches Get First Snowfall

Rain Hits Plains; Mostly Dry Weather Expected Till Sept 12



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The higher reaches of Kashmir received the season's first snowfall on Saturday, while several parts of the plains experienced brief spells of rain accompanied by hailstorms and gusty winds, signalling the gradual transition towards autumn.

Snowfall was reported from the mountainous areas around Zojila Pass, Gumri, Gulmarg and the Pir Panjal range. Fresh snow was also seen at Mahadev Peak, while reports of snowfall emerged from Kaobal Gali and Tulail Valley.

According to weather officials, the snowfall remained confined to the extreme higher reaches, generally around 3,900 metres and above.

"Snowfall today has remained confined to around 3900 metres and above. This was expected as the prediction for extreme higher reaches was already shared," an independent weatherman said.

He added that snowfall over the extreme higher reaches, even during short spells, can indicate the onset of autumn and the gradual withdrawal of the monsoon season.

Parts of Srinagar and adjoining areas received rainfall during the morning and afternoon, with hailstorms and gusty winds reported at some places.

According to the India Meteorological Department's evening weather bulletin, Srinagar recorded 0.4 mm of rainfall between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm. | [More on P6](#)

Books With 'Dispiriting Titles' No Basis For PSA: HC

M Ahmad

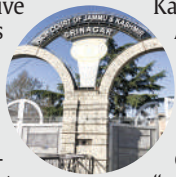
Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has held that mere possession of books with politically sensitive or "dispiriting" titles cannot, by itself, justify preventive detention, observing that an academic scholar may legitimately possess a variety of literary material as part of intellectual inquiry.

A bench of Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi made the

observation while quashing the preventive detention order passed against Shafat Maqbool Wani of Kupwara under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978.

The court noted that the grounds of detention relied, among other things, on the allegation that "anti-national literature" had been seized from Wani.

The literature included books titled "Construction of an Islamic" | [More on P6](#)



'Rang-e-Cinema'

135 Films From 40 Countries To Light Up Kashmir At Maiden IFFJK

Festival carries Rs 96 lakh prize purse across nine award categories

Global filmmakers to engage with local students through masterclasses and panel discussions

SKICC, INOX, Gulmarg and Dal Lake set to host a celebration of cinema and culture

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir is set for a four-day celebration of global cinema from Monday, with the maiden International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) 2026 bringing 135 films from more than 40 countries to the Union Territory from September 7 to 10.

Organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Government of Jammu & Kashmir, the festival will be held under the theme 'Rang-e-Cinema' and aims to revive the region's cinematic legacy,



promote local talent and create a sustainable ecosystem for filmmaking and film tourism.

Speaking to reporters, Joint Director DIPR Shahnawaz

Bukhari said the festival was an effort to strengthen the longstanding association between Bollywood and Kashmir and restore the

region's position on the film tourism map.

"The connection between Bollywood and Kashmir is a natural one and should be strengthened. The rise of Bollywood coincided with a time when films were extensively shot in J&K, but due to unfortunate circumstances, that activity declined. We are now trying to promote film tourism here."

Bukhari said the Government intends to institutionalise the festival as an annual event and develop it as a platform bringing filmmakers, industry | [More on P6](#)

Gulmarg, Dal Lake to add to festival experience

Gulmarg will also form part of the festival experience, with the administration seeking to showcase Jammu and Kashmir's tourism potential to

visiting filmmakers and delegates. The Gulmarg Development Authority has prepared a dedicated itinerary highlighting the resort's scenic beauty, adventure

activities, hospitality, local culture and tourism infrastructure. Special attention has been given to branding and beautification along the | [More on P6](#)

NCB Uncovers Twin Drug Routes Into J&K

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) investigations have exposed two key heroin trafficking routes from Pakistan into Jammu and Kashmir, with four major interceptions in the Jammu division over the past month resulting in seizure of more than 6.90 kg of heroin, an official said on Saturday.

The routes -- one directly from Pakistan through north Kashmir's Uri sector and the other via Punjab -- have emerged as key conduits for movement of heroin into Jammu and Kashmir, a spokesman of NCB's Jammu zonal unit said.

He said with the interception of four heroin consignments in the Jammu division over the past month, along with a linked follow-up recovery in Punjab, the NCB has seized a total 6.92 kg of heroin.

The spokesman said two of these | [More on P6](#)

Govt To Bring Resolution On TET In Assembly: Itoo

Says concerns of teachers will be addressed through appropriate institutional process

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Saturday said the Government will bring a resolution on the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) during the upcoming session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

The Minister made the announcement while addressing Teachers' Day celebrations held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) here.

Addressing teachers, educationists, students, senior officers and other stakeholders from the education sector, Itoo described teachers as the torchbearers of the nation and said their contribution extends beyond classrooms as they help shape the



character, aspirations and values of generations.

"Teachers are not merely imparting knowledge; they are shaping minds, nurturing values and preparing the citizens who will build the future of our society. Their role in nation-building is therefore unparalleled," she said.

The Minister said Teachers' Day provides an opportunity to acknowledge the dedication, commitment and sacrifices | [More on P6](#)

Terrorist Killed In Budgam Linked To 3 Attacks in 2024

LeT operative identified as Pakistani national; hunt for second terrorist continues



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The terrorist killed by security forces in the higher reaches of Yusmarg in central Kashmir has been identified as Yasir, a Pakistani national and operative of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), officials said on Saturday.

According to officials, Yasir was allegedly involved in at least three major terror attacks in

Jammu and Kashmir in 2024, including the ambush of an Indian Air Force convoy in Poonch, the killing of construction workers near Sonamarg and an attack on Army personnel in the Bota Pathri area near Gulmarg.

Yasir was killed by the Army on Friday during an ongoing operation in the higher reaches of Yusmarg. Security forces are continuing efforts to locate another terrorist, | [More on P6](#)

Scientists Probe Origin Of Kashmir's Resurfaced Wild Boars

SKUAST-K study to trace their origin, genetic links and spread across the Valley

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Scientists in Kashmir have launched a genetic study to determine the origin and population history of wild boars that have resurfaced in different parts of the Kashmir Valley.

Head of the Division of Wildlife Sciences at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Professor Khursheed Ahmed, said a sample of the animal has already been collected and genetic analysis will be conducted to establish its relationship with wild boar populations in Jammu and other parts of mainland India.

"We want to prove genetically whether their relatedness is with the main population, which is the population of

Jammu or the mainland of India, or whether their relatedness is with populations on the other side of Kashmir, beyond the Line of Control," Khursheed said.

The study comes amid growing concerns over the increasing presence of wild boars in the Valley, with farmers in several areas reporting extensive damage to agricultural and vegetable fields.

Wild boar is not considered native to Kashmir and was declared locally extinct in the region during the 1980s. According to Khursheed, the species was introduced in Kashmir during the reign of Maharaja Gulab Singh, particularly in forest areas around Dachigam National Park and adjoining regions for hunting purposes.

The species resurfaced in 2013, when | [More on P6](#)

After Setbacks, Kashmir Apple Growers See Fresh Hope

Early varieties fetch encouraging rates as growers look for sustained returns

Observer News Service

Srinagar: After a season marked by transportation disruptions and fresh weather-related challenges this year, Kashmir's apple growers have begun the new harvesting season with a measure of optimism, with early varieties fetching encouraging prices in the market.

Harvesting has so far begun mainly in the lower and relatively warmer areas of the Valley. Kulu apples are currently fetching around Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,400 per box, while quality Gala apples have also witnessed encouraging demand.

The early market response has brought some relief to growers, who are hoping that the trend will hold as harvesting expands to Kashmir's major apple-producing belts.

The optimism, however,



comes against the backdrop of a difficult year for the horticulture sector. Last year, disruptions to highway movement left growers facing losses as fruit consignments struggled to reach outside markets in time.

This year, orchards have also had to contend with repeated

hailstorms and other weather disturbances. Several areas of South Kashmir, including parts of Shopian and Kulgam, reported damage to apple orchards during critical stages of crop development.

The weather-related losses have added to the uncertainty for

growers even before the harvest began, making the early market rates particularly significant.

President of the Fruit Growers Association Kashmir, Basheer Ahmad Basheer, said the opening of the season was more encouraging compared to last year.

"Unlike last year, when the closure of the highway badly affected the movement of fruit and growers suffered heavy losses, the market this year has started on an encouraging note. The demand is good, and growers are getting reasonable returns for their produce," he said.

Basheer said growers were hopeful that the positive market trend would continue as harvesting progresses.

"We are hopeful that the market will remain stable throughout the season. If the demand continues and transportation remains smooth,

growers can expect handsome returns this year," he said.

For growers cultivating early varieties, the initial prices have offered some confidence.

A fruit grower from south Kashmir said Kulu apples were currently fetching around Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,400 per box, while Gala was also attracting good demand.

"The beginning is certainly better than what we witnessed last year. Kulu is getting around Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,400 per box, and there is good demand for Gala as well. We hope the rates remain stable when harvesting picks up in the main apple-producing areas," he said.

However, growers remain cautious about reading too much into the early prices. With harvesting still limited to selected areas, the broader market picture is expected to emerge | [More on P6](#)



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2

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK Ltd.

Zonal Impaired Asset Recovery Branch, Budgam

(Registered Office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A. Road, Srinagar - 190001, J&K)



TENDER-CUM-SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF HYPOTHECATED VEHICLE Sale by sealed tender with inter-se bidding

Notice is hereby given to the public in general that the vehicle described in the Schedule below, hypothecated to The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited and lawfully repossessed by the Bank in exercise of its rights as hypothecatee under the Deed of Hypothecation executed by the borrower, shall be sold by way of sealed tender-cum-auction on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" and "NO RECOURSE" basis, for recovery / part recovery of the outstanding dues of the borrower and the guarantors.

The sale is being effected in exercise of the Bank's contractual rights under the Deed of Hypothecation

SCHEDULE OF THE VEHICLE

Branch	Chararisharief, District Budgam
Name & address of the borrower	Mr. Mehraj-ud-din Sofi S/o Abdul Rehman Sofi, R/o Chararisharief, Budgam, Jammu & Kashmir
Description of the vehicle	Tipper — Ashok Leyland Ecomet 1212 E4/1 (goods carriage / transport vehicle)
Registration No.	JK04F-5657
Chassis No.	MB1AWGCD7KRG88528
Engine No.	KGHZ107127
Present condition	NOT IN RUNNING CONDITION.
Insurance	Effective up to 19-07-2027
Place where the vehicle lies / place of inspection	Premises of Zonal Office, J&K Bank Ltd., Zinakote HMT.
Reserve Price	Rs. 5,27,000/- (Rupees Five Lac Twenty Seven Thousand only)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 52,700/- (Rupees Fifty Two Thousand Seven Hundred only) — being 10% of the Reserve Price
Minimum bid increment (for inter-se bidding)	Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only)

SCHEDULE OF DATES

Inspection of the vehicle	On any working day from [08.09.2026] to [20.09.2026] between 11:00 a.m. and 04:00 p.m. on official working Days, at the premises of Zonal Office, J&K Bank Ltd., Budgam
Issue / download of Tender Document and Bid Form	On any working day up to [08.09.2026] (11:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m.) from the office of the undersigned or can requested over mail ID ZIARBD@JKMAIL.COM or www.jkbank.com
Last date & time for submission of sealed bids	24.09.2026 up to 04:00 p.m. at the office of the undersigned
Date, time & place of opening of bids and inter-se bidding	28.09.2026 at 02:30 p.m. at the office of the undersigned, Zonal Impaired Asset Recovery Branch, at zonal office Zainakote HMT Srinagar.

ABRIDGED TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Sealed bids in the prescribed Bid Form only, accompanied by the EMD, shall be entertained. Bids below the Reserve Price, bids not accompanied by the EMD, and conditional or contingent bids shall be summarily rejected.
- The EMD shall be tendered by way of Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque drawn on any scheduled bank in favour of "The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd., Branch ZIARC — A/c Mehraj-ud-din Sofi", payable at Budgam / Srinagar, or by transfer from any J & K Bank Branch to Account No. 1233090470000001 (OTS Parking account token money) with proof of remittance enclosed with the bid.
- Every bid must be accompanied by self-attested copies of the bidder's PAN card and a valid officially valid document of identity and address, and the Declaration-cum-Undertaking at Annexure-B of the Tender Document.
- Bids shall be opened in the presence of such bidders as choose to remain present. Where more than one valid bid is received, the Bank reserves the right to conduct inter-se bidding amongst the bidders present, in multiples of the bid increment specified above; the highest bid so received shall be considered for acceptance, subject to confirmation by the competent authority of the Bank.
- The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the accepted bid amount (inclusive of the EMD already paid) on the date of acceptance of the bid or not later than the next working day, and the balance 75% within 07 days thereof, failing which the amounts already deposited shall stand forfeited to the Bank without further notice and the vehicle shall be liable to be re-sold.
- GST, TCS and all other taxes, duties, cesses and levies applicable on the sale, and all transfer, registration, permit, fitness, and other charges, shall be borne by the purchaser exclusively.
- All arrears of motor vehicle tax, e-challans, compounding fees, parking and penalty charges and other statutory dues attaching to the vehicle, whether relating to the period before or after the sale, shall be to the account of the purchaser. The Bank neither warrants nor undertakes to discharge the same.
- The vehicle is not in running condition. The purchaser shall remove the vehicle from the Bank's premises at his own cost, risk and expense, including towing, and shall obtain such permissions as may be required for its movement.
- Intending bidders are advised to inspect the vehicle and satisfy themselves as to its identity, condition, quantum, encumbrances, statutory dues and title before submitting a bid. The sale is on the principle of caveat emptor. The particulars set out above are stated to the best of the Bank's knowledge; the Bank shall not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission therein.
- The Bank reserves the absolute right to accept or reject any or all bids, to negotiate with the highest bidder, to adjourn, postpone or cancel the sale, or to alter any term of the sale, at any stage and without assigning any reason.
- If the borrower and/or the guarantors pay the entire outstanding dues together with costs and charges at any time before the sale is concluded, the sale shall stand cancelled, and no bidder shall have any claim on that account.
- The detailed Tender Document containing the complete conditions of sale, the prescribed Bid Form and the Annexures form which are available at the office of undersigned and can also be downloaded or requested via mail shall be an integral part of this Notice and are binding on every bidder.
- This Notice shall also operate as notice to the borrower and the guarantors of the proposed sale of the hypothecated vehicle.

For further particulars, the undersigned may be contacted at Zonal Impaired Asset Recovery Branch, Budgam, on any working day between 11:00 a.m. and 04:00 p.m., Mobile No. 7006926551 e-mail ZIARBD@JKMAIL.COM.

Head / In-charge
Zonal Impaired Asset Recovery Branch, Budgam
For and on behalf of The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.

Place: Budgam
Date: 05.09.2026

Office of the District Sheep Husbandry Officer

Mini-Secretariat Ganderbal

Tele/fax No. 0194-2416040

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUPPLY OF LIVESTOCK

This office intends to establish sheep units under different schemes among selected beneficiaries for the year 2026–27. In continuation of the earlier Expression of Interest invited vide No. DSHOG/Tech/2026-27/1697, dated 20-08-2026, due to poor response, a fresh Expression of Interest is hereby invited from interested parties/Sheep Farmers for supply of livestock (both male & female hoggets) conforming to the specifications mentioned below.

S.No.	Sex	Species	Age	Wool Quality	Breed
01	Female /male	Ovine	1.5 -2.5 yrs	Fine white in colour without any coloured spots	Cross bred Merino or Cross Bred corriedale

Terms and Conditions

- Maximum age of animals shall be up to 2.5 years only.
- The minimum body weight of the female animals shall be 25 kg, while that of males shall not be less than 35 kg on live weight basis.
- The animals should be free from any diseases and physical deformities.
- The rates per kg live body weight shall be quoted inclusive breed value and transportation charges.
- The Department reserves the right to reject any Expression of Interest without assigning any reason thereof.
- The selected party shall be responsible for supplying the sheep units complete in all respects and as per the prescribed specifications.
- The Expression of Interest, complete in all respects and as specified above, shall be submitted to this office on or before 10-09-2026.

No: DSHOG/Tech/2026-27/
DIPK-5337/26
Dated: 05/09/2026

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Directorate of Handicraft & Handloom, Kashmir Office of the Assistant Registrar Industrial Cooperative Srinagar Kashmir Haat, Exhibition Ground Srinagar-190001

Subject: Notice to Defunct/Non-Functional Cooperatives regarding their whereabouts and functioning.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that the whereabouts and present status of the below listed Cooperatives registered with the Department under the jurisdiction of the undersigned are not known. The said Cooperatives have apparently ceased to function and have not been maintaining regular contact with the Department/office concerned.

S.No.	Name of the defunct Cooperatives	Complete Address	Regd. No. & Date
01	The Raja Irshad Shawl Emb.IC Ltd.	Pati kurg Srinagar.	SRA-1995 16-09-2020
02	The Ahad sozni Emb.IC Ltd. Syedpora Srinagr.	Syed pora Srinagar	SRA-1996 16-09-2020
03	The Fiza Sozni IC Ltd.	Fisherman Hazratbal Srinagar.	SRA-2196 12.11.2020
04	The Shakul Alam Carpet IC Ltd	Babapora zoonimar Srinagar.	SRA-2231 12-11-2020
05	The Sheikh-ul-Alam Ari Works IC Ltd.	Mahjoor Nagar Srinagar.	SRA-2471 01-01-2021
06	The Ibtida Paper Machi IC Ltd.	MotiMohalla Dal Srinagar.	SRA-2493 01-01-2021
07	The Guli Wilayat Paper Machi IC Ltd.	Baghwan Pora Srinagar.	SRA-2494 01-01-2021
08	The Wanity Crewel Emb. IC Ltd.	Rampora Srinagar.	SRA-3006 29.07.2021
09	The Khan Crewel Craft IC Ltd.	Rathpora Srinagar.	SRA-3395 14.01.2022
10	The Golden Valley Crewel Emb. IC Ltd.	Lasjan Srinagar.	SRA-3862
11	The Sabzar Sozni Emb. IC Ltd.	Chattabal Srinagar.	SRA-3973
12	The Kashani H/C Crewel Emb. IC Ltd.	Arabal Shalimar Srinagar.	RIC/K/4759 15-09-2022
13	The Madiha Crewel Emb. IC Ltd.	Abikarpura khayam Srinagar.	RIC/K/5450 01.04.2023
14	The Max Sozni Emb. IC Ltd.	Malikpora Panzinara Srinagar	RIC/K/5975 01.11.2023
15	The Beigh Carpets H/C I C Ltd.	Botakadal Srinagar.	SRA-1600
16	The New Leather Emb. IC Ltd.	Rozdan Bagh Chattabal Srinagar.	SRA-1621
17	The Royal leather Emb. IC Ltd.	Bagiyas Chhatabal Srinagar.	SRA-1623 11-07-20
18	The Lucky Leather Emb. IC Ltd.	Danawari Chattabal Srinagar.	SRA-1624 11-07-20
19	The Velley Leather Emb. IC Ltd.	Chanmohalla Chattabal Srinagar.	SRA-1630 11-07-20
20	The Like Leather Emb. IC Ltd.	Danawari Chattabal Srinagar.	SRA-1649 11-07-20

Accordingly, all such defunct/non-functional Cooperatives, through their existing Managing Committees, office bearers, members are hereby called upon to appear before the concerned Assistant Registrar Industrial Cooperatives office within a period of seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice, along with all relevant records/documents, and explain the reasons for their non-functioning and failure to remain in contact with the Department.

In case no response is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that the concerned Cooperatives have completely seized their functioning and have no objection whatsoever to further action being initiated under the applicable provisions of the J&K Self-Reliant Cooperative Act, 1999 and rules/regulations made there under.

Assistant Registrar
Industrial Cooperatives
Handicrafts Srinagar

DIPK-5367/26
dated: 05-09-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **SABIRA SAKEENA** D/o Molvi Mehboob Hussain R/o Hyderia Colony Lal Bazar, Srinagar, Student of Govt. College for Women, M.A. Road, Srinagar under Reg. No. CUS-23-GWC-10700 & Roll No. 2308979 (Session 2023-26) do hereby declare that my father's correct name is **MOLVI MEHBOOB HUSSAIN** but has been wrongly written as **MOLVI MEBOOB HUSSAIN** in my Provisional-cum-Character Certificate No. 2658 and Marks Card issued by Cluster University of Srinagar. Both names refer to one and same person i.e. my father and correct spelling is **MOLVI MEHBOOB HUSSAIN**. Now I am applying for its correction. Objection if any, may be filed before concerned authorities within 7 days.

Absent Advt.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as **ZEESHAN ZAMEER** While as my actual name is **MOOSA ZAMEER RAINA C/O ZAMEER AHMAD RAINA R/O AMROYEE KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193225**. Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

MOOSA ZAMEER RAINA

C/O :- ZAMEER AHMAD RAINA

R/O :- AMROYEE, KUPWARA

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **SAJAD AHMAD MALIK S/o MOHAMMAD SHAFI MALIK**, R/o Lasjan, hereby inform the general public that I intend to apply for a D-Class Contractor Card for AI safe constructions. Any person having any objection to the issuance of the said Contractor Card in my favour may submit their objection before the Office of the Superintending Engineer (SE), Pulwama/Shopian, within 03 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sajad Ahmad Malik

S/O Mohammad Shafi Malik

R/O Lasjan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **IQBAL AHMAD KHAN S/o SAMIR AHMAD KHAN**, R/o Babagund Mamoosa, Post Office Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that my name has inadvertently been recorded as "Mohammad Iqbal Khan" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3503-3427-8108, which is incorrect. My actual and correct name is "Iqbal Ahmad Khan". I have applied for correction of my name and for publication of the same in the Government Gazette. Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid correction may raise the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Iqbal Ahmad Khan
S/o Samir Ahmad Khan
R/o Babagund Mamoosa, Post Office Pattan
District Baramulla, J&K UT

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as **PARVAIZ AHMAD GOJER KHATANA** While as my actual name is **HAROON RASHEED GOJER KHATANA C/O AB RASHEED GOJER KHATANA R/O NAGSARI KALAROOCH KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222**. Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

HAROON RASHEED GOJER KHATANA

C/O :- AB RASHEED GOJER KHATANA

R/O :- NAGSARI KALAROOCH, KUPWARA

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as **HAFSA PARVEEZ** While as my actual name is **MEHBOOBA MUSHTAQ C/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD KHAN R/O HAYIHAMA PAYERPORA KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222**. Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

MEHBOOBA MUSHTAQ

C/O :- MUSHTAQ AHMAD KHAN

R/O :- HAYIHAMA PAYERPORA, KUPWARA

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **Peerzada. Altaf Ahmad**, Father of **Peerzada Naveed**, hereby inform the general public that the name of my son has inadvertently been recorded in the school records of My New School, Drugmulla, Kupwara, J&K as "Peerzada Hanan", which is incorrect. His actual and correct name is "Peerzada Naveed." I have requested the school authorities to make the necessary correction in the school records and all other relevant documents. Any person having any objection to the aforesaid correction may raise the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Peerzada. Altaf Ahmad

Father of Peerzada Naveed

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as **NAJMA AKHTER** While as my actual name is **NAJMA AKHTER C/O SAIF DIN MAGRAY R/O GULGAM KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222**. Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

NAJMA AKHTER C/O :- SAIF DIN MAGRAY

R/O :- GULGAM, KUPWARA

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name & DOB of my son has been wrongly written in his school records as **Peer Mohammad Hafeez Usmani**, DOB 22-07-2012 while his correct Name is **Peer Mohammad Hafeez** and Correct DOB is 22-12-2013. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Concerned School within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

mdl

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-0420140023693 issued in favour of **AJAZ AHMAD WANI** Parentage **MUHAMMAD MAQBOOL WANI** Whereas an application has been recieved by one **AJAZ AHMAD WANI** Parentage **MUHAMMAD MAQBOOL WANI** wherein he claimed that the Fathers Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as **MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL WANI** Which needs to be changed as **MUHAMMAD MAQBOOL WANI**. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS BEMINA, SRINAGAR

Attention Please

The candidate whose photograph is above reports that he/she has lost his/her qualification certificate/s having the following description:
Roll No: 416454.
Class: 10.T.H.
Year & Session: 2013- Annual Private
Registration No. N11460100060
Name: **SHOWKAT AHMAD TANTRAY**.
Father's Name: **GHULAM MOHAMMAD TANTRAY**
Mother's Name: **SARA BAGUM**.
D.O.B: 05-04-1997.
Residence: **ATHWATOO BANDIPORA**.
Now the candidate has applied for issuance of **DUPLICATE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE/S** before the case will be processed under rules, if somebody have any kind of objection. In this regard he/she shall approach the office of the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publishing of this notice after expiring date no objection shall be entertained.

Besides, the above lost "QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE", bearing S. No. 13 APK AM-200578 is/are to be treated as (CANCELLED). 13APKAM-200578.

Sd/-
Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD

No.: F(Certs)-I-DOC/B/KD//
Dated: 03-09-2026.

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SMC Launches Education Initiative for Children of Sanitation Workers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, on Saturday formally launched an education initiative aimed at supporting the academic aspirations of children of the Corporation's sanitation workers.

The initiative was inaugurated in the presence of Joint Commissioners, sanitation workers and their children and parents, besides representatives of participating educational institutions.

The programme seeks to facilitate scholarship-based coaching and academic support for eligible students, particularly those studying in Classes IX to XII and those aspiring to pursue competitive examinations such as NEET and JEE.

Speaking at the inaugural programme, the Commissioner said the initiative was rooted in the Corporation's recognition of the contribution made by its sanitation workforce and its responsibility towards creating meaningful opportunities for their children.

"Those who work every day to keep our city clean

deserve to see their children move forward with dignity, confidence and opportunity. Education can be one of the strongest pathways to make that possible. This initiative is an investment in the aspirations of the next generation," he added.

Faz Lul Haseeb said the initiative should not be viewed merely as an assistance programme, but as an effort to build a sustained ecosystem of opportunity, mentorship and educational advancement.

The initiative has been structured as a collaborative effort, with participating educational institutions extending academic support to eligible students. The Private Coaching Centres Association of Srinagar has facilitated the participation of its member institutions.

SMC will facilitate the identification and verification of eligible students through a transparent mechanism. The programme will cover students across Classes IX to XII as well as those preparing for NEET and JEE, in accordance with the prescribed eligibility and selection modalities.

DC Discusses Roadmap for Creating Sports Infrastructure in City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Saturday chaired a comprehensive meeting at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, Srinagar to discuss and formulate the Action Plan for 2026-31 under the Khelo India Movement for District Srinagar.

The meeting was convened to deliberate on a comprehensive and structured roadmap aimed at strengthening sports infrastructure, promoting greater participation in sports and creating sustainable opportunities for young and aspiring athletes across the District. Detailed discussions were held on measures to improve existing sports facilities, identify infrastructure gaps, create and upgrade facilities for priority sports, organise sports competitions, identify sporting talent and provide avenues for its systematic development.

On the occasion, the DC stressed the need for a coordinated and result-oriented approach involving all concerned Departments and stakeholders to ensure effective formulation and implementation of the Action Plan. He emphasised that the plan should focus on expanding access to sports facilities at the grassroots level, particularly in rural and underserved ar-

reas, while providing young people with adequate opportunities to participate in various sporting disciplines.

The DC also emphasised the need for strengthening and developing sports infrastructure in the Downtown/ Shahr-e-Khaas areas of Srinagar District, with a view to



providing accessible sporting facilities to youth in these densely populated areas.

He directed the concerned Officers to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the existing sports infrastructure and identify locations requiring new facilities, upgradation or renovation. He also called for proper mapping of sports facilities and sporting disciplines being practised across the District so that interventions under the Khelo India framework are planned in a systematic, need-based manner and unnecessary duplication of facilities is avoided.



SKICC Hosts Celebration as J&K Achieves Full Literacy Status

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has been declared a fully literate Union Territory under the ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, with School Education Minister Sakeena Masood Itoo terming the achievement a landmark in the region's educational journey.

Speaking at a Teachers' Day function at SKICC Srinagar, Itoo said Jammu and Kashmir had achieved more than 95 per cent literacy, which is treated as 100 per cent under the Government of India's prescribed norms.

She said J&K has become the largest State/UT so far to achieve the milestone and has secured 10th position nationally in literacy.

"This achievement is not merely a number or a statistic; it represents thousands of lives transformed through the power of education," the

minister said.

She credited the success to the coordinated efforts of teachers, volunteers, learners, field functionaries, educational institutions and district administrations, saying community participation had played a crucial role in achieving the target.

According to the School Education Department, 7.58 lakh non-literate persons were identified through door-to-door surveys between 2023 and 2026. Of these, 5.53 lakh learners qualified the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT), including 3,16,883 during 2025-26 alone.

Itoo said the government would now focus on ensuring that the gains made under the literacy programme translate into lifelong learning, digital literacy, vocational skills and financial awareness.

On the occasion, the minister also inaugurated several educational

initiatives under Samagra Shiksha aimed at strengthening infrastructure and improving learning outcomes.

These included 460 civil works worth Rs 38 crore for upgrading school infrastructure, 2,403 vocational laboratories in high and higher secondary schools to equip students with employable skills, and the Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) in Srinagar.

The VSK is intended to facilitate real-time, data-driven monitoring of learning outcomes in line with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020.

The event was attended by Director Samagra Shiksha J&K Bhawani Rakwal, Director School Education Jammu Naseem Javaid Choudhary, Director School Education Kashmir Naseer Ahmad Wani, senior officials of the Education Department, besides a large gathering of teachers and students.

CM's Advisor Meets Public Delegations

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani on Saturday met with several delegation and individual citizens at the Chief Minister's Public Service and

Outreach Office 'Raabita' in Srinagar.

The visiting groups included local citizens, employee associations and individuals. They brought forward issues related to development, media, land and revenue records, employment and service-related matters.

The Advisor took up these matters with the concerned authorities to ensure these are resolved without delay.

Highlighting the government's focus on public welfare, the Advisor stated that the present government under the leadership of the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is paying attention to every grievance, big or small. He assured the public that all genuine demands will be resolved within the shortest possible time

SKUAST-K Promotes Sustainable Livelihoods, Urban Farming around Dal Lake

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Srinagar, SKUAST-Kashmir, launched a first-of-its-kind outreach campaign around Dal Lake to explore sustainable livelihood and urban farming opportunities for peri-urban and Dal-dwelling farming communities. The initiative focused on technical support, entrepreneurial skill development, awareness generation and access to quality farm inputs to enhance farm incomes and promote self-reliant livelihoods.

The outreach campaign was undertaken as part of KVK Srinagar's commitment to strengthening resilient livelihoods and empowering farming communities at the grassroots level under its mission, "No Village Too Remote, No Farmer Left Behind."

Office of the Executive Engineer, Electric Division- Ist, Srinagar.

Email: xen-ed1@jk.gov.in Tel No. 0194-2452079 Fax No.0194-2452079

e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE
e-NIT No. 038/EDI, dt:03.09.2026

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), the Tender Floating Authority, as specified in clause 1 of BDS, invites e-bids from reputed Contractors having Valid A-Class Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspector of J&KPDCL/Relevant issuing authority/ registered Firms/Bidders enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/GEM, for the works as specified in clause 2 of BDS (Bid Data Sheet).

S.No	Particulars	Per Unit Cost	Tender Value (In Lacs)
1	Maintenance and repair of LT ABC system under the jurisdiction of ED I KPDCL.	Rs 3753/-	Rs. 7.70

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/Sale of Bid Document (Start)	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 03-09-2026; 16:00 PM
B	Clarification start date	03-09-2026; 16:30 Hours
C	Clarification End date	22-09-2026; 16:30 Hours
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	03-09-2026; 16:30 Hours
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	24.09.2026; 16:30 Hours
F	Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along-with Original Copy of e-tender fee, Instruments and other supporting documents)	Required for L1 bidders only & to be submitted on or one day after opening of financial e-bid.
G	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	25-09-2026; 12:00 Hours
H	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
I	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	Office of Executive Engineer ED-I, Sgr.
J	Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/ receipt to be up-loaded with e-tender)	Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only).
H	EMD	Rs.15400/= (Rupees Fifteen thousand four Hundred Only)

DIPK-NB-1555/26
dated: 05-09-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer Electric
Division 1st, Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Malik Basina Bilal, D/o Bilal Ahmad Malik, R/o Malikpora Monghall, Anantnag, hereby notify that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as "Basina Bilal", whereas my correct name is "Malik Basina Bilal." Any person having any objection may file the same before the General Manager, Ranbir Government Press, Jammu, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

Malik Basina Bilal
D/o Bilal Ahmad Malik
R/o Malikpora Monghall,
Anantnag

INF

NORTHERN RAILWAY		
E-Auction Notice		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:		
S.N.	Catalogue No.	Name of Contract
Date of Auction: 15.09.2026		
1	EAFZR-ADVT26-21	Allotment of Commercial Advertisement rights through Factory Fitted LED TV screens in all coaches of Train no. 22488/22487 Vande Bharat Express.
Date of Auction: 22.09.2026		
2	EAFZR-CTG26-10	Allotment of Catering Stall on contract at Khemkaran, Kotkapura, Fazilka, and Makhu Railway Stations.
3	EAFZR-MIS26-19	a) Setting up and operation of Travel Help Desk at Amritsar Railway Station.
		b) Setting up and operation of Water Vending Machines at Amritsar, Dhandari Kalan, Phagwara & Firozpur Cantt. Railway station.
		c) Setting up and operation of Food Van at Ludhiana Railway premises adjoining to wall of Jagroan Bridge in Colony No. 10 and small food van near TTE Rest house at Ludhiana Railway Station.
Date of Auction: 23.09.2026		
4	EAFZR-CTG26-11	Allotment of Catering Stall on contract at Tarn Taran, Sahnewal, Gangsar Jaito, Goneana Bhai Jagta, Phagwara, Moga, Jagroan, Verka, Firozpur City, Kotkapura, Chheherta/2 Railway Stations.
5	EAFZR-MPS26-6	Allotment of multi-purpose stall (MPS) at Amritsar and Phagwara Railway Stations.
Date of Auction: 24.09.2026		
6	EAFZR-ADVT26-22	Advertisement rights through Vinyl wrapping on exterior of coaches of Train No. 14680/79/82/81, 14622/21/26/25 & 20424/23.
7	EAFZR-PnU26-10	Operation and maintenance of Pay & Use Toilet blocks at Batala, Muktsar & Kotkapura Railway Stations.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website: www.ireps.gov.in		
No. NR-FZR0COML(NFR)/18/2024 Date: 04.09.2026		3054/2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE		

A Nation in Two Stanzas

The push to sing all six stanzas of Vande Mataram at official events revives an old argument about what patriotism can fairly demand from a citizen.



Farooq Ahmad Khan



Let the complete Vande Mataram remain Bankim's, and the complete Tarana-e-Hindi remain Iqbal's, safe on the page exactly as written. When citizens of different faiths stand together, let them sing what brings them into the same room. A national song should ask for a citizen's love. It has no business asking for his faith.

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's Vande Mataram grew far beyond the novel in which it first appeared, becoming a powerful voice of the freedom struggle and a lasting part of the country's collective memory.

As a song that belongs to the whole nation, the question of which version Indians should sing together calls for accommodation rather than religious or political assertion.

The Congress Working Committee reached that answer once already, in 1937.

Objections had come in about parts of the poem, and the committee drew a line inside it.

The opening two stanzas describe the motherland through rivers, harvests, breezes and moonlight, images any citizen can embrace without hesitation. The stanzas that come after move into different territory, addressing the country through the figures of Hindu goddesses.

The committee's solution was to confine national renditions to the first two stanzas.

Rabindranath Tagore, who gave the poem its tune, recognized the same divide. None of this insulted Bankim or diminished the poem. It simply acknowledged that India holds more than one faith inside it.

On 24 January 1950, Rajendra Prasad brought that settlement into the Constituent Assembly itself, declaring that Vande Mataram would stand equal in honour to Jana Gana Mana because of the part it had played in winning independence.

That honour rested on what the country could sing together, rather than on forcing agreement with all of the poem's imagery.

A recent move toward reciting the full six-stanza version at official occasions has reopened a settlement that had held for decades.

The question raised by that move goes beyond

who loves the song more fiercely. It asks what a national song may fairly ask of the person singing it.

Love of the country, and nothing beyond that, seems the only defensible answer.

A Muslim citizen should not have to voice Hindu religious imagery to prove that love. A Hindu citizen should not be expected to voice a line from another patriotic work if he reasonably hears in it a celebration of conquest.

The principle has to run in both directions or it is not a principle at all.

Muhammad Iqbal's Tarana-e-Hindi, known everywhere by its first line, Sare jahan se achha Hindostan hamara, holds one of the clearest statements of shared belonging ever written in Urdu: religion teaches no hostility between us, we are Indians, and Hindustan is our homeland.

Millions sing those words without a second thought.

The same poem contains a stanza addressed to the Ganga, asking whether the river remembers the day "our caravan" came down to its banks.

Iqbal never says who travelled in that caravan. Some readers hear in the line an echo of invasion, but the evidence leaves the poet's meaning open to interpretation.

Treating one reading as settled fact risks putting words into the bard's mouth.

But the uncertainty itself teaches something useful. If a Hindu reader hears an old wound in those words and would rather leave them out of a rendition sung by everyone, the poem loses nothing by the omission.

It remains whole in the book, while being spared the burden of speaking for people it was never written to represent.

Apply that same reasoning to Vande Mataram and the current dispute resolves itself without any-one surrendering anything genuine.

Sing the first two stanzas together, as settled in 1937 and confirmed in 1950. Where Tarana-e-Hindi is sung as a shared anthem, sing the stanzas that hold everyone rather than the one that unsettles some.

Bankim's complete work stays untouched in libraries and literary history. Iqbal's does too. A poem belongs entirely to the poet who wrote it. A national rendition belongs to the nation that sings it, and the nation is entitled to choose which parts it sings in common.

India has no shortage of people willing to love their country. What needs watching is the temptation to turn that love into a test, with one citizen deciding which words prove another's loyalty.

A Hindu who accepts a Muslim's unease with devotional verses loses nothing of his own belief. A Muslim who accepts a Hindu's unease with a line that might recall conquest loses nothing of his.

Both walk away with a firmer, shared claim on the same country.

National symbols grow strongest through voluntary embrace, rather than through instructions about which verses to sing on command.

Let the complete Vande Mataram remain Bankim's, and the complete Tarana-e-Hindi remain Iqbal's, safe on the page exactly as written. When citizens of different faiths stand together, let them sing what brings them into the same room.

A national song should ask for a citizen's love. It has no business asking for his faith.

The author is an advocate practising the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Srinagar. He can be reached at advofarooqahmadkhan@gmail.com.

The River Hasn't Forgotten

We can cover a stream and build over its banks, but water retains an older map of the land.



Dr. Ashraf Zainabi

A stream does not forget where it once ran.

Long before a road was laid over it, and a shop opened on its old bank, the ground still holds the memory of that channel, the slight dip, the softer soil, and the place where rain used to gather and move on.

Then a storm comes, heavier than the ones the calendar had prepared for, and the water goes looking for its old bed. Sometimes it finds a living room instead.

This is the pattern that repeats from the Himalayan foothills to the American West, and it is worth stating plainly at the outset: heavy rainfall is not the disaster.

The disaster is what we built in its path.

A torrent moving through an empty gully is a hydrological event. The same torrent moving through a crowded settlement becomes a catastrophe, and the difference has less to do with the water than with what stood in front of it.

Floodplains, wetlands, seasonal streams and mountain gullies form a landscape's own drainage system, built over centuries with far more precision than any engineer could manage in a season.

We have chosen, again and again, to treat that system as spare land.

Wetlands get filled, streams get covered and turned into underground drains, riverbanks get lined with houses, and roads cut straight across drainage channels as though the water had agreed to stop coming.

Climate change complicates this, as warmer air holds more moisture, rainfall grows more intense, and steep mountain slopes convert that rain into fast, violent runoff before anyone has time to react.

But blaming the climate lets planning off too easily.

Building inside a river's active floodplain was risky before the atmosphere changed, and it remains risky regardless of what caused the rain.

What makes this so hard to accept is that the knowledge already exists.

Flood maps sit in government offices, old flood marks are stamped on stone walls, satellite images show the ghost outlines of channels now paved over, and elders in a village can point to where the water used to come.

None of this stops the next building permit.

Land is scarce, enforcement is inconsistent, and a shop



A flood happens in an afternoon. The disaster behind it is built over years, permission by permission, road by road. Nature keeps its record. We are the ones who keep losing ours.

with paying customers today feels more real than a flood that might come once in thirty years.

That thirty-year gap is where memory dies.

A river floods a stretch of land once in a generation, and by the time the water returns, houses have been built there, roads paved, shops opened.

We call the flood unprecedented. The location of the water is not unprecedented at all.

Engineering has its uses but its own honest limits. Embankments can be raised, but water can overtop them. Culverts can be enlarged, but once their capacity is exceeded the road above becomes a temporary dam. A wall protecting one neighbourhood can simply push the same water toward the next one downstream.

None of this is a substitute for staying out of the water's own space in the first place.

The harder, cheaper fix is restraint: protect floodplains, restore wetlands, keep seasonal streams open, and stop confusing a wetland for wasteland.

Digital elevation models and hydrological forecasting can already identify these corridors with real precision, and building permissions could be tied to that data before the concrete is poured, not after the flood recedes.

Reconstruction after a flood is not the same as fixing the problem. Rebuilding in the same vulnerable spot only resets the clock on the next disaster.

The honest question is not how to control the flood but how to live near water without insisting it forget where it goes.

A flood happens in an afternoon. The disaster behind it is built over years, permission by permission, road by road. Nature keeps its record. We are the ones who keep losing ours.

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The Missing Hours of College

A campus can look crowded and active while students struggle to get the teaching, guidance and access to teachers they came for.



Palveen Kour

A college auditorium can fill up in an afternoon. A notice goes out, attendance is tied to a fest or seminar, and by two o'clock the hall is packed with young people who never chose to be there.

Administrators call it participation, but many students see it as a tax on their time, paid with hours they can scarcely spare.

That gets to the heart of the problem. Extracurricular activities have a place in college, but somewhere along the way, event attendance has begun to outweigh the education students are paying for.

For a student preparing for a competitive exam, three lost hours can mean the difference between a solved paper and an unfinished one.

Those hours belong to the student, and colleges should think twice before taking them away.

Behind many of these students is a household that has spent years assembling the money for a semester's fees.

Not all families can absorb the daily cost of transport without feeling it. Consider what it means for such a student to travel a long distance, hand over money the family can barely part with, and then find the classroom empty because the teacher never came.

There is no line item for that loss. It leaves the student with less money, less time, and the sense that the sacrifice behind their seat went unnoticed.

If a student's presence is re-

corded down to the missed lecture, a teacher's absence should be recorded with the same discipline.

Classes are cancelled, students wait, and no one tallies the academic hours that disappear as a result. No one accounts for the students who arrived from distant villages only to discover that the reason they came never happened.

Then examinations approach, and the institution transforms.

Internals and externals bring multiple panels, students sorted by roll number, viva schedules built with real precision.

The same administration that could not guarantee a functioning classroom in October produces, in April, a machine built for evaluation.

Where was that precision when students were confused in the middle of the semester and ask-

when a student needed one.

Part of the problem is structural. Students are often told to route their doubts through a class representative rather than approach a teacher directly.

A CR can carry a general grievance to a department, but a doubt is personal, and not every student wants to explain their confusion to a classmate before they can explain it to the person meant to resolve it.

Some fear being laughed at for a question that feels too basic.

What they need is a direct channel: fixed consultation hours, an academic email, some confidential way of saying "I do not understand this" without an audience.

The day after Teachers' Day passed this year with the usual tributes, worth asking again what a teacher is meant to be.

The Guru Granth Sahib Ji



The same administration that could not guarantee a functioning classroom in October produces, in April, a machine built for evaluation.

ing, without success, for someone to explain the syllabus?

A student cannot absorb an entire term's material overnight because an exam date has been fixed.

Knowledge comes from the accumulation of ordinary classes, rather than from the sudden seriousness that appears once grading begins.

Somewhere in this arrangement, students stop being treated as people with unfinished questions and start being treated as figures who fill a hall or complete a headcount.

Institutions measure how many attended an event. Few measure how many classes were actually conducted, how much of the syllabus was finished on time, or whether a teacher was available

describes the Guru as a light that removes ignorance. The Qur'an treats teaching as a noble act. In the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna becomes the teacher who leads Arjuna out of doubt. The Bible's Rabbi explains and guides.

None of those traditions imagined a teacher as someone a student has to wait weeks to reach through an intermediary, while an auditorium fills on command downstairs.

The author is a Srinagar-based Biotechnology postgraduate student and the writer of three books. She also volunteers with NGOs, teaching children in rural Kashmir. She can be reached at palveenkour7@gmail.com.

The Civilization That Didn't Drown

Nepal's 2026 flash flood killed fast and in public. Four thousand years earlier, something bigger died slow and in silence, and that story should scare you more.



Muskan Shafi Malik

High in the Nepalese Himalayas, ice and rock gave way in 2026. A wall of mud, boulders and black water came roaring down the valley. Bridges vanished, roads disappeared, and generations of work were buried in minutes.

This is the environmental disaster we know. It is sudden, violent, and caught on camera. By evening, there is a death toll.

Four thousand years ago, a civilization far bigger than any Himalayan valley town met the same enemy and never saw it coming, because it never came at all in a form anyone could point to.

It just stopped raining the way it used to.

Harappa and Mohenjo-daro were the largest cities of their age, built along the Indus with grid streets, covered drains, and granaries that fed tens of thousands of people.

This worked for centuries, because the monsoon showed up when it was supposed to and the rivers stayed where they belonged.

Historians used to imagine a single flood ending it all, one biblical wave closing over the rooftops. But sediment cores and pollen records tell a different story, and a harder one to accept.

The monsoon weakened, slowly, over generations rather than one bad season. Droughts stretched



over decades, rivers wandered from their old channels, some drying up entirely, and grain surpluses that had fed the cities and paid for their bureaucracies and their exchange routes to Mesopotamia and the Gulf shrank, then failed.

The people who built Mohenjo-daro did not fight off invaders or drown in a flood. They ran out of a climate they knew how to farm. So they left.

Slowly, over more than a century, families walked east toward the Ganges plain and south into Gujarat, following rain that still fell where it was supposed to.

The population survived, but the cities did not.

Public building stopped, and the script the Harappans had stamped onto their seals for a thousand years fell out of use and was never picked up again. Dense cities broke apart into small rural settlements scattered over a wider stretch of land.

A civilization ended, and almost nobody who lived through it would have called it an ending.

It looked, from inside, like one more hard year.

That is the part Nepal cannot teach you. There, disaster announces itself: a mountain gives

way, a village disappears, and the government counts the dead.

The Indus never had a headline. It had a hundred years of slightly worse harvests, slightly smaller granaries, and families deciding, that it made more sense to move than to stay.

Both disasters share a single root: unpredictability.

A society can farm a flood plain for centuries if the flood comes on schedule. It can survive a drought if a wet year is likely to follow. What it cannot survive is a climate that stops keeping its old promises.

Canals built for one rainfall history face a rainfall history they were never designed for. Roads and dams built into steep Himalayan terrain face storms bigger than the ones engineers planned around. Farmers place a bet at planting time, and the odds keep shifting under them.

Nepal shows this happening at the speed of an avalanche. The Indus shows it happening at the speed of a generation, which is why the Indus is the more unsettling story.

A flash flood forces a government to respond immediately,

A society can farm a flood plain for centuries if the flood comes on schedule. It can survive a drought if a wet year is likely to follow. What it cannot survive is a climate that stops keeping its old promises.

because bodies and wrecked bridges demand it. A weakening monsoon forces nothing. It lets a society drift toward its own end, with no single moment anyone could have declared a crisis.

Great river civilizations, from Mesopotamia to Egypt to the kingdoms scattered through the Himalayas, were built on a bet that rivers and rainfall would stay roughly where history had put them.

Move the river, thin the snow-pack, weaken the monsoon, and the empire built on top of it has to move too, whether or not anyone in charge admits that is what is happening.

— The author holds a Master's degree in History from Aligarh Muslim University. She can be reached at muskanshafimalik@gmail.com.

A Paradise Written for Empire

The notebooks of European travellers captured real suffering in Kashmir, while often turning the valley's troubles into evidence that native rule itself had failed.



Dr. Harjeet Singh

William Moorcroft rode into Kashmir in the 1820s carrying instructions to study horse breeding and assess commercial prospects on behalf of the East India Company.

He left behind pages describing snow peaks doubled in still water and meadows crowded with flowers, and pages describing villages stripped bare and peasants bent under demands they could not meet.

The contradiction was deliberate, and part of the method.

Moorcroft travelled with George Trebeck. Victor Jacquemont followed in 1831 under Company patronage, sent to collect plants and take the political temperature of the region. Baron Charles von Hügel and G.T. Vigne came after him, counting shawl looms, mapping passes, sizing up Maharaja Ranjit Singh's governors.

None of these men were tourists in the modern sense. The Company needed intelligence on Himalayan routes, on Tibetan commerce, on the worth of Kashmiri shawls, and it needed a picture of native rule that would justify what came next.

Britain and Russia were already circling the north-west frontier in the contest historians call the Great Game, and a valley this remote and rich, could not stay unmapped for long.

What these travellers produced

was not neutral description. Mary Louise Pratt gave this type of writing a name: imperial eyes, the gaze that classifies and ranks a place according to the needs of the observer's own government.

Read Moorcroft and Trebeck's account of heavy revenue demands that hollowed out weaving villages. Read Jacquemont's notes on governors who spoke casually of hangings, on a peasantry ground down to want. Read von Hügel and Vigne moving between admiration for the scenery and contempt for the men who administered it.

The landscape got poetry, and the people got a vocabulary of deficiency: indolence, fatalism, and an incapacity for orderly government.

Sikh taxation, a plain response to the military costs the state carried after 1819, became instead proof that the East could not rule itself.

Edward Said would recognize the maneuver instantly. A place gets called beautiful precisely so that the case can be made it needs someone else to run it. The contradiction sharpens once you set these Kashmir accounts beside what the same writers said about Punjab.

Ranjit Singh's rule there drew real respect from Europeans: his military discipline, religious tolerance, and hold on order. But cross into Kashmir and the tone turns dark. Same ruler, same administrative logic, but opposite verdict.

Geography and strategic appetite, rather than the facts on the ground, seem to have decided which version got written.

The silences tell their own story.

While these travellers recorded Kashmiri hardship in close detail, British India was burying its own dead by the millions.

The Bengal famine of 1769 to 1770 killed an estimated ten million people. The Agra famine of 1837 to 1838 took roughly eight hundred thousand lives.



Rigid Company revenue systems left cultivators with nothing set aside for bad years, and Bihar and the Madras Presidency saw comparable scarcity.

Official reports noted all of it, but the Kashmir travellers, so alert to local suffering, almost never drew the comparison. Native governance got condemned as a civilisational flaw, and Company policy got treated as an unfortunate necessity.

What was often local corruption and military strain in Kashmir got written up as something closer to national character.

None of this means the accounts should be thrown out. They remain the most detailed record available of the shawl business, revenue collection, what governors actually did with their power, and much of what they

describe was genuinely happening.

The 1819 conquest had ended a period of Afghan rule that oppressed the valley more severely still.

Walter Lawrence, writing later in The Valley of Kashmir, called Sikh officials tough masters but better than the Afghans they replaced. Chitrlekha Zutshi's Languages of Belonging goes further, pointing out that alongside real oppression, Sikh administration brought stability, functioning commerce, stricter welfare rules, and the abolition of forced labour.

She notes that Kashmiri and European writers alike had their own reasons to darken the picture.

Both things were true. Governors collected revenue harshly, corruption was common, and some villages emptied out. But trade routes also

stayed open, raiding declined, the shawl industry continued, and agriculture began to recover.

A traveller's notebook that records the first set of facts while erasing the second is drafting a memo.

The paradise on the page and the ruin on the page were never in tension. They were doing the same job, softening a place up for the hands that would eventually hold it.

— The author is an Assistant Professor of History at Lovely Professional University, Punjab. His writing explores the Sikh Empire, historiography, and the social, philosophical and cultural questions shaping our times. A native of Tral, Kashmir, he can be reached at aishring@gmail.com.

None of these men were tourists in the modern sense. The Company needed intelligence on Himalayan routes, on Tibetan commerce, on the worth of Kashmiri shawls, and it needed a picture of native rule that would justify what came next.

'OG', 'Dhurandhar': PM Peppers Speech With Gen Z Lingo

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday peppered his address with Gen Z-friendly phrases such as "OG" and brought in a reference to the popular film 'Dhurandhar' as he returned to Delhi University's Shri Ram College of Commerce, 13 years after his last speech there gained immense traction.

While "OG" (original gangster) is slang for someone who is incredibly exceptional, authentic or old-school, "Dhurandhar" means a stalwart.

"SRCC's alumni have been

very special... they took the glory of the college to the global level. If I put it in your language, the alumni here are the OGs," Modi said in his address at the college's centenary celebrations.

While praising the alumni, Modi further said, "Dhurandhar na ho lekin dhoom machai hei (They may not be the stalwarts, but they have made a splash)".

PM Modi's choice of words at SRCC comes amid a push by the BJP and its leaders to connect with younger audiences following the recent Gen Z-led protests at Jantar Mantar.



BJP MPs have recently used terms such as "FOMO" (Fear of Missing Out) and "delulu" (delusional) in Parliament, while the prime minister himself has increasingly been using Instagram-style videos for youth-oriented messaging.

Modi had visited SRCC in 2013 as the Gujarat chief minister and his address to the students gained a lot of traction, especially in the run-up to the 2014 Lok Sabha polls in which he was the BJP's prime ministerial candidate.

Modi said his 2013 speech at SRCC had "become a wave", and

even today, 13-14 years later, the impact of that address remains intact.

"India in 2013 was dealing with a series of challenges, including terror attacks, inflation and corruption. Growth was at its lowest and inflation was at the peak," he said, adding that scams and corruption were rampant.

He also recalled how India was described internationally at the time, saying that the country was being called a "fragile Five", while contrasting India's position in 2013 with its standing today.

"In 2013, when I came to SRCC, I presented a vision. Whatever I said back then was my conviction. I have always lived by those words. Dedicating my life to the nation was an emotion that took the form of words. I gave the example of a glass filled with water. Some people see the glass as half full. Some say it is half empty.

"I said there are people who can see the glass as fully filled, half with water and half with air. It was a time when the country was lacking hope. So I said, 'I see the glass as fully filled'," he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir's Higher

Pahalgam received 2.6 mm, Qazigund 1 mm, Kukurmag 1.2 mm and Gulmarg 7.2 mm during the same period.

Katra recorded no rainfall during the day, though 42.6 mm of rain was recorded there in the preceding 24 hours.

The showers brought down daytime temperatures across Kashmir.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 26.6 degrees Celsius, which was 1.2 degrees below normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 17.2 degrees Celsius, 2 degrees above normal.

Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 23.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 13.4 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg recorded 19 degrees and 7.6 degrees Celsius, respectively.

In Jammu, the maximum temperature stood at 32.7 degrees Celsius, normal for this time of the year, while the minimum was 23.4 degrees Celsius, 0.4 degrees below normal.

The weather system has now largely cleared the Jammu and Kashmir region. However, a brief spell of rain or thundershowers is possible at a few places on Sunday, particularly during the morning and afternoon hours.

The Meteorological Department has forecast mostly dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir thereafter till September 12.

The first snowfall over Kashmir's extreme higher reaches at this time of the year is regarded as a seasonal indicator, coinciding with the gradual transition towards autumn and the withdrawal of the monsoon season.

Books With 'Dispiriting

Order in Hindutva Reimagination and The Saffronization of Occupied Kashmir, Demystifying Hindutva Settlers, Colonial Designers."

However, the court found that the books had been wrongly attributed to Wani as having been authored by him. It further observed that Wani, being an academic scholar, could be expected to possess a variety of literary works and that possession of books with controversial or disturbing titles did not automatically make him a criminal warranting preventive detention.

"The alleged anti-national literature shown to have been seized from the detainee (Wani) has also presumably weighed with the respondents (authorities) to brand the detainee as an anti-national," the court observed, while holding that the material could not constitute sufficient justification for the detention.

The court also found no specific subversive activity attributed to Wani that could demonstrate a rational and proximate basis for invoking preventive detention. It described the assertion that Wani had developed separatist ideology since childhood merely because his father had been an ex-militant who surrendered in 1990 as "delusory" and said detention based on such an assumption amounted to an "unmindful exercise of power."

The court stressed that preventive detention requires the detaining authority to apply its mind to relevant circumstances and establish a live and proximate link between a person's past conduct and the imperative need for detention.

It further held that the grounds of detention must be precise, pertinent and sufficiently clear to enable Wani to make an effective representation.

The Court relied upon the Supreme Court's judgment in Ameen Begum v. State of Telangana, which lays down safeguards governing judicial scrutiny of preventive detention orders, including the requirement that the satisfaction of the detaining authority be based on relevant and rationally probative material.

The court ultimately quashed detention order dated September 13, 2025, issued by the District Magistrate, Kupwara, and directed that Wani be released from preventive custody forthwith.

135 Films From

professionals, academicians and students together.

"Our attempt is to bring Kashmir back into the frame. We would like J&K to become the film frame, rather than merely being a backdrop for films," he said.

The Joint Director said the festival had received an encouraging response, with around 1,100 films submitted from 92 countries. Following screening by the preview committee, 135 films representing more than 40 countries were selected for the festival.

The programme will feature screenings, masterclasses, workshops, in-conversation sessions, panel discussions, roundtables and cultural performances.

The main activities will be held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) and INOX in Srinagar, besides a dedicated one-day programme in Gulmarg. A floating cinema on Dal Lake is also planned as part of the festival experience.

Bukhari said the festival would provide local

students and aspiring filmmakers with opportunities to interact with established filmmakers and industry professionals through masterclasses and panel discussions.

"We want to connect the tourism potential of J&K with cinema and give our students and local talent an opportunity to engage directly with leading names from the industry," he said.

Masterclasses involving leading filmmakers and academicians will be organised at SKICC, while media professionals and professors from local universities are also expected to participate in panel discussions.

Students from universities will get an opportunity to engage with prominent filmmakers and industry professionals and gain exposure to various aspects of cinema and filmmaking.

Bukhari said the Government hoped to develop the festival along the lines of major international film festivals and make it an annual feature.

"Our attempt is to institutionalise this film festival every year, like the Cannes Film Festival in Europe. If we make sustained efforts, I am confident we can bring that kind of festival culture to India," he said.

The festival is expected to attract more than 300 delegates from different parts of the world to Jammu and Kashmir. Their participation is also expected to create opportunities for local professionals and emerging filmmakers to establish networks and explore collaborations.

The festival carries a prize purse of Rs 96 lakh across nine award categories. The Best Film will receive the highest prize of Rs 25 lakh, while Best Director and Best Debut Film of a Director carry prizes of Rs 15 lakh each. The Best Film - J&K Select award carries a prize of Rs 10 lakh.

The selected films will be screened under categories including International Panorama, Bharat Panorama, Cinema of the World, Documentary, Hybrid Documentary and J&K Select.

Gulmarg, Dal Lake

Narbal-Gulmarg stretch, besides sanitation, cleanliness, healthcare and emergency response arrangements.

The administration has also inspected Dal Lake to assess cleaning and aesthetic arrangements ahead of the arrival of filmmakers and guests.

Through the festival, the Government intends to use cinema as a platform to showcase Jammu and Kashmir's landscapes, cultural heritage, handicrafts, tourism potential and creative talent to a national and international audience.

Intern Doctors

concrete decision is taken by the government. They also warned that if their demand is not addressed soon, they may intensify the agitation and resort to a hunger strike.

The intern representatives who participated in the meeting have also appealed to the protesting doctors and the public to rely only on their official statements regarding the outcome of the discussions and avoid circulating unverified information.

AIMSA J&K President Dr Mohammad Momin Khan also sought greater transparency from the government regarding the discussions held with the intern delegation.

"Yesterday, you told the intern doctors' delegation to wait for one month. Why are you not stating the same thing publicly? Interns and the people of J&K deserve transparency and clarity," he said.

Meanwhile, CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam M Y Tarigami has written to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, urging him to personally intervene in the matter and ensure a time-bound resolution to the interns' demand.

In his communication, Tarigami said the ongoing agitation by MBBS and BDS interns over enhancement of their monthly stipend warranted the Chief Minister's personal attention.

He said young doctors and dental graduates undergoing internship form an important part of the healthcare system and often work long hours under difficult conditions while shouldering clinical responsibilities.

Tarigami said the interns' demand, as he understood it, was to bring their stipend in line with what their counterparts in other states receive and to account for the rising cost of living.

He further noted that the matter had reportedly been under consideration for some time, including at the level of the Finance Department.

"Given the hardship being faced by these young professionals, the matter be taken up on priority and brought to a decision without further loss of time," Tarigami urged.

He requested the Chief Minister to personally look into the matter and ensure that a fair and time-bound resolution is reached.

"A timely decision on your part will not only address a genuine grievance but will also reaffirm the trust of our young doctors and dental graduates in the Government," Tarigami said in his letter.

The stipend issue has emerged as a major concern among MBBS and BDS interns across J&K, who have been demanding revision of their monthly remuneration. The interns have maintained that despite performing regular clinical duties and contributing to patient care, their stipend does not adequately reflect their workload and the prevailing cost of living.

The protesting interns have made it clear that they are ready to continue their peaceful agitation but want a concrete and written decision from the administration. (KNO)

Terrorist Killed

identified as Musa, who is believed to be hiding in the difficult mountainous terrain.

The encounter site is located at an altitude of around 12,000 to 15,500 feet in the Pir Panjal range. Officials said persistent rain and extremely poor visibility, at times falling to around five metres, have complicated the operation.

Despite the difficult conditions, the area remains heavily dominated by Army and Special Forces personnel to prevent the remaining terrorist from escaping.

Officials said Yasir's presence in Jammu and Kashmir was first detected in 2024. Intelligence inputs indicate that he was part of a Lashkar-e-Taiba group involved in several attacks during the year.

On May 4, 2024, terrorists ambushed an Indian Air Force convoy near Shahsitar in the Surankote area of Poonch district. One IAF personnel was killed while four others were injured in the attack.

Yasir was also allegedly linked to the October 20, 2024 attack at Gangangir in Sonamarg, where seven people, including a local doctor, were killed by terrorists.

On October 24, 2024, Yasir and other members of the group allegedly ambushed an Army vehicle in the Bota Pathri area near Gulmarg. The attack resulted in the deaths of three soldiers and two civilian porters.

Officials said Yasir was associated with a terror group led by Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Junal Ahmed Bhat, who was killed by security forces in the Dachigam forest area on the outskirts of Srinagar on December 3, 2024.

According to the officials, Yasir had crossed north of the Pir Panjal range to meet Junaid. Following the Bota Pathri encounter, Yasir and another LeT terrorist, Musa, remained concealed in the Yusmarg and Pulwama belts.

They later moved towards the Jammu region south of the Pir Panjal range and returned to the Valley earlier this month, officials said.

The latest operation was launched after security forces received intelligence regarding the movement of a group of terrorists from Ashdar Gali in Poonch towards Pakherpora in Pulwama through the Yusmarg area.

Based on the input, Army units and Special Forces established an ambush along mountain passes at elevations ranging from 12,000 to 15,500 feet.

A cordon was put in place on September 1, while initial contact with the terrorists was established on September 3 at Ashdar Gali, a remote alpine ridge.

Officials said the encounter site is highly isolated and takes nearly five hours to reach from the Doodhpathri area of Budgam.

The Srinagar-based Chinार Corps had said on Friday that a joint search operation was launched by the Indian Army, J&K Police and CRPF based on specific intelligence inputs.

"Vigilant troops observed suspicious activity, and upon being challenged, terrorists opened fire, prompting a fierce exchange of gunfire during which one terrorist was neutralised and one AK rifle was recovered," the Chinार Corps said in a post on X.

Reinforcements have since been deployed across the higher reaches as combat operations continue to track down Musa.

Additional troops have also been positioned along the Jammu side of the Pir Panjal range to block possible escape routes and prevent the remaining terrorist from slipping out of the area.

Govt To Bring

of the teaching fraternity.

She said the Government recognises teachers as one of the most important pillars of the education system and is committed to creating an enabling environment where they can discharge their responsibilities with dignity, confidence and professional excellence.

Ittoo underlined the need for continuous improvement in the quality of education, strengthening school infrastructure, adoption of innovative teaching methodologies and greater focus on the holistic development of students.

She said the Government is working to ensure that children across Jammu and Kashmir have access to quality education and adequate learning opportunities.

Referring to issues concerning the teaching community, the Minister said the Government is conscious of the concerns being raised by

teachers and aspiring educators and is committed to addressing them through due institutional processes.

On the TET issue, Ittoo said the Government would bring a resolution during the upcoming session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. She reiterated that the concerns associated with the matter would be examined and taken forward through the appropriate process.

Calling upon teachers to remain at the forefront of educational transformation, the Minister urged them to encourage curiosity, creativity, critical thinking and ethical values among students.

She also emphasised the need to strengthen the connect between teachers, parents and communities, saying that a child's development is a shared responsibility.

Ittoo maintained that education must equip students not only with academic knowledge but also with confidence, compassion, discipline and the ability to contribute meaningfully to society.

Highlighting the changing nature of education, she encouraged teachers to make effective use of technology and modern pedagogical tools while retaining the human and value-based dimensions of teaching.

The Minister expressed appreciation for teachers serving in difficult and remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir, acknowledging their dedication in ensuring continuity of education despite geographical and logistical challenges.

She said the Government would continue to engage with the teaching fraternity and other stakeholders to strengthen the education system and address genuine concerns in a structured and time-bound manner.

On the occasion, Ittoo felicitated outstanding teachers for their exemplary contributions to the field of education.

Those felicitated included Namarita Sharma, Amol Sharma, Abhinav Gupta, Anita Rani, Jagat Dev Singh, Sandeep Kumar, Kulbeet Singh, Reyaz Ahmad Khan, Tawheed Parvaiz, Rabia Mukhtar, Gh. Mohd. Dar, Muzaffar Ahmad Wani, Javaid Ahmad Rather, Altaf Ahmad Bhat, Towfeeqe Ali, Showket Hussain Bhat (Lecturer), Dr. Sameena Wani (Principal), Badhar Singh (Lecturer), Shahid Qureshi (Senior Lecturer) and Anwar Khan (Principal).

She also extended her greetings to the teaching fraternity on Teachers' Day.

Speaking on the occasion, Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani, highlighted the vital role of teachers in building an enlightened, responsible and progressive society.

NCB Uncovers

operations were conducted in drug-affected slums, with the enforcement action targeting vulnerable pockets exploited for drug trafficking.

In the latest operation conducted September 3, the NCB intercepted a passenger bus near New Bus Stand, Samba, and recovered 522 grams of heroin from Aqib Bashir, resident of Kakapora village of Pulwama.

Pursuing the backward linkage of the consignment led investigators to Punjab's Ludhiana, where a follow-up operation resulted in recovery of another 197 grams of heroin, the spokesman said.

He said the twin Samba-Ludhiana operations resulted in seizure of 719 grams of heroin, while further investigation is underway to identify and apprehend other persons connected with the supply, transportation and intended distribution of the consignment.

The Punjab trail comes close on the heels of another NCB operation involving seizure of 5.16 kg of heroin from Jammu's Punjtirthi area.

Investigation in the case indicated that the consignment had originated from Pakistan and entered Jammu and Kashmir through the Uri sector. NCB pursued the trail beyond the point of seizure up to Leh, where the alleged supplier was apprehended, the spokesman said.

He said the two investigations have therefore exposed two different supply channels pushing heroin into the region -- one originating across the Pakistan border and another operating through the Punjab-Jammu and Kashmir corridor.

Additionally, as part of the sustained offensive on drug trafficking in the region, the NCB conducted two separate operations in drug-affected slums in Jammu and Samba districts, recovering 438 grams and 603 grams of heroin, respectively.

The spokesman said NCB's strategy is not merely intercepting drugs or apprehending carriers.

"Every consignment is being pursued backwards towards its source, forwards towards intended recipients and through its financial trail, with the objective of identifying and dismantling the entire trafficking chain. The Pakistan-Uri trail pursued up to Leh and the latest Samba trail pursued backwards to Ludhiana demonstrate this approach," the spokesman said.

He said further investigation is underway to identify the source, intended recipients,

financiers and other associates of these networks and to trace their wider interstate and cross-border linkages.

The NCB appealed to the public to join the fight against drug trafficking. "Any information relating to the sale, storage, transportation or trafficking of narcotic drugs may be shared on the MANAS National Narcotics Helpline -- 1933. The identity of the informant will be kept confidential," the spokesman said.

After Setbacks

only when arrivals increase and produce from the major apple belts begins reaching mandis in larger volumes.

The growers have urged the authorities to ensure uninterrupted transportation, adequate market facilities and timely movement of fruit outside the Valley.

They said sustaining remunerative prices would be crucial, particularly as growers continue to deal with rising costs of cultivation, labour, packaging and transportation.

"Good rates at the beginning of the season are encouraging, but what matters is whether growers continue to receive remunerative prices throughout the harvesting period. Smooth transportation and proper market management will be crucial," another grower said.

The weather remains another concern for the industry. Repeated hailstorms earlier this year damaged orchards across several parts of Kashmir, while prolonged dry conditions in August have also raised concerns over fruit size and colour in some areas.

For growers, therefore, a good opening market is more than an encouraging price signal. It could provide an opportunity to offset at least some of the losses caused by weather damage and previous market disruptions.

The real test, however, will come in the weeks ahead when harvesting gathers momentum across the Valley and larger quantities of apples enter the market.

For now, growers are hoping that the early demand for Kulu and Gala will translate into stable prices through the season, allowing Kashmir's apple industry to recover some ground after a series of difficult seasons. (inputs from KNO).

Scientists Probe

three wild boars were reported in Dachigam, nearly three decades after the animal was last sighted in the region in 1984.

The ongoing study will initially examine the genetic relationship of Kashmir's wild boars with populations in Jammu before assessing the population genetics of the species across the Valley.

"We are going to see the population genetics, whether the populations in the north and south, as well as those in between, are mixing or remain separate," Khursheed said.

The research could determine whether wild boars found across different parts of Kashmir belong to a single interconnected population or constitute distinct populations. It could also provide insights into gene flow, movement patterns and the expansion of the species across the Valley.

Khursheed said SKUAST-K recently initiated the study and the genetic investigation is expected to take around five to six months.

The university is also planning a population census to determine the number of wild boars currently present in Kashmir, as their exact population remains unknown.

Reports of wild boar intrusions have emerged from several parts of the Valley. In one such instance, widespread incidents were reported from Ajas in Bandipora district, following which the district administration consulted the wildlife department at SKUAST-K.

Experts informed the administration that the species was not native to the region and could potentially be declared "vermin" under provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, which would allow measures to control or eliminate the population.

However, Khursheed said a scientific assessment of the population was necessary before any such measures could be considered.

"If range expansion has happened, how it has happened and what are the factors responsible for this expansion, we have to study that also," he said.

He said wild boar is a fast-breeding species, with females capable of producing large litters. Camera-trap images have recorded as many as 14 young ones with a female, highlighting the species' potential to expand rapidly.

Experts have also suggested that rising temperatures could be among the factors facilitating the resurgence of wild boars in Kashmir. The species may previously have struggled to sustain itself under the region's traditionally colder climatic conditions.

The genetic study is expected to provide scientific evidence on the origin, genetic connectivity and expansion of the wild boar population in Kashmir and help authorities assess its potential ecological and agricultural impact

Div Com Seeks Coordinated Push to Clear Bottlenecks in Jhelum Waterway Project

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Saturday reviewed the progress and key bottlenecks affecting the development of River Jhelum National Waterway-49, aimed at promoting water-based transport in the Valley.

Chairing a meeting to assess issues related to the project, Garg called for close coordination among all concerned departments to ensure timely execution of the proposed works.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, RTO Kashmir, Chief Engineers of KPDCI, KPCTL and Irrigation & Flood Control, SE UED, and representatives of the Tourism, Roads & Buildings, Traffic, Forest and Urban Local Bodies departments.

During the detailed review, the meeting discussed several issues requiring resolution, including tree removal and road widening at Gund Parang, construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), shifting of KPDCI and KPCTL utilities and relocation of houseboats.

Taking note of the concerns raised by various departments, the Division-



al Commissioner directed all stakeholders to incorporate the required civil works and utility-shifting activities into their respective departmental plans. He stressed that a coordinated approach was essential to avoid delays and ensure smooth implementation of the waterway project.

Garg also directed officials of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to conduct a comprehensive joint survey of the proposed works at Gund Parang in coordination with the concerned departments. The survey, he said, should clearly identify the nature and extent of land required for execution of the project.

The IWAI officials were further asked to undertake a detailed assessment of the existing utilities at the site, ascertain their exact locations and work out modalities for their timely shifting in consultation with the concerned departments.

Emphasising the importance of inter-departmental coordination, Garg directed the IWAI and other stakeholders to adhere strictly to the prescribed timelines for resolving pending issues. He also called for regular coordination with field teams so that bottlenecks are addressed promptly and the project moves forward as per schedule.

NHM Employees in Announce 72-Hour Strike from Sep 9

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The UT Level Joint Coordination Committee of NHM Employees of Jammu & Kashmir on Saturday said that the forum has decided to observe a 72-hour strike from September 9 onwards in support of their long-pending demands.

A spokesman of the committee, according to KNO, said that the decision was taken after no concrete or satisfactory response was received from the Govt of Jammu & Kashmir within the stipulated ultimatum period.

"The decision was taken during a virtual meeting of the UT Level Joint Coordination Committee held this evening which was attended by core members and representatives of NHM employees from both the Jammu and Kashmir Divisions, including representatives of the RNTCP/ NTEP Association J&K and other schemes under the National Health Mission," he said.

"The Committee had earlier served a final ultimatum to the Govt and concerned authorities up to September 05, 2026, seeking concrete and meaningful action towards resolving the long-pending issues and genuine demands of NHM employees. However, de-

spite the expiry of the stipulated deadline, the Committee expressed deep disappointment over the absence of any concrete response or tangible action from the concerned authorities," the spokesman said.

"After detailed deliberations on the prevailing situation, the Committee unanimously resolved that all NHM employees across Jammu & Kashmir, including NTEP employees and employees working under other NHM schemes, shall observe a 72-hour UT-level strike from September 9, onwards," he added.

"The Committee made it clear that the strike shall be observed across the length and breadth of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, with all district, block and field-level NHM employees extending their collective support to the programme," the spokesman said.

Dr. Vikas Sharma, Divisional President, All JKNHMEA Jammu Division, stated that the decision to proceed with the 72-hour strike has not been taken in haste, but has become necessary due to the continued non-resolution of the genuine and long-pending issues of NHM employees despite repeated representations, discussions and assurances. (KNO)

VMS Launches Spinal Week with Awareness Rally, Wheelchair Distribution Camp



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Voluntary Medicare Society (VMS), Bemina, on Saturday observed World Spinal Cord Injury Day 2026 by organising an awareness rally, an auditorium programme and a wheelchair distribution camp aimed at promoting spinal cord injury (SCI) prevention, rehabilitation, inclusion and empowerment.

The event also marked the beginning of Spinal Week, which will be observed by VMS from September 5 to 12 under the theme, "From Awareness to Action: Ten Years Advancing SCI Prevention."

The programme commenced with an awareness rally from the VMS campus in Bemina to the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), Bemina. The rally was flagged off by Head of the Department of General Medicine at SKIMS Medical College Bemina, Prof. Dr. Aijaz Ah-

mad Rather, along with Dr. Farooq A. Kaloo, Secretary of VMS.

Participants carried placards and messages highlighting the importance of preventing spinal cord injuries and ensuring dignity, accessibility and equal opportunities for persons living with such conditions. The rally focused on the theme of "Prevention, Inclusion and Empowerment" and sought to encourage greater public awareness about measures to reduce the risk of spinal injuries.

Officials at the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir welcomed the rally and appreciated VMS for its continued efforts in the rehabilitation and support of spinal cord injury patients.

The auditorium programme began with a welcome address by Prof. Dr. Mir Mohammad Maqbool, President of VMS, followed by remarks from Vice-President Prof. Masooda Yasin.

Sopore Bridge Repair Work 'Unsatisfactory': MLA Kar

Agencies

SOPORE: As Kashmir's fruit trade gears up for the peak season, concerns over the condition of the vital Sopore bypass bridge have resurfaced, with Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Irshad Rasool Kar expressing dissatisfaction over the repair works carried out by authorities.

As per the details, authorities took up repair works on the Tulibal bridge on Saturday afternoon following repeated concerns over its deteriorating condition. However, MLA Kar said the repair work was unsatisfactory and did not address the concerns surrounding the structure.

Kar said he would take up the matter at an appropriate forum, while stressing the importance of ensuring the safety and reliability of the bridge, particularly during the fruit season when the movement of horticultural produce

increases significantly.

The 216-metre bridge provides an important route for transporting fruit to and from Sopore Fruit Mandi — Asia's second-largest fruit market — and serves as a crucial link between border district Kupwara and Srinagar.

Locals and commuters have repeatedly flagged the poor condition of the bridge, saying its deteriorating structure has made travel difficult and raised concerns over the safety of commuters and transporters.

The bridge has undergone repair work several times in the past after concerns over its condition grew. Recently, on May 16, traffic was even diverted for two days to facilitate the restoration of the damaged structure.

Earlier, the Sopore MLA had raised concerns over the safety of the bridge in the Legislative Assembly and had sought a safety audit of the structure — (KNO)

Altaf Bukhari Seeks Early Statehood Restoration

SRINAGAR: Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari on Saturday questioned the credibility of assurances being made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on issues including statehood, employment and free electricity, saying promises would not be enough unless backed by concrete action.

Bukhari said he hoped the uncertainty over restoration of statehood would end soon and that young people would be released. "I pray that our youth get released soon and that the financial crisis here also gets resolved," he said while speaking to reporters.

Taking a swipe at those citing limitations of powers as a reason for inaction, Bukhari said the people would ultimately see whether those in a position to act were willing to take decisions.

"Those who are hiding behind the fact that we are not able to do anything, we will find out whether they will take the decision or not," he said.

Questioning assurances regarding employment and electricity, he referred to the promise of two lakh jobs and free power, saying people could not be expected to accept such claims without results.

"We won't accept it. Why? Have we been deceived? We know the way. We know what the strategy is," Bukhari said.

He also stressed that the political discourse in Jammu and Kashmir should be rooted in constitutional provisions, rather than merely reflecting the language or position of the Central government. "Here, everyone has to speak the language that is in the Constitution," he said.

"If the person who speaks in the Constitution is being told to speak the language of the Central government, then tell him to speak the language of 1977," Bukhari added. (Observer News Service)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE AGROSTOLOGIST KASHMIR FOREST DEPARTMENT SRINAGAR

e-TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT NO: - 01 of 2026-27, DATE: 02-09-2026

Name of the Work:- Repairing of old Fencing (Wooden posts with BW), Plantation of Fodder Plants, Patch Sowing, & Bush Clearance.

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible Contractors/ Firms registered with Union Territory of J&K/ Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:-

SCHEME: CAPEX

S.NO	PARTICULARS OF WORK	ADV.COST (Rs. In lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR PWD/CPWD/ Forest/ JKFD/	Cost of Tender Document	TIME OF COMPLETION
1	- Repairing of old fencing (Wooden Posts with BW) 1980 Rfts - Plantation of Fodder Species (NR) . No. 4500 - Patch Sowing of superior varieties of grass / legume seed in patches of size 45cmX-45cmX15cm along the contours in staggered fashion no. of patches = 21000 No. - Bush Clearance. 1.00 Ha. Area to be treated:- 10 Ha. Location:- Comptt. No. 115/A Kudara, Bandipora Agrostology Division Kashmir.	3.16618	6332/-	"D"	Rs.200/=	30 Calendar Days
2	- Repairing of old fencing (Wooden Posts with BW) 1980 Rfts - Plantation of Fodder Species (NR) . No. 4500 - Patch Sowing of superior varieties of grass / legume seed in patches of size 45cmX-45cmX15cm along the contours in staggered fashion no. of patches = 21000 No. - Bush Clearance. 1.00 Ha. Area to be treated:- 10 Ha. Location:- Comptt. No. Ri-26 Bajpathri, Budgam Agrostology Division Kashmir.	3.16618	6332/-	"D"	Rs.200/=	30 Calendar Days
3	- Repairing of old fencing (Wooden Posts with BW) 1980 Rfts - Plantation of Fodder Species (NR) . No. 4500 - Patch Sowing of superior varieties of grass / legume seed in patches of size 45cmX-45cmX15cm along the contours in staggered fashion no. of patches = 21000 No. - Bush Clearance. 1.00 Ha. Area to be treated:- 10 Ha. Location:- Comptt. No. 62/Gul, Rangmarg Baramulla Agrostology Division Kashmir.	3.16618	6332/-	"D"	Rs.200/=	30 Calendar Days
4	- Repairing of old fencing (Wooden Posts with BW) 1980 Rfts - Plantation of Fodder Species (NR) . No. 4500 - Patch Sowing of superior varieties of grass / legume seed in patches of size 45cmX-45cmX15cm along the contours in staggered fashion no. of patches = 20000 No. - Bush Clearance. 1.00 Ha. Area to be treated:- 10 Ha. Location:- Comptt. No. 7/S Sindh Ganderbal Agrostology Division Kashmir.	3.09628	6193/-	"D"	Rs.200/=	30 Calendar Days
5	- Repairing of old fencing (Wooden Posts with BW) 3960 Rfts - Plantation of Fodder Species (NR) . No. 7000 - Patch Sowing of superior varieties of grass / legume seed in patches of size 45cmX-45cmX15cm along the contours in staggered fashion no. of patches = 36000 No. - Bush Clearance. 1.00 Ha. Area to be treated:- 20 Ha. Location:- Comptt. No. 37/N Naginpora, Kulgam Agrostology Division Kashmir.	5.33507	10670/-	"C/D"	Rs.300/=	30 Calendar Days
6	- Repairing of old fencing (Wooden Posts with BW) 3170 Rfts - Plantation of Fodder Species (NR) . No. 6000 - Patch Sowing of superior varieties of grass / legume seed in patches of size 45cmX-45cmX15cm along the contours in staggered fashion no. of patches = 25500 No. - Bush Clearance. 1.00 Ha. Area to be treated:- 16 Ha. Location:- Comptt. No. 21/BK Doniwari, Kupwara Agrostology Division Kashmir.	4.15351	8307/-	"D"	Rs.200/=	30 Calendar Days
7	- Repairing of old fencing (Wooden Posts with BW) 2574Rfts - Plantation of Fodder Species (NR) . No. 5850 - Patch Sowing of superior varieties of grass / legume seed in patches of size 45cmX-45cmX15cm along the contours in staggered fashion no. of patches = 24000 No. - Bush Clearance. 1.00 Ha. Area to be treated:- 13 Ha. Location:- Comptt. No. RB-19 Methwani, Shopian Agrostology Division Kashmir.	3.85101	7702/-	"D"	Rs.200/=	30 Calendar Days
8	- Nursery Operations at RI-31 Yousmarg, Budgam - Repairing of Hay Shed Rs. 0.70 Lac - Protection of Nursery beds from adjoining water by way of DRSM/ Crate work Rs. 0.70 Lac - Patch Sowing of superior varieties of grass / legume seed in patches of size 45cmX-45cmX15cm along the contours in staggered fashion no. of patches = 20000 No. @6.99 = 1.398 Lac - Raising of NR Plants = 5000 @ 7.44/ Plant = Rs. 0.372 Lac - Maintenance of Nursery & Seed collection =Rs. 0.40 Lac	357000	7140/-	"D"	Rs.200/=	30 Calendar Days

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- <https://jktenders.gov.in>.

Position of Funds: Budgeted

Position of AA/TS: (Accorded)

Receiving/ Opening Authority: Tender Opening Committee

Publishing Date:-	03-09-2026
Download Start Date :	04-09-2026 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date:	04-09-2026 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission End Date:	12-09-2026 upto 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	14-09-2026 at 2:30 PM In the office of the Agrostologist Kashmir Forest Department, at Forest Complex, Sheikh Bagh, Srinagar, J&K

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1.

The bids shall be submitted electronically through the official e-Procurement Portal at jktenders.gov.in.

2.

The bids shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of bids.

3.

The bidders shall submit their Technical and Financial Bids online in electronic format using their valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). No Technical or Financial Bid shall be accepted in physical/ hard copy. The bids shall be opened online as per the time schedule specified in the e-NIT.

4.

The bidders shall upload scanned copies of all requisite documents, including:

- Valid and duly renewed Registration Certificate of the appropriate class/category issued by PWD/CPWD or other competent authority, as applicable;
- PAN Card;
- Valid GST Registration Certificate; and
- Affidavit-cum-Undertaking and other documents as specified in the Detailed Tender Document.

5.

In pursuance of Finance Department Circular Instructions vide No. FD-Code/290/2026 dated 22.05.2026, regarding implementation of the online system for depositing Bid Security (EMD) and Tender Fee across Works Departments, the bidders shall deposit the EMD, IT Service Charges and Tender Fee through the prescribed Centralized Pooling Bank Account of the Department, as per the details given below:

Account Name: Principal Chief Conservator of Forests | Bank: Jammu & Kashmir Bank | Branch: Civil Secretariat

IFSC Code: JAKA0MOVING | Account No.: 0110010200001102

6.

The above payments shall be made through separate transactions, wherever applicable, and the respective transaction/payment receipts shall be uploaded along with the bid documents on the e-Procurement Portal.

7.

The successful bidder shall furnish Performance Security in the prescribed form and amount, within the stipulated period, as per the applicable procurement rules/instructions and the terms of the Detailed Tender Document/Letter of Award.

8.

The Department shall not be responsible for any delay in submission of bids due to technical or any other reasons. The bidders are advised to submit their bids well before the prescribed closing date and time.

9.

The Department shall not be responsible for the selection criteria or publication policy adopted by the Directorate of Information in respect of publication of the NIT in newspapers, as per applicable government instructions.

10.

The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders, in whole or in part, without assigning any reason, as per applicable rules.

11.

All other terms and conditions shall remain as prescribed in PWD Form-25 (Double Leaf), the Detailed Tender Document and other applicable rules/instructions issued by the competent authority from time to time.

No:-Agros/Kmr/2026/E-NIT/340-46

Date:- 02-09-2026

DIPK-5352-26

DT: 05/09/2026

Sd/-

Agrostologist Kashmir,

Forest Department,

Srinagar

Two Killed as Oil Tanker Overturns in Kishtwar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two persons were killed after an oil tanker skidded off the road and overturned in the Pathimhal area of Palmar in Kishtwar district on Saturday, officials said.

According to a senior police officer, the accident occurred when the tanker, while passing through the area, apparently went out of control, skidded off the road and overturned.

Both persons travelling in the tanker died on the spot, the officer

said, adding that their identities had not been ascertained so far.

Police and other concerned teams rushed to the accident site and initiated necessary proceedings. The exact circumstances leading to the mishap are being ascertained, while further details are awaited.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION KULGAM

Official Address:- Near District Hospital Kulgam PIN Code 192231

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: Corrigendum to e-NIT No. 07 of 2026-27, issued under No. 2596-2611 dated: 25-07-2026.

Reference:

1.

This office Corrigendum No. 3448-49 dated: 24-08-2026.

2.

This office Corrigendum No. 3580-84 dated: 29-08-2026.

3.

This office Corrigendum No. 3585-89 dated: 29-08-2026.

In continuation of the corrigenda referred above, issued for the work "Modernization of Nandi Canal" under e-NIT No. 07 of 2026-27, point No. 2 (Tender Document Fee) and Point No. 3 (Earnest Money/Bid Security) of the e-NIT/Standard Bidding Document are hereby amended/ corrected as under:

Amended Point No 02:

"Prospective Bidders within UT of J&K shall submit the tender Document Fee (Non-Refundable/Non-Transferrable) in the shape of e-Challan/Treasury Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Kulgam, to be deposited under MH-0702-Rev. Misc. Bidders outside UT of J&K shall submit the same in the form of Demand Draft pledged to Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Kulgam."

Amended Point No 03:

"Earnest Money/Bid Security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Chief Engineer, I&FC Kashmir, payable at Srinagar.

This corrigendum shall be read in conjunction with the corrigenda referred above and shall form an integral part of e-NIT No. 07 of 2026-27 Dated: 25-07-2026.

All other terms and conditions of the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

No: KID/3754-58

Dt:03/09/2026.

DIPK-5349-26

DT: 05/09/2026

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Irrigation Division Kulgam

WOMEN'S ASIA CUP T20

Spinners Headline India's Crushing 7-Wicket Win Vs Pakistan

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Young spin twins Shree Charani and Prema Rawat strangled Pakistan with deadly spells as India trampled all over their arch-rivals, winning a lop-sided Women's Asia Cup T20 contest by seven wickets here on Saturday.

Harmanpreet Kaur, who became the first international captain (men or women) to lead the country in 150 T20Is, couldn't have been more pleased to find her spinners skittling out Pakistan for 55 in just 18.1 overs -- their lowest-ever total in the shortest format.

Fittingly, she finished the game with a regal six down the ground.

India's spinners -- 22-year-old left-arm orthodox Charani (3/7 in 4 overs), 24-year-old leg-break bowler Prema (3/9 in 4 overs) and part-time wrist spinner Shafali Verma (1/10 in

3 overs) completely dismantled the Pakistan batting.

Deepti Sharma (2/5 in 3.1 overs) completed the formalities.

India completed the chase in 8.4 overs despite losing Shafali Verma (12), Smriti Mandhana (9) and Pratika Rawal (4) cheaply to Pakistan skipper Fatima Sana.

Harmanpreet (18 n.o.) and Deepti (12 n.o.) used all their experience to calm the nerves after some initial jitters. With no scoreboard pressure, Pakistan bowlers never had any chance as such to create an upset.

Indian women would have expected a bit of practice before their semi-finals but such was the plight of Pakistani batters that once again it became a 'No Contest'. In the history of T20 Asia Cup, India have won seven games to Pakistan's one.

Earlier, opting to bat, Pakistan did start confidently reaching 27 for no loss in little over four



overs with openers Muneeba Ali (13) and Shawaal Zulfiqar (14) facing the seamers with ease but

none of the other batters were able to reach double figures in an embarrassing display of in-

eptitude.

The two wrist spinners, Shafali and Prema, didn't try to turn

and kept attacking the stumps with relentless accuracy. By the time, Deepti came in to bowl, Pakistan women had already thrown in the towel.

In 18.1 overs, Indian bowlers delivered an astounding 78 dot balls.

Once, Harmanpreet Kaur, captaining the country for the 150th time in T20Is, gauged that the pitch was offering turn, she introduced the spinners right away and got due dividends. Suddenly Pakistan lost six wickets for the addition of nine runs to totter at 36 for 6 after the end of 10 overs.

Strangled for runs, Muneeba tried to shuffle towards leg stump to make room and was beaten all ends up.

Charani then got into the act as she extracted appreciable turn and bounce at the same time. Gull Feroza (0) tried to hit her against the turn to get caught at short third while Zul-

fiqar missed a sweep shot to be adjudged plumb in-front.

Ayesha Zafar (2) was strangled as she tried to break the shackles, only to lob an easy catch to Harmanpreet at mid-on.

Sadaf Shamas (3) tried to hit her way out on a difficult track against Prema, who bowled straight and hit the stumps.

Pakistan's biggest hope, skipper Fatima Sana (0) got a classical off-break from Deepti Sharma that hit her flush on the pads and could have hit the leg-middle line.

Eyman Fatima (5) and Umm-e Hani (6) were involved in a horrible mix-up leading to the former being run-out at the non-striker's end.

Hani also perished like many of her teammates trying a sweep without even having an iota of idea about the length of the delivery. By then the contest was over even before India came out to bat.

Pickleball World Cup: India Junior Team Finishes 4th; Kids Win Silver

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: India's team campaign in the Pickleball World Cup ended with a fourth-place finish for the junior side and a silver for the kids' team, while the Open category team went down fighting to the USA in the quarter-finals in Da Nang, Vietnam, on Saturday.

The junior team, led by Arjun Singh and featuring Naomi Amalsadiwala, Aditya Singh, Diya Mattipati, Dev Shah, D.A. Raju and Purvansh Patel, lost a close battle to Vietnam to finish fourth.

The India kids' side, consisting of Veer Shah, Mahika



Rathod, Praathnaa Motiani, Kaveer Mehta, Viransh Chopra, Charanya Selvanarayan and Maanasi Karthik, beat Japan 3-0 in the semifinal before losing to the USA in the final to settle for silver.

The Open India team

bowed out against the USA 2-4 in a closely fought contest. The teams were tied at 2-2 halfway through the match, after which Katerina Stewart and Ronan Camron ran away with their singles matches to take the USA

into the semifinals.

The Indian Masters team also bowed out in the quarterfinals against Vietnam in a deciding final battle after the teams were tied at 2-all.

Shakuntala Devi and Petulia Balaji earned India the first point of the tie, after which Vietnam won the next two ties. Bhushan Akut and Petulia Balaji won the fourth tie to put India into a decider, but Vietnam proved to be the better team in the final tie.

Meanwhile, Purvansh Patel and Veer Shah proved their mettle in the individual singles category, winning a gold in the U18 boys' singles and a bronze in the U14 boys' singles.

Satwik-Chirag One Step Away From Season's Second Title After Booking Third China Masters Final

Press Trust of India

SHENZHEN: Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty produced a tactically astute performance to overcame Malaysia's Nur Mohd Azriyn Ayub and Tan Wee Kiong in three games to book their third China Masters final and move just one step away from a second title of the season here on Saturday.

World No. 5 Satwik and Chirag, who finished runner-up at the 2023 and 2025 editions, recovered from a second-game lapse to prevail 21-15 18-21 21-11 over the world No. 29 Malaysians in one hour and five minutes.



The Asian Games champions will face the winner of the other semifinal between Malaysia's Tee Kai Wun and Yap Roy King and China's He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu in the summit clash.

The Indians came into the match with a 2-0 head-to-head lead against Nur and Tan, having defeated

the Malaysians at the 2024 Thailand Open and 2025 Malaysian Open.

Tan, 37, is a veteran doubles player who won the silver medal at the Rio Olympics with Goh V Shem.

Playing their fourth consecutive semifinal, Satwik and Chirag, seeded fourth, fell 0-5 behind but

responded with seven straight points, including a gruelling 34-shot rally, to move ahead 7-5.

Three errors from Nur then helped them extend the lead to 10-6. Chirag and Satwik committed a few errors of their own but held an 11-9 advantage at the interval.

On resumption, Satwik's angled smashes kept troubling the Malaysians as the Indians moved to 15-12 and then 17-12 after another error from Tan.

At 18-15, the pairs engaged in an extraordinary 54-shot rally, with the Malaysian player even managing to keep the exchange alive while on the floor before eventually sending the shuttle long.

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