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Low Voltage Crisis May Return This Winter

NRPC Warns Of Demand Topping 3,200 MW, Seeks Advance Measures To Prevent Grid Stress

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir may face a repeat of last winter's low-voltage crisis, with electricity demand expected to match or exceed the previous peak while hydroelectric generation is likely to remain low, the Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) has warned.

According to the committee, demand in the J&K control area rose to around 3,200 MW last winter as heating requirements increased during early morning and evening hours.

The NRPC said low hydro generation and heavy drawal of reactive power (MVAr) from the Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) had resulted in critically low bus voltages at several stations in the Kashmir Valley.

It noted that 400 kV buses had dropped to 347 kV, while

220 kV buses fell to 178 kV, significantly below the Indian Electricity Grid Code (IEGC) limits of 380 kV and 198 kV, respectively.

The committee said the recurring low-voltage problem in the Valley had been discussed at several forums, including recent meetings of the Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) and the NRPC held in Srinagar.

"Demand is expected to be similar or higher this winter, and hydro generation is likely to be lean again, so the same conditions are likely to return unless action is taken in advance," the committee said.

The NRPC has asked the Jammu and Kashmir State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC) to present its winter preparedness plan, including the status of capacitor banks and other reactive power compensation facilities in



A farmer tends to saffron flowers growing between rows of high-density apple trees in Pampore, exploring the potential of intercropping to improve farm productivity and returns. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Rain, Snow Likely In J&K On Oct 24

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness generally dry weather till October 23, while light rain in the plains and snowfall over higher reaches are possible on October 24, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said on Tuesday.

According to the weather forecast issued by the MeT department, weather conditions are expected to remain largely dry across the Union Territory over the next three days.

The department has forecast generally cloudy skies on October 24, with light rain and snowfall over higher reaches likely at scattered to many places.

Thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds are also possible at a few places from late night on October 23 till the forenoon of October 24, it said.

Dry weather is expected to return from October 25 and continue till October 31, according to the forecast.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological department has advised farmers to continue harvesting and other agricultural activities in view of the expected dry conditions over the coming days.

Darbar Moves to Jammu On Nov 2

Govt Announces ₹25K Allowance

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday ordered the annual Darbar Move to Jammu for the winter season, with the Civil Secretariat and other designated offices scheduled to re-open in the winter capital on November 2.

According to Government Order No. 1664-JK(GAD) of 2026, dated October 19, offices observing a five-day week will close in Srinagar after working hours on October 30, while those following a six-day week will close on October 31.

The government has fixed a special travelling allowance of 25,000 for each eligible employee moving to Jammu. The allowance will not be paid to employees who fail to move within the prescribed period.

The Civil Secretariat, which houses the offices of the Chief Minister, ministers, senior bureaucrats and several departments, will move in full, while 50 designated offices will operate in Jammu under a camp arrangement.

Under the camp arrangement, offices will generally move 33 per cent

All Political Parties Should Unite For National Interest: PM

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called on all institutions and political parties to unite in the national interest and collectively fight the country's enemies, saying the nation must move forward with a shared sense of purpose.

Addressing Dussehra celebrations in New Delhi, Modi said people should recognise their own strength rather than rely on others to overcome challenges, regardless of how difficult or serious a crisis might be.

"May our thoughts be aligned, and may... all the



institutions of the nation, all political parties, stand together for national interest. We must proceed with this very spirit and we must fight together against the enemies of the country," he said.

Emphasising his government's

No Double Standards On Terrorism: DM

India on Tuesday said that there can be "no justification" for terrorism and "no double standards" in addressing the menace, as it called on the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states to make concerted efforts to "dismantle" the entire "ecosystem of terrorism."

India Is A Refining Superpower: Rubio

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday described India as a refining superpower, adding that the US delegation will discuss with Reliance about producing oil in Venezuela.

Asked what role India can play in meeting the world's energy demand, Rubio, who arrived in Mumbai this afternoon on a three-day India visit, said, "India is a refining superpower. They have the capability to refine heavy crude. They've done so in the past, and I think as more and more Venezuelan oil comes online, it's something they can do."

"They also, by the way, have pre-existing oil concessions in Venezuela that can produce more themselves," Rubio told reporters in Mumbai.

He said all these are positive things.

"I'm not claiming to you that Venezuela alone can fill the hole that

Stray Dogs Seen Dragging Newborn's Body In Shopian Forest

Locals Intervene; Police Register Case, Initiate Probe

Agencies

Srinagar: The body of a newborn baby was found in a forested stretch of Dunaroo in the Keller area of south Kashmir's Shopian district, triggering shock and concern among local residents.

Local sources said stray dogs were seen dragging the infant's body through the forest when some residents noticed the disturbing scene and intervened, retrieving the body from the animals.

The discovery has raised concerns in the locality, with residents expressing dismay over the circumstances in which the newborn's body was found abandoned in the forested area.

Sources said the matter was brought to the notice of the concerned police station for necessary legal action.



AI generated illustration

The circumstances surrounding the infant's death, the identity of the child's parents and the reasons the body was found in the forest remain unclear.

Police have registered a case

and initiated medico-legal proceedings. Further investigation is underway to establish the circumstances leading to the infant's death and determine whether any criminal offence was committed.

Judicial Discretion Must Guide Bail Decisions: HC

Says Liberty Must Override Statutory Embargo

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has observed that the grant or denial of bail rests on judicial discretion, which must be exercised in accordance with sound legal principles and the facts and circumstances of each case, while granting bail to a Kupwara man accused of being the main supplier in a narcotics case involving over 60 kg of heroin.

A bench of Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani granted bail to Peer Saif Din, 60, observing that he had

remained in custody for more than two years, the trial was still at the stage of recording prosecution evidence and its conclusion was likely to take considerable time.

The court also took note of the fact that the co-accused had already been granted bail and that the petitioner was reportedly suffering from a cardiac ailment and had undergone stent implantation.

"The grant of bail or the denial of the same falls within the purview of the judicial discretion meant to be exercised on sound legal principles upon the logical



Medical Interns Resume Strike Across J&K Over Stipend Hike

AIMSA alleges humiliating remarks during meeting with official

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Medical interns across Jammu and Kashmir have resumed their agitation over the prolonged delay in revising their monthly stipends, with the All India Medical Students' Association (AIMSA) announcing candle marches at government medical colleges and SKIMS Medical College, Bemina, on Tuesday evening.

The interns are demanding an increase in their monthly stipend from 12,300 to

30,000, alleging that the existing amount has remained unchanged for nearly seven years despite rising living costs.

The renewed agitation follows the expiry of a 30-day deadline given by the government to finalise the proposed stipend revision. The interns had temporarily called off their earlier nine-day protest on September 8 after receiving assurances from Health Minister Sakeena Itoo that the matter would be resolved within a month.

However, the promised implementation order has not been issued, prompting the interns to resume their protest.

According to AIMSA, its representatives

KPs Celebrate Dussehra, Burn Ravana Effigies In Srinagar

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Hundreds of people gathered at the JKCA Practice Ground in Church Lane here on Tuesday evening as Kashmiri Pandits celebrated Dussehra with the traditional burning of effigies of Ravana, Meghnath and Kumbhkaran.

The towering effigies were set ablaze amid loud cheers, while firecrackers lit up the evening sky, drawing families, local residents and tourists to the venue.

Organised by the Kashmiri Pandit Sangarsh Samiti, the event witnessed participation from people belonging to different communities, including a large number of Muslims who gathered to watch the



celebrations.

The ritual remained a major attraction of the festivities, with visitors gathering at the ground to witness the symbolic

victory of good over evil.

Arjun, a visitor from Indra Nagar in Srinagar, said he had come to witness Ravan Dahan and be part of



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Four Books on Pandit Exile, Justice Released in Jammu

Press Trust Of India

Jammu- Four books authored by Kashmiri Pandits, exploring exile, cultural memory and the quest for justice, were released here on Sunday. The release function was organised by the Jonaraja Institute of Genocide and Atrocities Studies (JIGAS) in association with Epilogue News Network, a spokesperson for Panun Kashmir said.

The books released were 'Udas Vyeth' by Bharat Dass, 'Henzey Vanvun' by Kanwal Peshin, 'Nirvasan Nama' by Deepak Sopori, and 'Unfinished Quest for Justice' by Ravinder Gurtoo, he said. The programme brought together writers, scholars, academicians and public figures to discuss the role of literature in documenting displacement, preserving the cultural heritage of the Kashmiri Pandit community and keeping its collective memory alive, the spokesperson said. Dass and Sopori recited poems from their respective books, reflecting on exile, loss and the enduring bond with their ancestral homeland. Peshin dedicated his book to his mother and recited a traditional Kashmiri 'wanwun', highlighting the importance of oral traditions in preserving cultural identity.



Panun Kashmir convenor Agnishekhar emphasised the importance of literature in documenting displacement and preserving the historical memory of the Kashmiri Pandit community. He also highlighted the responsibility of writers and scholars to record the community's experiences and ensure that its history, cultural loss and continuing quest for justice remain part of public discourse. Relief Commissioner Arvind Kirwani, who also attended the programme, brought an administrative perspective to the discussion on displacement, drawing attention to the institutional

dimensions of the challenges faced by displaced families and the continuing relevance of rehabilitation, welfare and the preservation of community identity. The programme highlighted the intellectual work of JIGAS in advancing genocide and atrocities studies through an Indic perspective, the spokesperson said. Drawing inspiration from the historical writings of Jonaraja and the conceptual framework of Jatividhvans, the institute encourages inquiry into mass violence, cultural disruption, historical continuity and the experiences of affected communities.

Placenta Health Could Influence ADHD Risk Of Child, Study Suggests

Press Trust Of India

Placenta health during late pregnancy could influence a child's risk of developing ADHD, or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, a new study has found.

Researchers, including those from the US' University of Iowa, found that low levels of placental growth factor (PIGF) -- an important biomarker of placental health during pregnancy -- in the third trimester were associated with a higher risk of ADHD diagnosis in children.

"This study adds to the evidence that neurodevelopmental risk begins in utero and suggests that the placenta may play a major role in shaping neurodevelopmental outcomes," says Serena (Banu) Gumuslogu, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and psychiatry at the University of Iowa, and first author on the study published in The Journal of the



American Medical Association (JAMA) Psychiatry. "It raises the exciting possibility that factors known to be related to pregnancy and maternal health, like PIGF, may also tell us something about how the baby's brain is developing," Gumuslogu said. The placenta is responsible for supplying blood and nutrients to the baby, and removing waste and protecting against toxins or viral and bacterial exposures. Placental growth

factor, or PIGF, is a key protein made by placenta that is also a marker of the temporary organ's health. Low levels of PIGF are a known warning sign for pregnancy complications, including preeclampsia.

The team used maternal blood samples banked from 176 pregnancies in the department of obstetrics and gynecology's Perinatal Family Tissue Bank to investigate whether levels of PIGF were also related to risk for ADHD years later.

PIGF levels were measured from the samples collected during all three trimesters of these pregnancies. The blood samples were then linked to health records of the offspring, allowing the team to track which pregnancies resulted in ADHD diagnoses and which did not.

"In pregnancies that resulted in a child later diagnosed with ADHD, we saw that PIGF levels did not have the typical increase in the third trimester," Gumuslogu said.

Public Notice

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 121011027 Session: Oct-Nov Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed against my mother's name as Aamina Bhat Instead of Aamina Bano



Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Mehru Nisa

Father's name: Mohammad Yaqoob Bhat

Mother's Name: Aamina Bano

DOB: 17-10-2010

Residence: Kawoosa Khalisa

Mobile no: 8825070136

bmrg

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

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th, 11th, 12th) under Roll No.: 112008035 Session: March Year 2024 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the self error against my name and Father's name as Muzaffar Ahmad Meelo S/o Lala-u-din Meelo instead of Muzaffar Ahmad Meelo Gojar S/o Lal Din Meelo Gojar



Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Muzaffar Ahmad Meelo Gojar

Father's name: Lal Din Meelo Gojar

Mother's Name: Rani Begum

DOB: 18-06-2009

Residence: Koota Sathri Sumlar Shokbaba Bandipora

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Notice is hereby given to the general public that I, Sadiq Shah, resident of Shahtulpora Sarai, Dangerpora, Tehsil Sumbal, District Bandipora, intend to transfer the electricity connection bearing Consumer ID No. 0215010001474, under Electricity Sub-Division Sumbal, from my name to Syed Mohi Din Shah. Any person having an objection to the proposed change of name may submit the same to the concerned Electricity Sub-Division, Sumbal, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

Syed Mohd Din Shah
R/o Shahtulpora, Sarai, Dangerpora

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied online for the death certificate of my father Gh Ahmad Dar S/o Abdul Khaliq Dar R/o Peth Makhama whoe died on 25-12-2011. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Asadullah Dar
S/o Gh Ahmad Dar

BMG

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my husband's name GH MOHAMMAD SHEIKH R/O.. KREERI Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040000088 wants to be registered on my name FATA BEGUM W/O GH MOHAMMAD SHEIKH If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...FATA BEGUM
W/O...GH MOHAMMAD SHEIKH
R/O . KREERI BLOCK..WAGOORA

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Arif Ahmad Ganaie instead of my correct name Mohammad Arif Ganaie in the records of J&K Bank, Palhallan Branch. My father's name is Hafizullah Ganaie, and I am a resident of Palhallan.

I hereby declare that Mohammad Arif Ganaie is my true and correct name. Any person having any objection to the above-mentioned correction may submit the same to the concerned bank branch within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of the general public that Syed Adden Vaseem Andrabi, D/o Nahida Nazir, R/o Ralnipora Pulwama, District Pulwama, Jammu & Kashmir, has applied for registration/issuance of her Date of Birth Certificate. As per the information furnished by the applicant, she was born on 01-07-2019 at Govt. District Hospital, Shopian.

Any person having any objection regarding the registration/issuance of the Date of Birth Certificate in favour of the above-named applicant may file the same, along with supporting documents, before the competent authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, the matter shall be proceeded with in accordance with law, and no objection thereafter shall be entertained. jmm

Additional Special Mobile Magistrate
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1,807 Runners Register For Third Kashmir Marathon

Agencies

Srinagar: A total of 1,807 runners, including 73 foreign participants, have registered for the third edition of the Kashmir Marathon, scheduled to be held on October 25, officials said.

According to registration data accessed by KNS, 1,221 participants are from Kashmir, while 513 are from other parts of the country. The event has attracted 1,614 male and 193 female runners.

Of the total participants, 1,416 will compete in the 21-km half marathon, while 391 have registered for the 42-km full marathon.

The marathon is being organised by the Tourism Department to showcase Kashmir's natural beauty and cultural heritage and promote the Valley as a destination for sporting events. The routes will offer runners views of landmarks,

including Dal Lake, Chinar trees and Mughal gardens.

Speaking to news agency KNS, Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad said the department intended to make the marathon an annual event and expand its international reach.

"The Kashmir Marathon will be a brand of the Tourism Department and a regular feature every year," Sajjad said.

He said the event's inclusion in the calendar of the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) would help establish it as a regular fixture and strengthen Kashmir's position on the international sporting map.

Sajjad said travel advisories issued by some European countries and the United States, along with the prevailing situation in the Middle East, had affected international participation in the event. (KNS)

DC Participates In Dussehra Celebrations

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the occasion of Dussehra, celebrated with great reverence, which symbolizes the victory of good over evil, a devotional Bhandara celebrations were organised at Kali Mata Mandir Magarmal Bagh with all fervor and rituals.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo also paid a visit to the Mandir and participated

in the Hawan and bhandara.

The event witnessed the presence of devotees from various parts of the district and paid their reverence at the temple.

The bhandara was also organized with devotees coming together at the temple to mark the festival. The gathering highlighted the importance of traditions and community participation in celebrating this auspicious occasion of Dusherra

54 Bn CRPF Organizes Grand 'Bhandara' at Gupt Ganga Temple Complex on Navratri



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Prioritising social harmony alongside national security, the 54 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) undertook a commendable community initiative today on the auspicious occasion of Navratri. The battalion organized a grand community feast (Bhandara) at the historic Gupt Ganga Temple Complex (Nishat, Srinagar), which saw enthusiastic participation from local residents, security personnel, and members of the academic community.

The spiritual and community event was formally inaugurated by Shri Ravi Prakash, Commandant of the 54 Battalion, alongside Dr. Paresh Gotpagar, AC Ashwani Kumar, and other

senior officers and jawans, who began the proceedings by respectfully distributing 'Prasad' to the devotees.

A Beautiful Confluence of Diversity and Brotherhood

The hallmark of this event was the dignified presence of people from diverse walks of life. The event was attended by esteemed faculty members from the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), including Professor Khokhar and Professor Gautam, along with a large number of university students who partook in the Prasad. Concurrently, local residents from the Nishat area actively participated in the Bhandara, presenting an unbreakable example of peace, goodwill, and mutual brotherhood in the region.

Ali Emran's 'Yaqza: The Awakening' Makes Theatrical Debut in Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Yaqza: The Awakening, a Kashmiri feature film written and directed by Ali Emran and produced by Yaqut Mushtaq, was released in select cinemas across Kashmir on Tuesday.

Described by its makers as an experimental feature, the film explores themes of consciousness, memory, perception and spiritual awakening through a non-linear

narrative and visual and sound-based storytelling.

The film departs from conventional narrative structures, relying on imagery, silence, movement, atmosphere and symbolism to convey its themes. According to its creators, the project seeks to explore how cinema can represent the subconscious and examine the relationship between the visible and invisible aspects of human experience.



Triumph of Good over Evil: People gather to witness the burning of Ravana's effigy during Dussehra celebrations in Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Lal Chowk, Sheikh Bagh Facilities Under Review as SSCL CEO Orders Maintenance Drive

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) Chief Executive Officer Dr Basharat Qayoom conducted a late-night inspection of key locations in the city's Central Business District (CBD), directing officials to address maintenance deficiencies and ensure the proper functioning of public amenities.

The inspection covered Ghanta Ghar at Lal Chowk, Sheikh Bagh Car Parking and the mechanised car parking facility at Lal Chowk. The exercise aimed to assess the condition of infrastructure developed under the Smart City Mission, identify maintenance gaps and ensure timely corrective measures.

During the inspection, Dr Qayoom directed the concerned officers to prioritise identified deficiencies, undertake necessary repairs and restoration work without delay, and expedite pending works, particularly those related to illumination, parking management and public conveniences.

At Lal Chowk, he stressed the need

for regular maintenance and timely repairs of streetlights, illumination systems and façade lighting to ensure adequate lighting and preserve the area's visual appeal.

At Sheikh Bagh, the CEO directed officials to restore and maintain the

the Sheikh Bagh Car Parking facility.

At the mechanised car parking facility in Lal Chowk, officials were directed to undertake the necessary repairs and restore the high-mast lighting system to ensure adequate illumination. Emphasising the importance



community sanitary complex near the car parking facility. He also called for expediting the completion of the public convenience facility on the first floor and ensuring that both facilities are made operational for public use.

To improve traffic circulation and ease congestion, Dr Qayoom asked the concerned officers to examine the feasibility of an alternative access route to

of sustained maintenance of Smart City infrastructure, the CEO called for regular field inspections, preventive maintenance and prompt resolution of operational issues. He instructed officials to closely monitor the progress of corrective works and ensure that all public facilities remain functional, accessible and properly maintained.

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 09 Jumada al-Awwal 1448	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5: 19
	ZUHR	12:16
	ASR	4: 13
	Magrib	5: 55
	ISHA	7: 14

This Day In History

- 335- Roman Emperor Constantine the Great rules that Jews are not allowed to purchase and circumcise Christian slaves
- 686- Conon begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1096- Sultan Kilidj Arslan of Nicea defeats The People's Crusade at the Battle of Civetot, only about 3,000 out of 20,000 Crusaders survive
- 1187- Alberto de Morra elected as Pope Gregorius VIII (12/17/1187)
- 1512- Martin Luther joins the theological faculty of the University of Wittenberg.
- 1520- Explorer Ferdinand Magellan and his fleet reach Cape Virgenes after transiting the Magellan Strait between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, becoming the first Europeans to sail into the Pacific [1]
- 1555- Emperor Charles V makes Erard of Pallandt earl of Culemborg
- 1555- English parliament refuses to recognize Philip of Spain as king
- 1568- 2nd Altenburger sermon: Philippisten/Gnesiolutheranen
- 1591- Nijmegen surrenders to Earl Mauritius van Nassau
- 1601- Memorial service for Daitokuji's Shinju held for Ik-kyu Sojun in Kyoto
- 1639 -Sea battle at Dunes, Lt Admiral Maarten Tromp defeats Spanish armada under De Oquendo
- 1652- King Louis XIV returns to Paris
- 1708 -Dutch & English troops occupy Lille (Rijsel)
- 1727 -Russian & Chinese accord to correct boundaries
- 1774 First display of the word "Liberty" on a flag, raised by colonists in Taunton, Massachusetts and which was in defiance of British rule in Colonial America.
- 1789 - French Revolution: The National Assembly declares martial law in France to prevent uprisings
- 1803 - English scientist John Dalton reads his paper on the absorption of gases by water to the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Soc - 1st outline of his atomic theory
- 1895 - The Republic of Formosa collapses as Japanese forces invade.
- 1899 - Battle at Elandslaagte Natal: (Boers vs British army)
- 1914 - Battle of Warsaw ends with German defeat
- 1917 - 1st Americans to see action on front lines of WWI: US troops enter front lines at Sommervillier under French command
- 1938 - Japanese troops occupies Canton
- 1944 - World War II: US troops capture Aachen, 1st large German city to fall.
- 1948 - Facsimile high-speed radio transmission demonstrated (Washington, D.C.)
- 1948 - UN rejects Russian proposal to destroy atomic weapons
- 1950 - Chinese forces occupy Tibet
- 1965 - Nobel prize for chemistry awarded to Robert B Woodward
- 1966 - 116 children and 28 adults died as a coal waste heap slid and engulfed a school in Aberfan, South Wales
- 1967 - Egypt sinks Israeli torpedo boat
- 1967 - Tens of thousands of anti-Vietnam War protesters march on the Pentagon, besieging the military headquarters for two days
- 1969 - Maj Gen Mohamed Siad Barre becomes President of Somali
- 1970 - Nobel prize of peace awarded to Norman E Borlaugh
- 1971 - Nobel prize for literature awarded to Pablo Neruda
- 1975 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR
- 1975 - Venera 9, 1st craft to orbit planet Venus launched
- 1976 - Nobel prize for literature awarded to American Saul Bellow
- 1980 - Mikhail Gorbachev elected member of Politburo.
- 1985 - Qasim Omar (206) & Javed Miandad (203*) make 397 stand v SL
- 1987 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to Robert M Solow
- 1993 - Military coup by Burundi President Ndayaye; 525,000 Hutus flee
- 2003 - Images of the dwarf planet Eris are taken and subsequently used in its discovery by the team of Michael E. Brown, Chad Trujillo, and David L. Rabinowitz
- 2013 - The Parliament of Canada confers Honorary Canadian citizenship on women's rights and education activist Malala Yousafzai

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Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 8899256463
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobsvr.net

KO VIEW

Humility Is Good Governance

Jammu and Kashmir's administration has spoken of making governance more people-centric, accessible and responsive to public needs.

Such efforts can build trust when citizens find officials willing to listen, explain decisions and resolve complaints.

But incidents involving senior officers reprimanding junior colleagues send the opposite message. They breed the belief that government authority comes with an attitude of superiority.

A recent controversy involving an IAS officer and a junior woman officer has brought this concern into focus.

The administration ordered an inquiry after a video showing the officer allegedly abusing his colleague circulated publicly. The inquiry must establish the facts and determine whether disciplinary action is warranted.

The larger lesson, however, extends beyond the conduct of one officer.

Government offices set the tone for how authority is exercised. When senior officials appear to use their rank to humiliate colleagues, citizens can reasonably question whether the same attitude affects their dealings with the public.

Such incidents can undermine confidence in institutions that depend on public trust and cooperation.

Many citizens approach government offices seeking certificates, approvals, welfare benefits or solutions to everyday problems. An official's response can determine whether they leave with clarity or feel belittled for asking a legitimate question.

Complaints of dismissive treatment and bureaucratic arrogance should concern the administration because public service begins with how people are treated.

The power imbalance within government departments makes accountability particularly important. Senior officers can influence transfers, assignments and career progression, leaving junior employees reluctant to report misconduct. Citizens, too, may feel powerless when an official controls access to a service they need.

Without accessible complaint channels and fair investigations, authority can become difficult to challenge.

Jammu and Kashmir's administration should establish clear standards for professional conduct and enforce them at all levels. Employees must have safe ways to report inappropriate behaviour, protection against retaliation and confidence that complaints will receive impartial consideration.

Citizens should also have accessible mechanisms to report discourteous treatment, delays and misuse of official authority. Complaints must lead to timely examination and appropriate action where wrongdoing is established.

Transparency is equally important. Inquiries should follow due process, and authorities should communicate their findings through appropriate channels.

Training can help officials understand their responsibilities, but meaningful accountability depends on consistent enforcement. Seniority should bring greater responsibility for conduct, rather than immunity from scrutiny.

People-centric governance cannot rest on policy announcements or administrative reforms alone. Citizens judge institutions through their daily encounters with the officials who exercise public power.

Kashmir's administration must ensure that respect, fairness and accountability guide those encounters. Public office is a position of responsibility, rather than a licence to intimidate, humiliate or silence others.

Kashmir's Investment Test

Jammu and Kashmir's new business-facilitation measure could cut red tape, but its real value will depend on local jobs, transparent land deals and safeguards that keep economic growth accountable to the people.

Jawaid Ahmad Shah

A file waiting on a government desk can hold up a business for months.

An entrepreneur may have the money, the machinery and the willingness to hire, only to find that an approval has stalled somewhere between departments.

Jammu and Kashmir has good reason to address such delays.

A business that cannot predict when it will receive permission to operate will struggle to plan its future.

The Jammu and Kashmir Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026, seeks to address this problem through simpler procedures, time-bound approvals and other administrative changes.

The Legislative Assembly passed the Bill on September 29, according to contemporaneous reports. Its final legal status and the precise provisions that survived passage should be verified against the authenticated text and official notification.

The larger question, however, goes beyond how quickly a file moves.

Jammu and Kashmir needs an investment policy that measures success by what businesses produce for the region, rather than how easily they obtain permission to operate.

Faster decisions can help create that economy, provided the pursuit of speed does not weaken the public interest.

The difference becomes especially important when public land enters the picture.

The region's Industrial Land Allotment Policy for 2021-30 has provided for long leases, extending up to 99 years in specified circumstances.

Such a lease does not automatically transfer ownership, but it can give a company substantial control over land for decades.

The terms of the policy and individual agreements must be examined before drawing conclusions about any particular allotment.

A government that allocates land is making a choice about the region's economic future.

An industrial plot used for productive manufacturing, decent employment and local procurement can generate benefits long after the initial investment. Land left idle after an announcement, or used for a purpose different from the one promised, produces a very different return.

That is why the public should be able to see who receives industrial land, for what purpose, under what lease conditions and against which construction and production deadlines.

Authorities should publish the area allotted, the financial terms, project milestones and compliance records, subject to lawful privacy and commercial-confidentiality protections. Companies that fail to meet their commitments should face the consequences provided by law, with due process.

Such transparency would also help local entrepreneurs compete for economic opportunities.

A small manufacturer, food processor or start-up may have a viable business plan without possessing the financial resources of a large company. If public land, credit and infrastructure consistently favour firms with deeper pockets, the region could attract investment while leaving its own entrepreneurs struggling to expand.

The same distinction applies to employment.

A large investment announcement can dominate a government press release, but its value to a young person in Kashmir depends on whether it produces a job, what that job pays and whether it provides a path to better work.

Investment can generate employment directly and through suppliers, transporters, repair services and other local businesses. It can also depend heavily on machinery, outside suppliers and workers recruited elsewhere. Construction may create



“The Bill addresses a genuine problem of administrative delay. Jammu and Kashmir should make lawful approvals predictable and its institutions easier for entrepreneurs to approach. But a government dashboard that records faster clearances while remaining silent on idle land, local hiring and environmental violations would tell only half the story.

temporary jobs while the operational phase employs relatively few people.

The value of a project, by itself, tells us little about how widely its benefits will spread.

Reports on the Bill as introduced described a provision empowering the government to direct certain enterprises to reserve a proportion of vacancies for Jammu and Kashmir domicile candidates, subject to conditions and possible exemptions where suitable skills are unavailable locally.

Whether that provision remains in the final law, and how it will operate, must be established from the official text and subsequent orders.

A hiring provision will have limited value if local candidates lack access to the training employers need. Government should work with industrial training institutes, colleges and businesses to prepare young people for actual vacancies. Companies receiving public incentives or favourable land terms should report employment by domicile, occupation, pay band, contract type and seniority.

These figures would help distinguish sustained careers from short-term recruitment.

Environmental protection presents an equally practical test.

Jammu and Kashmir's forests, rivers, wetlands, agricultural land and mountain slopes are part of the region's economic foundation. Industrial activity can put pressure on water supplies, increase waste and pollution, or expose poorly planned sites to floods and landslides.

The effects can reach far beyond the factory itself.

Reports on the proposed measure indicated that major central environmental and forest laws would remain in force. Their formal continuation, however, cannot guarantee effective protection if inspections become weaker or violations go unpunished.

The Bill's reported provisions for time-bound decisions and deemed approvals need particular scrutiny. A deadline can make an official accountable for an unexplained delay. Automatic approval, however, should never substitute for a clearance that the law makes mandatory, especially where environmental protection, fire safety, building standards or public health are concerned.

An authority's failure to act should not become

permission to create a hazard.

Risk-based inspections, written decisions, independent review and published compliance records can reduce arbitrary official interference without leaving workers and communities exposed. Serious complaints should trigger timely investigation, and repeat violations should remain visible to the public.

The economic case for reform also depends on public expenditure. Roads, electricity, water infrastructure, land concessions and other incentives may help attract businesses, but they draw on resources that have competing uses.

The government should publish what major projects receive in public support alongside the capital actually invested, jobs retained, wages paid, local purchases, tax contributions and environmental performance.

Investment announcements should be distinguished from money deployed and businesses brought into production. Independent annual evaluations can show whether a project has delivered the benefits promised when public resources were committed.

The Bill addresses a genuine problem of administrative delay. Jammu and Kashmir should make lawful approvals predictable and its institutions easier for entrepreneurs to approach. But a government dashboard that records faster clearances while remaining silent on idle land, local hiring and environmental violations would tell only half the story.

The stronger measure of reform lies in what happens after an approval is granted.

A young person should be able to see a path from training to a well-paid job. A local supplier should have a fair chance to win contracts. Residents should know how a new project will affect their water, roads and surroundings, and where to turn when commitments go unfulfilled.

Investment earns public confidence through such results.

A permission granted in days may look like administrative success. Its real value becomes clear years later, when the factory is producing, local workers are earning and the land is serving the purpose for which it was allocated.

The author is a former government officer and urban planner.

The Invisible Himalayan Threat

Researchers have traced a striking share of airborne bacteria in the Eastern Himalayas to distant sources, raising concerns about the effects on local ecosystems and human health.

Pankaj Chaturvedi

The pristine peaks of the Himalayas, long revered as symbols of purity and life-giving air, are falling victim to a dangerous, invisible microbiological attack.

Recent findings reveal that dust from distant deserts is seeding the mountain climate with deadly pathogens.

Carrying micro-bacteria from thousands of kilometers away, these desert winds are disrupting a sensitive ecosystem and sparking a burgeoning health crisis for local populations.

Often called the “Third Pole,” the Himalayas are facing this challenge due to climate change and human interference.

As global warming intensifies, the Thar and Middle Eastern deserts are becoming increasingly arid. Devoid of moisture, fine soil is easily swept into the atmosphere during winter and spring.

Historically, the Aravalli Range acted as a natural barrier against this dust. However, decades of mining and deforestation have weakened this shield, creating a direct corridor for dust to reach the high altitudes.

This influx does more than just accelerate glacier melt. It introduces foreign minerals into nutrient-poor Himalayan lakes, triggering uncontrolled algae growth that suffocates aquatic life.

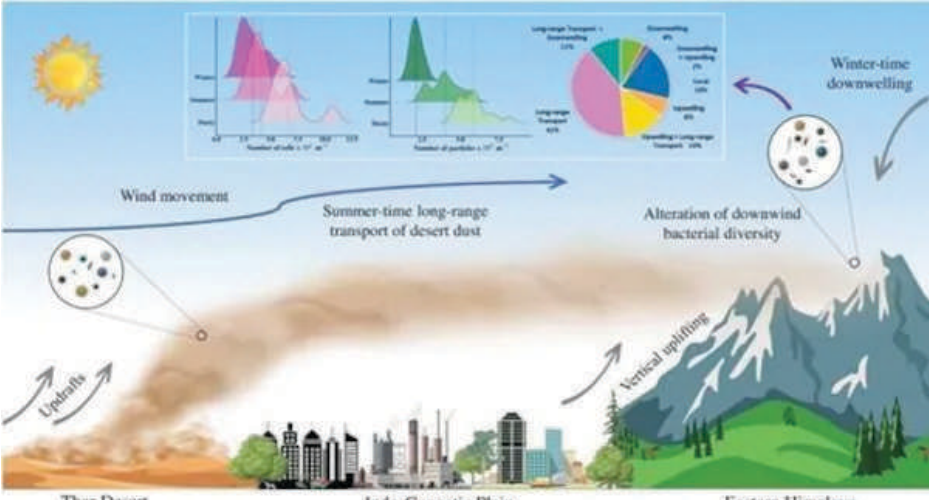
The severity of this shift was recently confirmed in a study published in the prestigious international journal Science of the Total Environment in its December 15, 2025, issue.

A metagenomic analysis conducted by researchers Antara Pramanik, Sanat Kumar Das, and colleagues in the Eastern Himalayas revealed a startling reality: 80 percent of the bacterial population in the Himalayan air is now non-local.

Transported from the Thar Desert, these foreign microbes have disrupted natural microbial diversity by up to 60 percent, effectively turning the mountain air into a “global conveyor belt” for disease.

During the summer, when desert winds peak, bacterial concentrations in the Himalayan atmosphere can soar to 6.7 lakh per cubic metre. Space-based monitoring shows a thick layer of Thar dust accumulating at altitudes of two to three kilometers over the eastern mountains.

The health implications are specific to the winds origin. While one-third of the dust-borne



bacteria cause skin infections, nearly 45 percent of bacteria carried by winds from the foothills trigger respiratory issues.

Furthermore, pathogens descending from the upper atmosphere have been found to contain bacteria that sicken the stomach and digestive systems.

Surprisingly, the Himalaya's own local bacteria, which now account for only 20 percent of the total population, are also increasingly associated with spreading infections. However, with the advent of desert dust, the

presence of exotic and unique bacteria has increased by 40 percent.

This situation indicates that the health challenges for the population living in the Himalayan regions and the tourists visiting there are going to be more complex in the future.

This research serves as a global warning for public health. The way atmospheric processes are carrying life and disease from thousands of kilometers away shows the extreme sensitivity of the mountain environment.

The time has come to stop limiting Himalayan conservation to simple plantation drives or waste management. We must take these microbiological changes occurring at the atmospheric level seriously.

If scientific solutions are not found to mitigate the impact of Thar dust and these invisible enemies, both the pure climate of the mountains and the lives that depend on it will remain in grave danger.

The author has been writing about the environment and science for the past 40 years, and regularly publish in almost all major Hindi Indian newspapers. He can be reached at pc700101@gmail.com.

An Elegy For Kashmir's First Mosque

On a stretch of Srinagar's old riverbank where Buddhist scholarship, Hindu traditions and Islam's early history converge, the Rinchen Shah Masjid stands neglected, its significance obscured by modern construction.



What grieved me most was a signboard hanging from the iron grill at the front of the mosque. It reads Aastan Owaisi Sahab (the Shrine of Owaisi Sahib). That shrine, in reality, lies some yards away. Whatever the intention behind it, the board tells every visitor that this is something other than what it is, and quietly erases the identity of the mosque Sultan Sadrudin raised.



Khalid Bashir Ahmad

On Sunday afternoon - 18 October 2026 - I went to the Rahbab Sahib locality in downtown Srinagar to condole with my friend Gulzar Athar on the death of his younger brother. It was one of those visits where words fall short, and the quiet company of those who sit with the bereaved says more. After sitting with the family for a while, I left with three friends: Mohammad Yasin Khan, Nazir Ahmad Kabli and Mohiuddin Reshi, who is related to the bereaved family. Prominent calligrapher, Mohammad Yaqoob also joined us.

We had no destination in mind, yet our steps carried us to the threshold of what is arguably the most significant site in Kashmir's history: the Rinchen Shah Masjid, the first mosque of the Valley. It was raised by Rinchen Shah (Rinchana r. 1320-23), the first Muslim ruler of Kashmir, who embraced Islam at the hands of Hadrat Sayyid Sharfuddin Abdur Rehman, popularly known as Bulbul Shah, and took the name Sultan Sadrudin Shah. Bulbul Shah, a Muslim missionary of Suhrawardi order from Turkistan who arrived in Kashmir in the first quarter of the 14th century, is regarded as the pioneer of



Shrine (1700), the three iconic symbols of Islam in Kashmir. The modest structure that stands today is not the original. When first built, the mosque was a large building, its area spreading from Malchimar to the nearby Budhger [Koshur Encyclopaedia, Vol. 1, 1986]. It was damaged by fire and rebuilt on a smaller scale.

We offered two units of supererogatory prayer, the Tahiyatul Masjid. As I stood and then prostrated, I felt myself a witness to the earliest times, when Bulbul Shah must have recited the first adhan here and a handful of devout souls bowed with him before Allah. For a few moments the centuries between us fell away.

In the close vicinity lies the mausoleum of Bulbul Shah, built by Rinchen for his spiritual guide,

The first monument of Islam in Kashmir stands neglected. Haphazard constructions crowd around it, and some overlap the mosque itself, so that a building of such standing can hardly be seen as a monument at all. No information board tells a visitor what the place is, who built it or why it matters. A stranger could walk past without knowing he had stood before the beginning of a civilisation's story.

a community kitchen, for the new converts, many of whom had been cast out by their families and kin for renouncing the faith of their forefathers. The area came to be called Bulbul Langar, and it is still known by that name, slightly distorted

into Lankar. I found it moving that a place of refuge and shared food stood at the very beginning of this story.

Close by are two old mohallas that tell the same tale of transition. Budhger had been a centre of learning in the Buddhist period. Malchimar was home to the new converts, whom the Brahman majority called maleech, meaning outsiders or inferior. A single stretch of riverbank thus holds the Valley's Buddhist scholarship, its Hindu spiritual tradition and the first expression of Islam in wood and stone.

It was here that the day's mourning, which had begun at a friend's house, returned to me in another form.

The first monument of Islam in Kashmir stands neglected. Haphazard constructions crowd around it, and some overlap the mosque itself, so that a building of such standing can hardly be seen as a monument at all. No information board tells a visitor what the place is, who built it or why it matters. A stranger could walk past without knowing he had stood before the beginning of a civilisation's story.

Wedge between brick-and-concrete buildings, under a corrugated green tin roof, with a shuttered shop at its shoulder and timber planks and yellow tarpaulins heaped against its walls, the monument that marked a turning point in the history of Kashmir is hard to recognise and almost impossible to read

as history. The façade is a record of neglect. Electric cables sag across its face. A rusting spiral iron staircase, bolted to the neighbouring structure, climbs past its windows as if the mosque were an afterthought in someone else's plan. Inside, the community love shows but it has told upon its historical past. Modern tile and paint may have erased older layers of the building. Glossy green walls, green — and — white checkered tiles, a crystal chandelier hanging beneath the ceiling, divine names running along the qibla wall and orderly laid carpets are devotion not conservation. A society so indifferent to its first mosque must ask what else it has forgotten.

What grieved me most was a signboard hanging from the iron grill at the front of the mosque. It reads Aastan Owaisi Sahab (the Shrine of Owaisi Sahib). That shrine, in reality, lies some yards away. Whatever the intention behind it, the board tells every visitor that this is something other than what it is, and quietly erases the identity of the mosque Sultan Sadrudin raised.

I do not say this to diminish the esteem in which Owaisi Sahib is held. He is a revered saint, and his shrine deserves its own honour in its own place. But the honour of one holy site should not come at the cost of another. The management of the shrine would do well to take the board down from the mosque and put up one that tells its true story. It is a small act, but it would restore to the mosque its name and the historical importance it commands.

There is also a larger question I could not put aside as we walked back over the Aali Kadal. The Koshur Encyclopaedia (Vol.1), published in 1986, describes the mosque as a protected site under the Department of Archaeology. Yet the lists of protected monuments maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India and by the J&K Department of Archaeology, Archives & Museums show no such evidence. How can we treat the brightest and most significant relic of our own history in this way? A community that cherishes its past guards its monuments. It clears away what has encroached upon them, marks them clearly, and teaches its children what they are. The Auqaf authorities, the archaeology departments, the local community and the custodians of the neighbouring shrines all have a part to play, and none of it is difficult if the will exists.

We left as the light softened over the Jhelum. I had gone out to share a friend's grief, and I came home carrying a second one, for a place that holds the first pages of Kashmir's Muslim history and has been left to stand unremembered.

— Khalid Bashir Ahmad is a noted Kashmiri historian, author, poet, and a former civil servant. He served in the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service and held senior roles as Director of Information and Public Relations and Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages.



Islam in Kashmir.

It struck me that a day which began with mourning should lead us to a place so bound up with beginnings, on a stretch of the Jhelum's right bank that holds the resting places of saints and a king.

The historical significance of the mosque can be gauged from the fact that it predates by seventy to eighty years the Khanqah-e-Moalla (1395) and the Jama Masjid (1402), and by nearly four centuries the Hazratbal

which has the distinction of being the first Muslim shrine in Kashmir. Nearby rests Sayyid Mohammad Amin Mantaqi Baihaqi, popularly called Woosi (Owaisi) Sahab, a saint of high order and a fine Persian poet, whom Sultan Zain-ul-Aabideen adopted as a son. The grave of Sultan Sadrudin himself lies close by, as does the Reshpur Temple.

The neighbourhood carries the memory of those days in its very name. Bulbul Shah opened a langar,



Glaciers May Be Melting Faster Than Estimated: Study

Daily weather variations could push 21st-century glacier contributions to sea-level rise 5–10% higher than monthly models predict, study finds

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Glaciers around the world could be losing ice faster than previously estimated, with a new study suggesting that accounting for daily weather variations provides a more realistic picture of glacier melt and its future impact on global sea levels.

The study, led by researchers from ETH Zurich in Switzerland and Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium, found that simulations accounting for day-to-day weather conditions projected greater glacier ice loss by the end of the century than models relying on monthly climate averages.

Published in the journal Nature Communications, the findings highlight the importance of short-lived weather events, including heatwaves and extreme melt seasons, in determining how quickly glaciers lose ice.

"Glaciers don't respond to monthly averages, but to the weather they experience every single day," lead author Lander Van Tricht of ETH Zurich said.

He said heatwaves lasting only a few days could cause substantial ice melt, adding that averaging weather conditions over an entire month risks underestimating the impact of such extreme events.

The researchers also highlighted the role of precipitation,



noting that whether it falls as rain or snow can significantly influence glacier accumulation and runoff, particularly when temperatures fluctuate around the freezing point.

To better capture these processes, the team modified the Global Glacier Evolution Model (GloGEM) to operate at a daily resolution and applied it to more than 12,500 glaciers, representing 94 per cent of the world's glacier ice volume.

Compared with the traditional monthly approach, the updated model reproduced observed glacier mass loss more accurately, particularly during years of exceptionally high melting, including 2022 in the European Alps.

The researchers found that the effects of daily weather variability accumulate over time, resulting in faster projected glacier retreat and greater ice loss in future simulations. The

difference was particularly pronounced in regions where melting is strongly influenced by short-term temperature fluctuations.

The revised projections also indicated a greater contribution from glaciers to global sea-level rise. The daily model estimated that glaciers could contribute 5 to 10 per cent more to sea-level rise during the 21st century than projected by the monthly model.

"Our findings suggest that existing global projections, which typically rely on monthly climate forcing, may underestimate how quickly glaciers will lose ice in a warming world," Van Tricht said.

He added that extreme melting events, alongside the gradual rise in temperatures, could have lasting consequences for glaciers, making it essential to account for such events when assessing their future.

Ladakh's First Medical College to Become Operational in 2027

Centre Approves Staff Recruitment

Press Trust Of India

Leh: Ladakh's first medical college in Leh is set to become a reality in 2027, with the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare approving its operationalisation and granting a one-time relaxation to initiate preparatory recruitment of faculty and support staff before the completion of 80 per cent of the infrastructure, officials said.

Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Monday welcomed the approval and thanked Union Health Minister J P Nadda for taking cognisance of his request for the relaxation, saying it would enable the Union Territory administration to begin staggered recruitment against 103 sanctioned regular posts while construction of the dedicated academic infrastructure progresses.

"I sincerely thank Health Minister J P Nadda ji for taking cognisance of my request and granting a one-time relaxation from 80 per cent completion of the infrastructure before initiating recruitment of faculty and support staff," Saxena said on X.

The Union health ministry approved a one-time relaxation in the infrastructure completion requirement to facilitate recruitment of faculty and supporting staff for the proposed Government Medical College (GMC) at Stipuk Pharka, scheduled to become operational from the academic year 2027-28.



The approval, conveyed in a letter dated October 13, 2026, to the commissioner-cum-secretary of the Ladakh Health and Medical Education Department, allows the administration to initiate staggered recruitment of faculty and supporting staff before 80 per cent of the college infrastructure is complete.

In a two-page letter to Nadda, Saxena sought relaxation in the infrastructure completion requirement to facilitate timely recruitment and ensure that the proposed medical college becomes operational as scheduled.

The approval marks a significant milestone in Ladakh's efforts to establish its first medical college and fulfil a long-standing aspiration of the people of the region, the LG said.

"This crucial intervention allows us to initiate staggered, preparatory recruitment for 103 sanctioned regular posts, right away, even as the construction of our dedicated academic infrastructure progresses," he said. The proposed medical college is expected to expand opportunities for

students from Ladakh to pursue medical education closer to home and strengthen the region's healthcare infrastructure over the long term.

The establishment of the institution is also expected to improve access to trained medical professionals and contribute to the development of healthcare services in the strategically important Union Territory, where geographical challenges and difficult climatic conditions often complicate access to specialised medical facilities, they said.

Saxena said the administration would make all necessary arrangements to welcome the first batch of medical students and ensure that the institution is ready to begin academic activities in the 2027-28 session.

The approval for preparatory recruitment is expected to help the administration advance staffing arrangements alongside the ongoing construction work, reducing the risk of delays in operationalising the institution.

The medical college is expected to emerge as a major addition to Ladakh's educational and

healthcare infrastructure, providing local students with greater access to professional medical education while strengthening the availability of healthcare personnel in the region.

According to the communication issued by the ministry, the Department of Expenditure examined the proposal and agreed to it subject to specified conditions.

"The 103 posts were sanctioned through a Department of Expenditure note dated November 27, 2024. Their recruitment will be undertaken in a staggered manner, in accordance with academic requirements from the 2027-28 academic year onwards, as identified by the UT administration in its communication dated August 5, 2026," the letter said.

The ministry has stipulated that all posts must be filled on a regular basis strictly in accordance with the approved recruitment rules.

It has also directed the UT administration to ensure that any interim arrangements made for the college remain temporary. Once the proposed infrastructure at Stipuk Pharka is completed, the facilities and arrangements must be shifted to the dedicated infrastructure. The administration has further been asked to fix reasonable timelines for the readiness of the proposed infrastructure to accommodate the interim arrangements and inform the Department of Expenditure when the transition to the permanent infrastructure takes place.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Low Voltage

the Valley. The plan should also outline measures to reduce reactive power drawal from the ISTS and provide estimates of hydroelectric generation during the winter months.

The committee has directed Power Grid Corporation to prioritise maintenance of the Static Var Compensator (SVC) at New Wanpoh, noting that arranging shutdowns for maintenance would be difficult during December-February.

Powergrid and IndiGrid have also been advised to complete maintenance of 400 kV transmission lines in Jammu and Kashmir before the end of November to ensure their availability from December through March.

"No shutdown of 400kV lines shall be facilitated during December-March period," the NRPC said.

The committee also flagged difficulties encountered during the restoration of the Kashmir Valley grid following a partial blackout last winter. It said power could not be extended because a synchronising trolley was unavailable at the Amargarh end.

Accordingly, all transmission licensees operating in the Valley have been advised to ensure the availability of synchronising trolley facilities at substations across Jammu and Kashmir to facilitate early restoration of power supply. (KNO)

All Political Parties

commitment to making India self-reliant, the prime minister urged people to have confidence in the country's resources and turn their resolve into action through hard work.

"We must have faith in our resources. We must turn our resolve into power and find solutions through our own hard work. Because Lord Shri Ram taught us that the difficulties cannot stop our journey," Modi said.

Referring to the concept of Ram Rajya, he said it represented a society without discrimination, where everyone received justice and equal opportunities.

"The purpose of power is not to rule, but to ensure public welfare," he said, describing it as one of the ideals of Lord Ram.

Modi said Dussehra, which marks the victory of good over evil, inspired people to remain committed to truth and humanity, regardless of the strength of their adversaries.

He said the festival reinforced the belief that truth and humanity would ultimately prevail and that its underlying spirit had always been central to India's philosophical tradition.

No Double Standards

Addressing the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the SCO in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also said that terrorism radicalises societies and deprives youth of the opportunities they deserve.

"There can be no justification for

terrorism, no double standards in addressing it, and no place for those who finance, support, or provide safe havens to terrorists," Singh told the gathering, which included Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, who was seated at the same table.

Singh underlined that terrorism results in the loss of innocent lives and disrupts investment and commerce.

The minister called upon the SCO members "to make concerted efforts to dismantle the entire ecosystem of terrorism," describing the menace as "one of the gravest threats" to peace and development.

In his address, Singh also recalled the deliberations at the SCO Summit in Bishkek in August-September 2026, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi underlined the need for concrete steps by the SCO on issues related to security, connectivity, and opportunity.

"India believes that the SCO must remain efficient and steadfast in its adherence to the principles of sovereign equality, consensus, and mutual respect. A greater number of institutions does not necessarily translate into greater achievements," he said, adding that new mechanisms should focus on clearly identified needs, avoid duplication, and prioritise delivering practical value to SCO members.

Singh emphasised the need for the SCO to build consensus and translate it into concrete action to address an uncertain global economic environment marked by geopolitical tensions, trade and supply chain disruptions, concerns over energy and food security, and emerging technological divides.

"There is a need to strengthen resilient supply chains, facilitate trade and investment, and leverage technology to drive development," he said.

Singh also reaffirmed India's support for the adoption of an Action Plan for the Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation Programme for the period 2026-2030 and welcomed the decisions taken at the Bishkek Summit to establish the Universal Centre in Tashkent and the Anti-Drug Centre in Dushanbe as permanent bodies of the grouping.

Their effectiveness, he said, would depend on efficient coordination and timely execution of tasks.

Underlining the importance of connectivity for shared prosperity, Singh said India supports initiatives that link markets, facilitate trade and create new avenues for development. He added that initiatives such as the International North-South Transport Corridor and the Chabahar Port can significantly help connect Central Asia with broader markets.

He, however, stressed that connectivity must be based on consultation and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, adding that projects not founded on these principles will not be sustainable.

Singh emphasised the need to move beyond physical connectivity by simplifying customs procedures,

promoting digital documentation, improving logistics and adopting interoperable digital solutions to reduce the cost of doing business across the region.

"Our success should be measured by the opportunities we create for youth, new markets we open for our entrepreneurs, technologies we make available to our farmers and small-scale business owners, and the connections we foster among societies," Singh said.

He highlighted India's Digital Public Infrastructure, which has transformed public service delivery and enhanced financial inclusion. He said that India has built one of the world's largest start-up ecosystems, and the nation's emphasis on women-led development is rooted in the belief that women play a defining role in shaping the path of development.

He also underlined that India's global initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure contribute to affordable clean energy & climate-resilient development. He added that Mission LiFE promotes sustainable lifestyles and responsible consumption, while the Global Biofuel Alliance fosters cleaner and more sustainable energy solutions.

He urged the SCO members to build on the strong foundation established over the past 25 years and chart a forward-looking roadmap focused on consensus-driven cooperation and tangible outcomes. He reaffirmed India's commitment to working closely with all SCO members towards achieving these objectives.

Singh also invited member states to participate in the first SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum being hosted by India later this year.

India Is A Refining

could be caused by some of the things that are happening around the world, but I think over time, it most certainly can, and in the short term, it can certainly help.

"So, that's one of the things we'll talk about. With India, we've talked about it in the past, and they sound ready. They're willing to do it. There might be a few impediments that stand in the way in terms of sanctions and so forth that we'll have to work through," he said.

Rubio said the US delegation "will discuss with Reliance about producing oil in Venezuela", claiming that "India made 'substantial progress' in diversifying oil purchases", which is a "smart thing to do".

Darbar Moves to

of their staff strength or 10 officials, whichever is less, unless otherwise specified in the order. The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages will move with 26 employees.

The Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) has been directed to arrange sufficient buses in good condition to

transport employees on October 31 and November 1. Advance ticket booking will begin on October 27 at the Civil Secretariat and the corporation's main booking counters.

Each convoy will be accompanied by a crane, two empty buses and mobile workshop facilities to deal with vehicle breakdowns en route. Police will escort the convoys and ensure priority passage through the Banihal-Qazigund and Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee tunnels.

Medical aid facilities will be established at Qazigund, Banihal, Ramsu, Ramban, Chenani, Udhampur and Jhajjar Kotli during the movement.

The government has directed the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department to establish ration counters near residential colonies of employees moving to Jammu. The Estates Department will arrange accommodation in accordance with past practice. Employees will not be permitted to occupy government or other designated residential accommodation without a proper allotment order.

October salaries for employees working in moving offices will be drawn on October 29. Non-gazetted employees may also apply for advance salary, which will be recovered in instalments under the applicable rules.

The order restricts leave in combination with or immediately following the move days, except in very exceptional circumstances. Kashmir-based employees wishing to avail themselves of the facility will be allowed five days of Special Casual Leave, irrespective of whether accommodation is available in Jammu.

To maintain administrative functioning in Srinagar during the winter season, a Winter Secretariat will operate at the Civil Secretariat. Each department will identify one gazetted and four non-gazetted officials for retention there, subject to approval by the competent authority. Departments have been asked to give preference, wherever feasible, to women employees and those with serious medical conditions.

Departments have also been directed to detach staff posted from subordinate offices in Kashmir Division by October 27.

After offices reopen in Jammu, the Civil Secretariat and heads of departments located within its premises will function from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. Heads of departments situated outside the Secretariat and observing a six-day week will work from 10 am to 4:30 pm.

The Darbar Move is the biannual shifting of the Civil Secretariat and other key government offices between Srinagar, the summer capital, and Jammu, the winter capital. Introduced in 1872 during the reign of Maharaja Ranbir Singh, the practice was discontinued in 2021 before being restored in 2025.

KPs Celebrate Dussehra, the Dussehra celebrations.

Karan, another visitor from Shivpora, also attended the event, joining hundreds of others who had gathered to witness the traditional ceremony.

A festive atmosphere prevailed at the venue as people watched the effigies burn and firecrackers illuminated the sky. Sweets were also distributed among those present.

The organisers thanked the administration and local residents for their cooperation in facilitating the celebrations.

Dussehra, also known as Vijayadashami, commemorates Lord Rama's victory over Ravana and symbolises the triumph of good over evil. The burning of Ravana's effigy remains one of the central traditions associated with the festival, which is celebrated across India with religious rituals and cultural programmes. ~With inputs from KNO

Medical Interns

met Officer on Special Duty Peerzada Zahoor Ahmad on October 12, when they were asked to wait another week for a resolution. A subsequent meeting with the Director General of Finance at the Civil Secretariat on October 19 also failed to yield a decision, the association said.

The dispute has also taken a contentious turn, with AIMSAs alleging that its representatives were subjected to humiliating remarks during their interaction with the OSD.

Dr Tasaduk, joint secretary of AIMSAs, alleged that the officer remarked that the government was doing medical interns a favour by providing them with free medical education.

Rejecting the reported remark, the association said publicly funded education was supported by taxpayers and should not be cited to undermine the legitimate demands of medical interns.

AIMSAs president Dr Mohammad Momin Khan said the interns had demonstrated patience by accepting repeated assurances and attending successive meetings, but the continued absence of a formal order had eroded their confidence in the process.

Earlier, intern doctors at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu had also resumed their indefinite strike under the banner of the Intern Doctors and Medical Graduates Association, demanding an increase in their monthly stipend to 30,000.

The protesting interns said they had waited beyond the deadline communicated by the government and had been left with no option but to resume their agitation.

Intern doctor Dr Tanish said the association had waited 42 days after receiving the assurance, but no government order had been issued.

Another protesting intern, Dr Suresh, alleged that the interns had been threatened during the course of their agitation. He claimed they were told, "Do whatever you want to do."

Similar protests have been reported

at medical colleges in Doda, Rajouri and Kathua, with interns across Jammu and Kashmir pressing for the proposed revision.

The association has demanded that the government issue the implementation order without further delay if the file concerning the stipend revision is ready.

The interns have also warned of intensifying their agitation, including resorting to a hunger strike, if the government fails to address their demand.

The candle marches announced for Tuesday evening are part of the renewed protest, as the interns seek a concrete decision on the stipend revision rather than further assurances.

Judicial Discret

interpretation and application of the same in the given facts and circumstances of the case," the court observed.

Granting relief without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, the court directed the petitioner to furnish personal and surety bonds of Rs 1 lakh each, subject to the prescribed conditions

"The prolonged incarceration, generally militates against the most precious fundamental right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution and in such a situation, the conditional liberty must override the statutory embargo created under Section 37(1) (b)(ii) of the NDPS Act," the court said while referring to the judgment by the Top Court.

The case pertains to the seizure of 22.145 kg of heroin from three persons at Pali Morh in Kathua on September 2, 2018. During subsequent follow-up action, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) recovered another 38.070 kg of heroin concealed near the house of one of the accused at Lachipora in Kupwara district.

Seeking bail, the petitioner argued that his implication was primarily based on statements made by co-accused and his own alleged confession under Section 67 of the NDPS Act. Relying on the Supreme Court judgment, his counsel Aijaz Ahmad Bhat contended that such confessional statements were inadmissible and could not independently establish his involvement in the alleged offences.

He also argued that call detail records showing communication between the petitioner and other accused could not, by themselves, prove his involvement in the alleged drug trafficking. It was further pointed out that the main accused had already been granted bail and that the trial had made little progress.

Opposing the application, the NCB maintained that the case involved a commercial quantity of heroin and was subject to the stringent restrictions imposed by Section 37 of the NDPS Act. The agency also argued that the petitioner had remained absconding for nearly five years after the incident and could flee from justice or tamper with prosecution evidence if released.

Osteoporosis Often Goes Undetected Until Fractures Occur, Doctors Warn

Awareness, timely diagnosis and lifestyle changes can help prevent bone loss

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Terming Osteoporosis as the "silent bone disease," experts on Tuesday said that creating awareness, early diagnosis and preventive measures are important to protect bone health.

An expert while talking to KNO said, "Osteoporosis is a condition that gradually weakens bones and increases the risk of fractures, often remains undetected until a person suffers a fracture, with the spine and hip among the most commonly affected areas."

"The Osteoporosis generally develops without noticeable symptoms in its early stages. As bone density decreases and the internal structure of bones deteriorates, even minor falls, sudden movements or routine daily activities can sometimes result in fractures," he added.

He said, "The condition is a significant public health concern, particularly among postmenopausal women and older adults, although it can also affect younger individuals due to nutritional deficiencies, hormonal imbalances, certain medical conditions and prolonged use of specific medications."

According to doctors, bone mass generally reaches its peak by around the age of 30, after which the body gradually loses bone density as part of the natural ageing process.

However, when bone loss occurs faster than the body can replace it, bones become progressively weaker, increasing the likelihood of fractures.

Dr Javid Ahmad Reshie, an orthopaedic specialist, said



osteoporosis can develop due to several factors, including hormonal changes, inadequate calcium and vitamin D intake, physical inactivity and certain underlying medical conditions. He said hormonal changes are among the major contributors to bone loss, particularly in women following menopause, when declining oestrogen levels accelerate the breakdown of bone tissue.

"Adequate calcium and vitamin D are essential for maintaining bone strength. When the body does not receive sufficient amounts of these nutrients over a prolonged period, bones can gradually become weaker, increasing the risk of osteoporosis and fractures," he said.

Dr Reshie said that a sedentary lifestyle and lack of weight-bearing physical activity can further contribute to declining bone strength. "Prolonged use of certain medications, particu-

larly corticosteroids, as well as thyroid disorders and some autoimmune conditions, can also increase the risk," he added.

Doctors said osteoporosis is not exclusively associated with ageing, as inadequate nutrition and failure to build sufficient bone mass during childhood, adolescence and young adulthood can also increase the likelihood of developing the condition later in life.

Dr Ishiyag Ahmad, an associate professor at GMC Srinagar, said women are generally at a higher risk of Osteoporosis than men, particularly after menopause, due to the significant decline in oestrogen levels that play an important role in maintaining bone density.

He said other vulnerable groups include people above the age of 50, individuals with a family history of osteoporosis, those who are underweight or malnourished, and patients suffering from chronic illnesses

or receiving long-term steroid treatment.

"An important concern with Osteoporosis is that patients may not experience any obvious warning signs until a fracture occurs. By the time the condition is diagnosed following a fracture, considerable bone loss may already have taken place," he said.

He stressed that people belonging to high-risk groups should consult healthcare professionals regarding bone health assessment and the need for appropriate investigations. **SPINE AND HIP FRACTURES AMONG MAJOR COMPLICATIONS**

Doctors said fractures are the most serious complications associated with Osteoporosis, with injuries to the hip and spine having particularly severe consequences for older adults.

They explained that Osteoporosis-related spinal fractures can occur following relatively minor movements, bending or lifting, and may sometimes develop without a clearly identifiable injury.

Such fractures can cause persistent back pain, loss of height and a forward-bending or stooped posture. In some cases, multiple spinal fractures can significantly affect mobility and the ability to perform everyday activities.

Hip fractures are particularly concerning among elderly patients, as they can lead to prolonged hospitalisation, reduced mobility, loss of independence and other complications associated with extended periods of immobility.

Doctors cautioned that the

consequences of Osteoporosis extend beyond physical injury, as fractures can affect a person's quality of life, confidence, ability to carry out routine activities and overall independence.

They said early identification of bone loss is therefore important to help reduce the risk of fractures and ensure that appropriate preventive or therapeutic measures are initiated before serious complications develop.

HEALTHY DIET AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY KEY TO PREVENTION

While Osteoporosis cannot always be completely reversed, doctors said its progression can often be slowed and the risk of fractures reduced through appropriate treatment, nutritional support and lifestyle modifications.

They advised people to maintain a balanced diet containing adequate calcium and vitamin D, which are essential for bone formation and the maintenance of bone strength.

Dairy products such as milk, curd and cheese, along with green leafy vegetables, nuts and certain fish, can contribute to a bone-supportive diet. Doctors said individuals who are unable to obtain sufficient nutrients through food should seek medical advice before considering supplements.

They also stressed the importance of regular physical activity, particularly weight-bearing exercises such as walking and jogging, as well as appropriate strength-training exercises that help maintain bone strength and muscle function. (KNO)

Classwork To Remain Suspended At Six Sgr Colleges Today

SRINAGAR: Classwork will remain suspended at six colleges in Srinagar today to facilitate the smooth conduct of the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) written examination for posts in the Health and Medical Education Department.

The directive was issued by the Additional District Magistrate, Srinagar, on October 19, instructing the heads of the concerned institutions to suspend academic activities during the examination hours. Only staff assigned duties for conducting the examination will be permitted to enter the premises.

According to the official communication, the OMR-based written examination for the posts of Attendant (General Cadre) G-II and Barber G-III will be held from 3 pm to 5 pm today.

The designated examination centres include S.P. College, M.A. Road (centre code K31); AAA Memorial Degree College, Bemina (K32); Government College for Women, M.A. Road (K33); Government College of Education (IASE), M.A. Road (K34); Government Polytechnic for Women, Bemina (K35); and Kashmir Government Polytechnic, Gogji Bagh (K36).

The communication was addressed to the nodal principals of colleges across the Kashmir Division and the Director of the Skill Development Department, directing them to ensure strict compliance with the instructions.

The measure has been taken to ensure the smooth and hassle-free conduct of the recruitment examination. (Observer News Service)

Mirwaiz Expresses Concern Over 'Eviction Notice' To Race Course Mosque in New Delhi

SRINAGAR: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Tuesday expressed concern over a reported eviction notice to the historic Race Course Mosque in New Delhi, a gazetted waqf property since 1977 and a listed heritage site.

"Deeply disturbing that Delhi's historic Race Course Mosque, a gazetted Waqf property since 1977 and a listed heritage site, faces eviction within six days," Mirwaiz posted on his X handle.

He said the failure of the waqf authorities to defend the mosque was also alarming.

"Equally alarming is the reported failure of the Waqf authorities to defend it. Is this becoming the new normal for Muslim places of worship?"

"This is precisely why we strongly opposed the Waqf amendments and increased government control through appointed nominees over Muslim religious endowments. If even a legally recognised mosque cannot be protected, what safeguards remain for others?" he said. (Press Trust Of India)

Police Arrest 6 Drug Peddlers In Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday arrested 06 drug peddlers in Shopian, Kulgam & Anantnag and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a police spokesperson said that in Shopian, a police party from Police Station Heerpora during routine naka checking at Circuit House, intercepted a vehicle (Alto) bearing registration number JK22C-4688, travelling from Sedow towards Shopian with two persons on board. During their personal search, 60 grams of charas-like substance was recovered from each individual. They have been identified as Mashooq Ahmad Hajam son of Mohd Shaban Hajam and Bilal Ahmad Hajam son of Gh Mohd Hajam both residents of Sedow, Heerpora. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 115/2026 under the relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Heerpora and further investigation has been initiated to ascertain the source of the contraband and establish its forward and backward linkages.

Similarly in Kulgam, a Police Party of Police Post Mir Bazar intercepted a blue-coloured auto-rickshaw bearing registration No. JK03P-3053 at NH-244 near Lalipora Crossing during dynamic Naka checking. During checking, police recovered 860 grams of cannabis-like substance and 12.05 grams of charas from a polythene bag found inside the driver's cabin. The driver was identified as Fazil Ahmad Sheikh son of Nisar Ahmad Sheikh, resident of Kapran, Veeringan, Anantnag. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 255/2026 under Sections 8/20 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Qazigund, and further investigation is underway.

In Anantnag, a police party from Police Station Kokernag, while patrolling at Soaf Shali, apprehended a person identified as Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, son of Gh. Mohd Rather, resident of Panzgam, Kokernag. During his search, approximately 119 grams of charas powder-like substance were recovered from his possession. Accordingly, FIR No. 175/2026 under Sections 8/20 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Kokernag, and investigation has been initiated.

Moreover, police parties from Police Station Dooru apprehended two persons identified as Adil Ahmed Wani, resident of Malikpora, and Mushtaq Ahmad Sheikh, resident of Veeringan. During their personal searches, approximately 7 grams and 8 grams of heroin, respectively, were recovered from their possession. Accordingly, cases under the relevant provisions of law have been registered, at Police Station Dooru, and further investigation is underway, spokesperson said. (Observer News Service)

Rafiabad Family Seeks Help To Trace Missing Girl

SRINAGAR: A family in Laysar village of Rafiabad has appealed to the public for help in tracing their 15-year-old daughter, Uzma Irshad, who has been missing since October 19 after appearing for her Class 10 board examination at Government Higher Secondary School, Dangiwaacha.

According to the family, Uzma left the examination centre and later reached Watergam village. However, her whereabouts have remained unknown since then.

The family, according to KNO, has urged the public to share any information that could help trace the teenager and announced a reward for anyone who assists in locating her.

"We have tried contacting everyone, but our efforts have been in vain so far. We appeal to the public to cooperate in tracing our daughter. We are ready to reward anyone who helps us find her," the family said.

A missing report has been filed at the nearest police station, and the family has urged people to immediately share any information regarding the girl's whereabouts.

Anyone with information on Uzma Irshad can contact her family at 7006776361 or 9622516174.

Meanwhile, police said an investigation is underway. CCTV footage is being examined and all possible angles are being explored to establish the girl's whereabouts.

Police teams are continuing efforts to trace the missing teenager. (KNO)

Over 4 Lakh Pilgrims Visit Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine During Shardiya Navratras

Agencies

SRINAGAR: More than four lakh pilgrims visited the revered Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in the Trikuta Hills of Jammu and Kashmir during the nine-day Shardiya Navratra festival, reflecting the deep faith and devotion of devotees who undertook the pilgrimage from different parts of the country.

According to official figures, accessed by KNO, the shrine witnessed a steady influx of pilgrims throughout the festive period, with daily footfall remaining above 30,000. The pilgrimage recorded a significant surge on October 17, when 48,470 devotees paid obeisance, the highest single-day footfall during the reported period.

The yatra began on a strong note, with 47,563 pilgrims visiting the shrine on October 11, followed by 48,400 on October 12 and 46,558 on October 13. A total of 41,961 pilgrims visited on October 14, while 39,961 and 41,921 devotees undertook the pilgrimage on October 15 and 16, respectively.

The rush continued over the next two days, with 47,669 pilgrims visiting the shrine on October 18. The footfall stood at 32,329 on October 19 and 30,552 on October 20, reflecting



the sustained enthusiasm among devotees during the auspicious festival. The daily figures for October 11 to 20, as provided, add up to 4,25,384 pilgrims, although the period covers ten calendar dates.

The Shrine Board also reported that the cumulative footfall during the Navratras crossed four lakh, marking a substantial increase over approximately 1.78 lakh pilgrims who visited the Holy Shrine during the corresponding period last year.

Meanwhile, the nine-day-long Shat Chandi Maha Yagya, organised by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), concluded on Mahanavami with the Purnahuti ceremony amid the chanting of Vedic mantras. The rituals invoked divine blessings for universal peace, prosperity and the well-being of all.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer of SMVDSB, along with senior officers and staff of the Shrine Board and a large number of pilgrims, participated in the concluding ceremony. The Maha Yagya was performed by learned Pandits led by Padma Shri Prof Vishwamurti Shastri.

To facilitate the smooth and safe movement of pilgrims, the Shrine Board put in place elaborate arrangements along the yatra track and at Bhawan. Dedicated help desks were established at key locations to guide devotees, while measures were strengthened to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply, improved sanitation and cleanliness. Special fasted meals were also made available at the Board's Bhojanalyas and Langars for devotees observing fasts during Navratras.

The pilgrimage infrastructure received a further boost with the New Vaishnavi Bhawan at Bhawan, inaugurated in May 2026 by Manoj Sinha, the J&K Lieutenant Governor and Chairman of SMVDSB. The facility has augmented accommodation capacity and enhanced amenities for pilgrims. (KNO)

and Kashmir in 2019, Mehdi said, "Though they haven't faced the exact same severity yet, you can see some similarities. How the city was shut down, how the state capital Delhi was locked down, how activists were detained, and how the internet was snapped, even if only for a day. In Kashmir, the internet was shut down for nearly a year. There is some resemblance in how the response given to Kashmiris is now being meted out to this genuine protest," he said.

He asserted that despite the clampdown, protesters remained undeterred and sought the resignation of a "compromised" CEC, saying that "such a person should not remain in the Election Commission".

"He should resign. Not only should he resign, but criminal proceedings should also be initiated against him. Furthermore, all elections held under his supervision come into question. Those elections should be revisited and reviewed," he added.

He described the protests as an attempt to "reclaim the country and democracy".

"If all these demands are now being taken to the streets, it shows an attempt is being made to break the environment of intimidation created by the BJP, an attempt to reclaim the streets, to reclaim the country, and to reclaim democracy," he said.

"We are hearing reports that UAPA is also being slapped on some of these activists in response. Yet, despite all this, those activists are standing up against

Amazon Launches Great Indian Festival Reloaded With Fresh Deals, Extra Savings

New offers across smartphones, electronics, fashion and household essentials; Prime members to get additional benefits

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amazon has announced the Amazon Great Indian Festival Reloaded, bringing customers a fresh round of festive deals, additional savings for Prime members and faster deliveries across a wide range of products.

The sale goes live at midnight, offering discounts across smartphones, electronics, fashion, beauty, home and kitchen products, groceries and everyday essentials. Customers can also benefit from bank discounts, cashback offers, exchange deals and no-cost equated monthly instalments (EMIs).

Amazon Pay is offering a 10 per cent instant discount on eligible Axis Bank and ICICI Bank credit card and credit card EMI transactions. Customers using the Amazon Pay ICICI Bank Credit Card can receive an additional five per cent cashback, alongside existing rewards of five per cent for Prime members and three per cent for non-Prime members. Amazon Pay Later users can avail 10 per cent cashback, while eligible Prime members can receive an additional ₹250



cashback.

The company said its Amazon Now service, which offers deliveries within minutes, has expanded to more than 120 cities across India. Customers can avail discounts of up to 50 per cent on groceries and everyday essentials through the service.

Amazon is also promoting artificial intelligence-powered shopping tools to improve product discovery. Its Rufus assistant provides personalised recommendations and price-tracking features, while Lens AI enables customers to search for products using photographs. Other features, including AI-generated review highlights, buying guides and personalised homepages, aim to help shoppers compare products and make informed decisions.

In the smartphone segment, Amazon is offering discounts of up to 40 per cent on devices and accessories from brands including Samsung, OneP-

lus, iQOO and Redmi. The Samsung Galaxy S25 Ultra is listed at a starting price of ₹96,999, while the One-Plus Nord 6 is available at an offer price of ₹42,999, including eligible credit card EMI discounts.

Smart TVs and projectors are being offered at discounts of up to 65 per cent, with 32-inch televisions starting at ₹9,999. Selected products also come with cashback of up to ₹15,000. Home, kitchen, toys and outdoor products are available at discounts of up to 50 per cent, while everyday essentials carry discounts of up to 70 per cent across more than 11 lakh products.

Fashion and beauty deals include discounts on footwear, skincare and other lifestyle products. Amazon Bazaar is offering selected products at substantial reductions, while Amazon devices such as the Echo Dot and Fire TV Stick 4K Plus are also available at discounted prices.

For business customers, Amazon Business is offering discounts of up to 75 per cent across categories, additional savings on bulk purchases and cashback of up to ₹9,999 on prepaid orders in selected categories.

Ruhullah Mehdi Seeks Review Of Polls Held Under CEC Gyanesh Kumar

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Lok Sabha MP Ruhullah Mehdi on Tuesday said the democracy in the country is "beginning to breathe" while referring to the protests against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Gyanesh Kumar, and demanded that all polls held under his supervision be "revisited and reviewed".

He also criticised the crackdown on protesters in Delhi during the demonstration against Kumar, claiming that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have also faced "the same crackdowns".

"Now, it seems democracy is perhaps beginning to breathe a little, that democracy which was suppressed over the past ten to twelve years. I won't say it has



fully revived yet. But there is an effort, perhaps from students and concerned citizens, who raised objections and protested over the Gyanesh Kumar issue," Mehdi told reporters here when asked about the recent protests in the national capital.

Comparing the brief internet shutdown in Delhi with the year-long restriction in Jammu

"He should resign. Not only

Rubio, Jaishankar Discuss Energy Security, Defence Amid India-US Tensions

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday held wide-ranging talks largely focusing on cooperation in the energy and defence sectors against the backdrop of continuing friction in bilateral ties.

The Jaishankar-Rubio meeting took place shortly after the top US diplomat landed in Mumbai on a three-day India visit that came nearly five months after his first trip to the country as the Secretary of State. Before his talks with Jaishankar, Rubio visited the Taj memorial and laid a wreath in honour of the victims of the horrific 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks that included six American citizens.

"In Mumbai, Indian External Affairs Minister @



DrJaishankar and I discussed energy security and defence cooperation while reaffirming the importance of advancing the U.S.-India strategic partnership," the US Secretary of State said on social media.

The top diplomat also answered questions from the media on the India-US energy ties as well as his trip to Reliance Industries Ltd's refinery in Jamnagar on Wednesday.

"In order for energy to

become usable, you have to refine it. You have a company with a massive amount of refining capability. I think I should go talk to them, especially when it involves nation-states," he said.

"We're going to go see a company that has a tremendous amount of refining capability. It makes all the sense in the world to talk to them about it. It's very difficult to understand something or see

what the possibilities are if you're not going to speak to them," he noted.

The US Secretary of State also responded to a query on India's procurement of Russian crude oil.

"India has expressed repeatedly its desire to diversify its energy portfolio, which is a smart thing to do. It's not easy to do that from one day to the next," he said.

"I think they've made some substantial progress in that regard, and we're happy to see that. But in the end, it's not just about Russian oil; it's about India's desire to diversify, and we think we can be a source of some of its energy inputs."

"We have discussed Venezuela and other countries, and I think it's in our interest to have strong allies with diverse energy portfolios," he noted.

It is not immediately known whether the proposed trade deal between India and the US figured in the Rubio-Jaishankar talks.

Ahead of his visit, Rubio said in Uzbekistan that the US is "very close" to finalising the trade deal with India. He also suggested that the US waiver on tariffs for buying Russian oil was linked to the decision.

Last week, US President Donald Trump suspended certain sanctions against Russia and five of the biggest buyers of Russian oil including India.

"We're trying to finalise the trade deal with India right now. We're very close to doing that. So that's one of the things we take into consideration when the President makes a decision about national security waivers and things of that nature," Rubio said on Monday.

India, US, UAE Hold Trilateral Talks Amid West Asia Crisis

MUMBAI: India, the United States and the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday held trilateral talks in Mumbai, focusing on regional energy security, connectivity and shared economic priorities amid mounting instability in West Asia.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan to discuss regional developments and areas of common interest.

The meeting assumes significance as disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz threaten global energy supplies, while Houthi attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure and concerns over the Babel-Mandeb strait have heightened risks to critical maritime routes.

The three countries have significant overlapping interests in safeguarding energy flows and ensuring the uninterrupted movement of goods. India is a major energy importer, the UAE is a key oil

producer and commercial hub, while the US remains an influential strategic and security actor in the region.

For the UAE, participation provides an opportunity to coordinate with two major economic partners on challenges affecting regional stability and global trade. For India and the US, engagement with Abu Dhabi adds an important Gulf perspective to discussions on energy security and maritime connectivity.

Jaishankar described the meeting as a "useful exchange of perspectives on energy, connectivity and contemporary developments", while Rubio said the ministers discussed regional energy security and shared economic priorities.

The trilateral engagement reflects a convergence of interests in protecting vital trade routes and limiting the economic fallout of the West Asia crisis, although it does not, by itself, signal the formation of a formal security alliance.

Pak Army Chief in Iran to Ease Regional Tensions

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir arrived in Iran on Tuesday, as part of Islamabad's efforts to de-escalate regional tensions, Iranian media reported.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported that Field Marshal Munir, "heading a delegation of Pakistani officials, arrived in Tehran on Tuesday afternoon".

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also arrived in Iran, accompanying Munir on the visit, according to Iran's state-owned Press TV.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said at a press conference ahead of Munir's visit that its primary objective was "to strengthen bilateral relations and mutual cooperation".

Talks between Munir and Iranian authorities will focus primarily on bilateral relations, regional developments, diplomatic processes, easing regional tensions, and various international issues, IRNA reported.

There has been no reaction from Pakistan on the visit so far.

Field Marshal Munir has made several visits to Iran since the conflict with the US began.



His previous visit was in September, when he held meetings with President Masoud Pezeshkian, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni.

Munir, along with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, has been playing a central role in mediation efforts between Iran and the United States.

CJP Rejects Protest Comparisons With France, Nepal, Bangladesh

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Tuesday rejected comparisons between the outfit's protests against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the violent unrest in France, Nepal and Bangladesh, saying his colleagues Sourav Das and Ashutosh Ranka "went to jail happily" and chose "peace over hatred" as they were following Mahatma Gandhi's path of satyagraha.

In an emotional message to supporters, Dipke urged them to spend time with their families during the festive period, while remembering Das and Ranka, who have been in jail since October 13 and could not be with their loved ones. He said the families of those involved in the movement were also bearing the consequences of their decision to protest.

"For a few days, spend time with your families. Be there with your families, be there with your loved ones," he said, adding, "Please remember Sourav and Ashu when you are with your families, because they both can't be with their families. So they are our family."



Referring to those drawing parallels with unrest abroad, Dipke said the CJP leaders had not resorted to violence despite being jailed. Instead, they had accepted their imprisonment with a smile, he said.

"Have some shame and see what is happening in India. In India, Sourav Das and Ashutosh went to jail happily. They did not do what is happening in France," he said.

Dipke said the two had chosen peace and compassion despite believing that they were being wrongfully imprisoned. He compared their

continue their struggle peacefully.

The CJP and its supporters have been protesting against the SIR of electoral rolls and demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Das and Ranka were arrested after CJP activists entered Jantar Mantar on October 13, a day after it was removed from the list of designated protest sites. The two were initially remanded to judicial custody for five days, which was extended by two more days on October 19.

"I am telling you, when Sourav and Ashutosh will come out, they will again come out of jail with the same smile. They will come out of jail and they will again walk on the path of Mahatma Gandhi, of peace and non-violence," Dipke said.

He also cautioned supporters against turning to hatred due to the treatment meted out to the two leaders, saying the movement's commitment to compassion was its greatest strength.

"We are fighting against hatred; we are fighting against the people who have nothing but hatred in their mind. But we also have to ensure that hatred does not come inside us," he said.



M I Securities

POWER OF ₹5,000 SIP

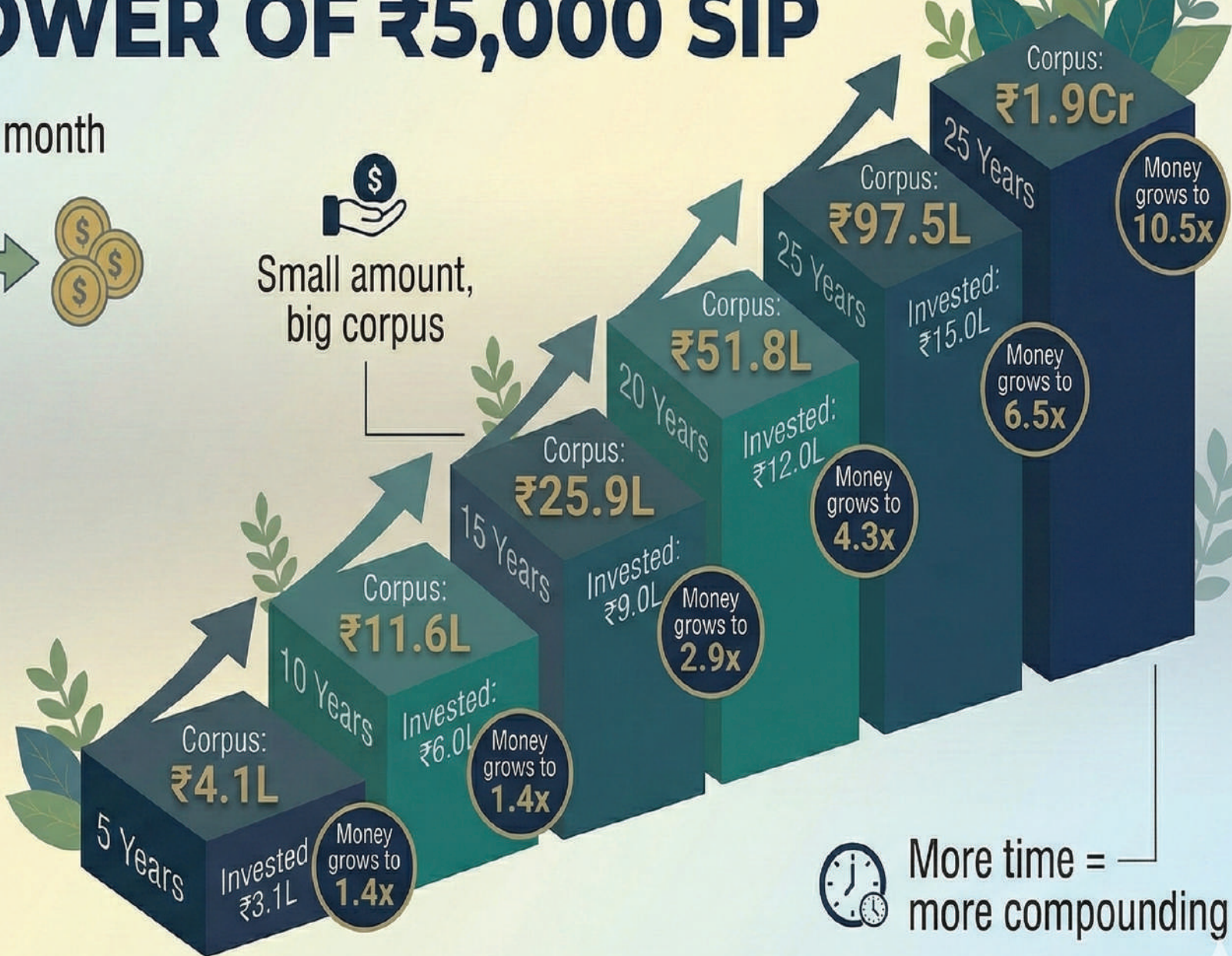
Step 1: You invest ₹5,000 every month



Step 2: You reinvest your total investment growth

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

Small amount, big corpus



More time = more compounding

Mutual fund investments are subject to market risks. Read all scheme related documents carefully before investing.



M I Securities - AMFI Registered Mutual Fund Distributor | ARN: 47504 | Contact: 9419006271