

Good Morning

Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGJandK



Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has crossed 3,35,000 mark. The dedication, passion & commitment of our officials, service providers and every-one involved in this holy pilgrimage has ensured a pleasant & memorable pilgrimage for the devotees of Baba Barfani.

Srinagar • Wednesday 23, July 2025 • Vol: 16 • Issue No: 168 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

■ Amarnath Yatra

Around 11,000 Perform Darshan TUESDAY



UMAISAR GUL GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The annual Amarnath Yatra continued on Tuesday with around 11,000 pilgrims paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine nestled in the Himalayas of South Kashmir.

With this, the cumulative figure of devotees, who have undertaken the pilgrimage since its commencement on July 3, has reached 3.31 lakh, officials said.

Officials said that a total of 10,829 pilgrims performed darshan at the sacred cave on Tuesday. Among them were 7646 men, 2,660 women, 97 children, 76 sadhus, 2 sadhis, 3 transgender persons and 345 security personnel.

While the footfall at the shrine remained good, the number of pilgrims departing from Jammu—the start-

ing point for most yatris—has shown a consistent downward trend over the past few days.

From 7,908 pilgrims on July 18, the number dropped to 6,365 on July 19, 4,388 on July 20, 3,791 on July 21 and 3536 on July 22—the lowest daily departure figure recorded so far during this year's yatra.

Despite the decline, officials said that the pilgrimage is progressing smoothly and peacefully, with robust security and logistical arrangements in place across all transit and base locations.

Escorted by Central Reserve Police Force and police personnel, the 20th batch of 3,536 pilgrims -- 2,601 men, 822 women, 11 children and 102 sadhus and sadhis--left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp Jammu this

LG Launches Dedicated Web Portal For Terror Victim Families In J&K

LG Sinha To Personally Monitor, Oversee Redressal Of Cases

GMK NEWS NETWORK

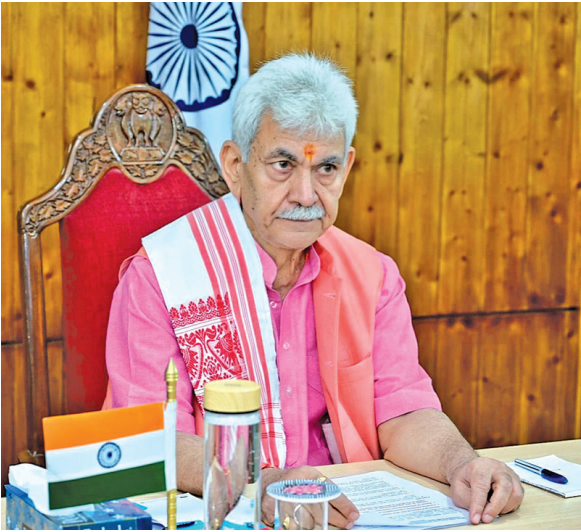
INITIATIVE WILL streamline, expedite the process of providing relief, compassionate appointments

Web portal will serve as **CENTRALIZED** platform to capture, maintain comprehensive district-wise data

SRINAGAR: In a significant move to provide institutionalized support to victims of terrorism, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday launched a dedicated portal for the terror victim families in Jammu Kashmir.

"The initiative will streamline and expedite the process of providing relief, compassionate appointments, and other forms of assistance to those who have suffered from terrorism in the UT," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Web portal, devel-



oped by the Home Department in collaboration with NIC, will serve as a centralized platform to capture and maintain comprehensive district-wise data on Terrorism-affected families. The details of any encroachments on the property of the victims or their NOKs are also being captured.

It will ensure that no legitimate case is left unaddressed and timely support is extended to eligible families in terms of financial relief, ex-gratia compensation and compassionate employment while ensuring elimination of any bogus or multiple

LG Sinha Visits Nunwan, Chandanwari Base Camps

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PAHALGAM: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday visited Nunwan and Chandanwari Base Camps and reviewed the services and facilities for the pilgrims.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the pilgrims, service providers, langer sevadars, sanitation workers, medical staff, and administrative, Police and security officials deputised for the ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra. He took stock of department-wise arrangements, logistics, lodging, disaster management, healthcare and other facilities that have been put in place on travel route and Yatra base camps at Pahalgam axis.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the dedication, passion and commitment of Camp directors, officials of Shrine Board, Civil and police administration, security

President Murmu Accepts VP Dhankhar's Resignation



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday accepted the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar. The approval has been sent to the Home Ministry, and a formal notification will be issued shortly. Srinagar food guide

Droupadi Murmu, India's 15th President, is the second woman and first Adivasi President f India.

The 74-year-old's resignation, announced on Monday, came as a surprise, as he had chaired the first day of the Parliament's Monsoon Session as Rajya Sabha Chairman.

In his letter to President Murmu, Dhankhar cited health reasons and medical advice. "To prioritise healthcare and abide by medical advice, I hereby resign as the Vice President of India, effective immediately,"

IMD Issues Flash Flood Alert For 12 J&K Districts

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a Flash Flood Guidance Bulletin for 12 districts across Jammu and Kashmir, warning of a low to moderate risk of flash floods over the next 24 hours.

According to the alert, the districts under potential threat include Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Reasi, Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch, Baramulla, and Anantnag.

In light of the warning, the District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) have been advised to imple-

ment standard safety protocols, ensure readiness of response teams, and closely monitor vulnerable areas to minimize any damage or loss of life.

"The situation is being monitored, and further updates will be shared based on continuous inputs from IMD and related departments," a local official confirmed.

Authorities have urged residents, especially those living in low-lying or flood-prone areas, to stay updated via official weather alerts, avoid unnecessary travel during heavy rain, and follow instructions issued by local administration and emergency services)



...Centre Reports 2.7 Cr Payout

Unseasonal Rains Damage 1,239 Hectares Of Crops In J&K

SAJID RAINA

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir suffered significant crop damage due to unseasonal rains and extreme weather conditions during the 2025 Monsoon season with 1,239 hectares of Agricultural land affected, according to the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

The information was tabled in response to a question in the Lok Sabha. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan stated that the losses were reported between April 1 and July 14, 2025.

Major crops impacted in the region include wheat, maize,



paddy, barley and various horticultural produce, though district-level specifics were not detailed in the statement.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), over 9,500 farmer applications were insured in J&K, covering an area of 5,500 hectares. As of June 30, the government disbursed Rs 2.7 crore in claims, benefitting insured

Carry Independent Verification Of Rural Waste Management Infra: CS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday reviewed the progress of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)-II (SBM-G Phase-II), highlighting significant achievements in rural sanitation and outlining ambitious plans for the future.

The review meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, RDD was attended by MD, Rural Sanitation; COO, Himayat and others to take appraisal of the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and enhancing Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) in rural areas.



During the review meeting, the Chief Secretary laid strong emphasis on furnishing a detailed report on the door-to-door waste collection status in rural areas. He directed that a sample survey be conducted through the Economics & Statistics (E&S) offices in each district to assess the actual implementation and progress of this initiative at the village level.

Dulloo further called for a comprehensive audit of assets created by the Department. He underscored the importance of verifying the dashboard data with the ground realities, ensuring both are aligned.

Amit Shah To Unveil National Cooperative Policy 2025 On Thursday

'New Policy Will Make Cooperatives Vibrant, Contribute To Vision Of Viksit Bharat 2047'

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperative Amit Shah will unveil the National Cooperative Policy 2025 on Thursday (July 24).

According to the details available, the event will be organized at Atal Akshay Urja Bhawan, officials said.

Members of the drafting committee of the National Cooperative Policy, Chairmen and Managing Directors of all National Cooperative Unions, senior officials of the Ministry, senior officials of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), National Council of Cooperative Training (NCCOT) and Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM) will be present on the occasion, officials said.

They said the new cooperative policy will prove to be a



milestone in the cooperative movement of India for the next two decades from 2025-45. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the able guidance of Union Home Minister and Cooperative Minister Amit Shah, the new cooperative policy 2025 aims to revive and modernize the cooperative sector as well as realize the vision of prosper-

ity through cooperation by creating a roadmap at the grassroots level," they added.

"Earlier in the year 2002, the country's first National Cooperative Policy was issued, which gave a basic framework for better management of the economic activities of cooperative institutions. In the last 20 years, many major changes have taken place in

India's Doctor-Population Ratio Improves To 1:811: GoI

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Union Government announced on Tuesday that India has made significant progress in improving its doctor-population ratio, now estimated at 1 doctor per 811 people. This figure reflects an 80% availability of both allopathic and AYUSH medical practitioners, marking a positive development in the country's healthcare landscape.

As reported, responding to a question from Biju Janata Dal MP, Shubhashish Khuntia, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare said that currently, there are 1,386,150 registered allopathic doctors across the country. He said the Ministry of AYUSH has 751,768 registered practitioners. Assuming 80% of these professionals are actively available, the overall doctor-population ratio stands at approximately 1:811.

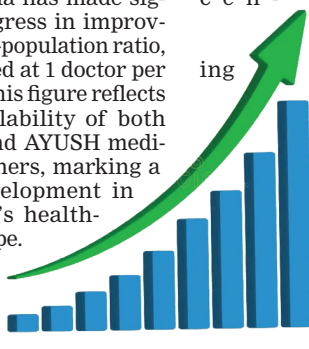
The minister said the government has undertaken various measures to address

the shortage of medical professionals. These include the establishment of 131 new medical colleges through a centrally sponsored scheme, which involves upgrading district and referral hospitals.

"Out of 157 approved medical colleges, these are now operational. Efforts are also underway to strengthen and upgrade existing state and central government medical colleges to increase MBBS and post-graduate seats," he said.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), 75 projects for upgrading government medical colleges—particularly constructing super specialty blocks—have been approved, with 71 of these projects now complete, the government said, adding that 22 new AIIMS have been approved, with undergraduate courses already started in 19 of them.

"To help mitigate



Omar Advocates Holistic Implementation Of NEP

Urges Educators To Empower Learners; Addresses One-Day Conference



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday underscored the need for comprehensive, inclusive and locally adaptable implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, calling it a visionary document whose success depends entirely on its understanding and execution at the grassroots level.

The Chief Minister was speaking at a One-Day Conference on NEP-2020 held at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), themed "Empowering Education Leaders for Holistic Education."

Emphasizing the impor-

ance of reflection and course correction, the Chief Minister said, "The New Education Policy is now five years old. This is the time to evaluate where we have succeeded, where we have fallen short, and what more can be done to implement it better. A policy is only as effective as its application and understanding."

Terming the NEP-2020 a "magnificent and far-reaching" framework, Omar Abdullah stressed that real change will come only when the policy is understood in its true spirit and implemented with sensitivity to local needs and realities.

He said the future of Jammu and

Criminal case ordered

Craft dealer blacklisted, deregistered for selling a machine-made carpet

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major crackdown on unfair trade practices threatening the very credibility of Kashmir's world-famous handicraft and handloom industry, Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, has blacklisted and deregistered a craft showroom - The Kashmir Art Bazaar, Tangmarg - after the showroom was found guilty of selling a machine-made carpet for ₹2.55 lakh to a tourist by fraudulently passing it off as a hand-knotted Kashmiri GI-certified product.

As per the Order No. 10-HD(QC) of 2025 dated 22.07.2025, issued by Director Handicrafts and Handloom, the seller used a fake QR label resembling the official label issued by the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT) to mislead the buyer into believing the carpet was a genuine GI-certified craft. "A formal criminal complaint has been ordered, and further legal proceedings have been recommended under the GI Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita," a spokesman of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir revealed.

Meanwhile, a team from the Quality Control wing of the Department has reached Konchipora, Tangmarg and completed the blacklisting process of the showroom.

The matter came to



fore after a tourist, Syed Furqan Alam, complained to Director IICT, Srinagar stating therein that he had paid ₹25,000 in advance for a carpet from The Kashmir Art Bazaar, located in Konchipora, Tangmarg, with the total transaction amounting to ₹2.55 lakh. The showroom allegedly presented a certificate and QR code claiming IICT certification. "Upon verification, IICT confirmed the QR label was forged and not issued by their institution. The case was escalated to the department's Quality Control Division, which conducted a physical inspection, seized the carpet, and issued a show-cause notice to the proprietor," the spokesman added.

The spokesman further stated that in his response, the proprietor denied the fraud, claiming the customer declined the purchase once told the carpet wasn't GI-certified. "However, this was contradicted by photographic evidence submitted by the complainant, as well as findings from IICT that confirmed the fake

label had been pasted onto a machine-made carpet," he added.

The official spokesman further said that the Department, upon examining the reply, found it totally misleading and unsatisfactory and concluded the act was a deliberate attempt to cheat the buyer by exploiting Kashmir's GI craft reputation. "The Director in his order stated that the seller had deliberately created a fake QR label resembling the original GI label of IICT and pasted the same on a machine-made carpet to cheat the concerned tourist," he said.

Citing violations of Sections 6 and 7 of the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1978, the Directorate ordered immediate blacklisting and deregistration of the seller.

"Furthermore, it is hereby ordered that a formal complaint shall be filed against the proprietor of The Kashmir Art Bazaar with the office of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Tourism Enforcement, Kashmir, for initiating

strict action against him for pasting a fake QR label purportedly in the name of IICT, and requesting to investigate the network which seems to run this racket of pasting fake GI QR labels on machine-made items.

The order further observed that once the seller realised the fraud had been detected, he attempted to remove the fake QR label from the carpet to cover up the malpractice. However, evidence provided by the complainant and expert verification from IICT confirmed the wrongdoing.

The spokesman reiterated that such fraudulent acts of misbranding genuine handmade products not only violate consumer trust but directly undermine the GI-certified identity of Kashmiri craft, threatening the livelihood of lakhs of artisans and weavers. "We take this opportunity to warn all business stakeholders in craft sector to desist from selling machine-made items in the garb of handmade products, failing which the Department will take immediate action by black-listing and deregistration of such showrooms," he added.

He further urged all buyers and tourists to contact the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, if they have been sold a machine-made product in the garb of handmade item.

CPU convenes meet at Srinagar, reviews Audit paras of JKPCC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Public Undertakings of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Tuesday convened a meeting at Assembly Complex here, to review audit paras contained in CAG's Audit report pertaining to the J&K Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCC) Limited.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Ali Mohammad Sagar and attended by members Saifullah Mir, Ali Mohammad Dar, Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Shakti Raj Parihar, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Bashir Ahmad Veeri, Showkat Hussain Ganai, Saif Ud Din Bhat and Tanvir Sadiq.

Principal Accountant General, Principal Secretary PWD(R&B), Director General Expenditure, Director General Accounts and Treasuries, Director Finance PWD(R&B), Chief Engineer PWD(R&B),

senior officers of JKPCC and other concerned officers were also present in the meeting.

The Committee held detailed deliberations on Audit Paras 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 contained in the CAG's Audit report for the year 2018-19.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chairman underlined the importance of proactive participation of all members in strengthening the operations and efficiency of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

He directed the officers of PWD to take concrete steps for completion of all ongoing projects. He also stressed on the importance of audit and evaluation of PSU's to ensure transparency and accountability in their operations.

The Members, during the meeting, also raised various issues regarding the works executed by JKPCC in their respective constituencies.

Bali Visits Fire Victim Families in Nawakadal

Urges Admin to Provide Immediate Relief, Compensation to Affected Families

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) State President Vivek Bali, along with senior party leaders, visited Bari Pora, Nawakadal in Srinagar area on Tuesday to meet families affected by a recent devastating fire incident that gutted three residential houses. The blaze has left several families homeless and in deep distress.

Leading the delegation, Vivek Bali was accompanied by SBSP District President Srinagar, Omair Malik, and Youth District President Srinagar, Bilal Ahmed Budoo. The team visited the site of the tragedy, interacted with the victims, and expressed heartfelt sympathies and solidarity with the affected families.

Speaking on the occasion,

Vivek Bali assured the families that the SBSP would take up their case with higher authorities to ensure they receive timely rehabilitation and compensation. He urged the administration to act without delay.

"I strongly urge the administration to provide immediate financial assistance and compensation to the affected families. These families have lost everything — their homes, belongings, and their sense of safety. Swift government action is essential to help them rebuild their lives," Bali stated.

He further emphasized the need for a strong disaster response system in fire-prone areas of Srinagar and called for better infrastructure and preventive measures to reduce the risk of such incidents.

Javed Rana reviews implementation of RDSS in Poonch

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday conducted a comprehensive review of implementation of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in Poonch district.

The meeting, held at Civil Secretariat, Jammu was specifically aimed at assessing the progress and quality of work being executed under RDSS. This is a critical initiative strategically designed to transform the power distribution sector in J&K especially in the hilly district Poonch, which is vulnerable to flash floods and landslides. The meeting was attended by key officials, including Shri Kant Balasahab Suse Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL), Mumtaz

Ahmed, Chief Engineer (Projects) & Secretary (Technical) and K K Thapa, Chief Engineer, JPDCL besides other concerned officers.

The discussions were focused on identifying and addressing the existing issues, as well as chalking out a proactive way forward to ensure successful implementation of RDSS in Poonch.

During the review, the Minister explicitly directed the Managing Director to ensure that there is absolutely no compromise with the quality of work, mandating that all projects must meticulously meet the stipulated standards.

Specific areas of concern that were thoroughly identified and deliberated upon during the review encompassed the alleged improper installation of critical infrastructure, including poles, transformers and service lines.

The Minister directed the Managing Director to rigorously ensure that all construction materials strictly conform to the approved Bill of Materials (BOM) and specifications, thereby safeguarding the durability and reliability of the infrastructure being constructed.

Furthermore, the Minister explicitly instructed that all equipment installations must be conducted with proper quality assurance testing and thorough inspection to ensure utmost safety and efficacy of the systems. He also underscored the critical importance of preventing deviations from the Detailed Project Report (DPR) scope without obtaining proper approvals, to ensure strict adherence to established protocols.

The Minister placed particular emphasis on ensuring safe work practices by

the contractors and workers, mandating the installation of proper earthing and protective devices to preempt any public safety risks associated with exposed or improperly installed wires.

Additionally, the Minister expressed significant concern over delays in the conduct of surveys and the progress of ongoing projects, which are pivotal to the timely completion and ultimate success of the RDSS initiatives in Poonch.

The Minister reaffirmed the imperative necessity for immediate corrective action to address the identified shortcomings. This will ensure that all RDSS projects are executed with the highest possible quality standards, unwavering transparency and strict adherence to safety protocols, ultimately aiming to benefit the people, he added.

Sakeena Itoo reviews functioning of Cluster University Srinagar

Pitches for introducing skill based, job oriented courses in emerging fields

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Tuesday conducted comprehensive review of functioning of Cluster University Srinagar (CUS) and its constituent colleges in a meeting held at Civil Secretariat.

Vice Chancellor CUS, Professor Mohammad Mobin; Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education department, Shantamanu; Director Colleges J&K, Special Secretary Higher Education department, Principals of constituent colleges and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Minister held detailed assessment of academic performance, infrastructure development, faculty strength, student services, admissions and progress of ongoing projects in the



University.

Addressing the officers, the Minister emphasized the urgent need to align the academic activities with current market demands. She directed the university administration and affiliated colleges to introduce skill-based, job-oriented courses in emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Hospitality Management, Data Science, Cybersecurity, Tourism Management and other job

oriented fields.

She also asked the officers to maintain coordination with different stakeholders and ensure that the courses are industry-linked and designed in consultation with experts from the respective sector. She also called for strengthening the existing vocational and add-on courses.

"Academic excellence must go hand in hand with employability. Students don't need just degrees,

but skills that make them competitive and employable in today's dynamic job market", the Minister stated.

The Minister further reiterated Government's commitment towards transforming the higher education in Jammu & Kashmir into a dynamic, skill-driven and inclusive system. She assured continued support to the University from the government to implement transformative reforms.

Sakeena Itoo reviews progress of works on Brazloo bridge Kulgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here Tuesday to review the progress of works on under-construction Brazloo Bridge.

During the meeting, the Minister impressed upon the officers of executing agency to expedite the ongoing works so that the bridge is completed within the stipulated timeframe. She held upon the officers to maintain high-quality standards of works while executing this vital project.

The Minister stressed on the officers to mobilize men and machinery and ensure that no further delay occurs in completion of the project.

She further stressed on the officers to maintain regular coordination with other concerned departments like Revenue and others in order to remove any bottlenecks hindering the smooth execution of

the project.

During the meeting, the officers informed the Minister that this bridge is a vital component of the NH-444 highway infrastructure. It was informed that the 378-meter-long bridge, after completion, will improve connectivity between Kulgam and Srinagar districts.

CM Omar extends sympathies to Reyaz Wani on bereavement, visits family

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday condoled the demise of the mother of Reyaz Ahmad Wani, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) with the Chief Minister.

In a show of solidarity and compassion, the Chief Minister visited the bereaved family at their residence to offer his condolences. Accompanying him were Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, MLA Kangan Meher Ali, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Jatin Kishore, SSP Ganderbal Khalil Poswal, and

the entire staff of the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt sympathies to Reyaz Ahmad Wani and other members of the bereaved family, praying for eternal peace to the departed soul. "In this hour of grief, I stand in support with the family and pray that Almighty Allah grants them strength and patience to bear this irreparable loss," Omar Abdullah said.

The Chief Minister, along with his staff, also participated in fateha held at the residence for the departed soul. Earlier Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani also visited the family to offer his condolences.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT (P.H.E)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION SOPORE

Land Mark Iqbal Market Sopore Phone No/Fax: 01954 - 222482 EMail: phesopore@gmail.com

Subject: Corrigendum for extension of dates.

Reference: This office Fresh e-NIT No.08/ PHE / SPR / of 07/2025 Dated:02-07/2025 read with corrigendum No. 2305-18 dated. 09-07-2025, No. 2511-26 dated. 12/07/2025 and No. 2744-58 dated. 19-07-2025.

In view of the request made by one M/s. Accurate Group via mail dated.20.7.2025 at 5:48 pm, bid submission end date and opening date for the work tendered vide above mentioned E-NIT which is scheduled as 22-07-2025 and 23-07-2025 respectively is hereby extended up to 25-07-2025 up to (2:00PM) and shall be opened on 26-07-2025 at (01:00 PM). Other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

No: - 2814-28
Dated: - 21/07/2025
DIPK-4072-23
DT: 22/07/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division
Sopore



Government of Jammu & Kashmir

WULAR CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

FOREST COMPLEX RAJBAGH SRINAGAR (NEAR SILK FACTORY) -190008

TENDER NOTICE

e- NIT NO - 02 OF 2024-25 DATED: 22-07-2025

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, Project Coordinator CAT WUCMA invites e-tenders on percentage rate basis, from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt./Central Govt. Organizations (PWD/CPWD) for the following works: -

S. No.	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. In Lacs)	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	Cost of Tender Document. (Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	TIME OF COMPLETION	Receiving/Opening Committee.
1	Construction of Anti-poaching Centre at Zurimanz, Watlab under Capex Budget 2025-26	45.24 lacs	"A&B"	Rs. 1100/-	Rs. 90500/-	200 Calendar days	Tender Opening Committee
2	Providing & Fixing of Chain Link Fencing at Ningli Ghat Near Rest House	47.48 lacs	"A&B"	Rs. 1100/-	Rs. 96000/-	120 Calendar days.	Tender Opening Committee
3	Boundary Consolidation by way of providing & fixing of Chain Link Fencing at Shahgund Sopore	35.00 lacs	"A&B"	Rs. 1100/-	Rs. 70100/-	120 Calendar days.	Tender Opening Committee

Position of Funds: Budgeted

Position of AA/TS: Accorded

Scheme: Capex

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract (Tender document) and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website: -www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

Date of issue of Tender Notice	22-07-2025
Download Start Date:	23-07-2025 from 11:00 AM
Bid submission Start Date:	23-07-2025 from 11:00 AM
Bid submission End Date:	12-08-2025 Up to 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online.	13-08-2025 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Project Coordinator Wular Conservation & Management Authority Rajbagh Srinagar Kashmir
Date of Opening of Financial Bids Online:	Will be notified separately

01. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>

02. The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be as per time schedule mentioned.

03. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed tender document.

NO:- PC/CAT/WUCMA/25-26/611-18
Dated:- 22/07/2024
DIPK-NB-1250-25
DT: 22/07/2025

Sd/-
Project Coordinator,
CAT, WUCMA,
Rajbagh Srinagar.



CMYK



Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Portal For Terror Victim Families

The recent launch of a dedicated portal for the Next of Kin of terror victims by LG Manoj Sinha is a commendable move towards support for those who have suffered irreparable losses due to Pak-sponsored terrorism. This initiative, designed to simplify compassionate appointments, and financial aid, underscores the administration's resolve to stand firmly with the families of victims, ensuring they receive the assistance they rightfully deserve. The LG's initiative includes robust accountability mechanisms, such as toll-free helplines and Special Monitoring Cells. These steps will ensure prompt grievance resolution and regular reviews to eliminate unnecessary delays. The personal involvement of LG Sinha in overseeing this initiative highlights the administration's commitment to addressing the plight of terror victims with the urgency it demands. For years, the families of terror victims have faced not only the unbearable pain of losing their loved ones but also systemic challenges in securing compensation and employment opportunities. The newly introduced web portal, developed by the Home Department in partnership with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), aims to bring much-needed transparency and efficiency to the process. By maintaining a detailed, district-wise database of terrorism-affected families, the system will help prevent misuse of benefits while guaranteeing that genuine claimants receive timely support. Recognition must also be given to those individuals whose relentless efforts in documenting the struggles of terror-affected families have played a pivotal role in shaping this initiative. Their work has amplified the voices of those who have long been overlooked, ensuring their grievances reach the corridors of power. Moving forward, sustained engagement with victim families will be essential in fostering trust and delivering meaningful justice. This initiative is a moral imperative. By extending unwavering support to the families of terror victims, the government not only acknowledges their immense sacrifices but also reinforces societal resilience against the forces of violence and division. This is a significant stride toward honoring the victims and upholding the values of humanity and solidarity. The administration's proactive approach sends a powerful message, no victim's family will be forgotten.

Love Is Still Blind

Let's Not Confuse It With The Institution Of Marriage



DR. MASRAT AHMAD MIR

A recent article titled "Pvt or govt job?: In Kashmir, proposals come with a question" attempts to diagnose the state of modern relationships in Kashmir, suggesting that love today is conditional, calculated, and career-driven. But this diagnosis confuses two distinct human experiences: love and marriage.

While marriage, as a social institution, is heavily influenced by class, status, and economic stability, love remains untouched by such calculations. The article doesn't expose the decay of love, it highlights the pressure and fragility of the marriage system in our society. Let's not misplace the blame.

Love and Marriage: Two Separate Journeys

Elif Shafak, in her celebrated novel The Forty Rules of Love, reminds us that: "Love cannot be explained. It can only be experienced."

Love is not an economic transaction. It cannot be delayed or denied by a government job posting. When the article laments that young people are waiting for stable careers to marry, it is not a reflection of failing love, it is a symptom of how marriage has become commercialized.

Shafak further writes: "If you want to change the way others treat you, you should first change the way you treat yourself. Unless you learn to love yourself, fully and sincerely, there is no way you can be loved."

In this light, love begins with self-awareness, not social approval. It doesn't depend on cut-off lists or PSC results. To reduce it to a rank list is not only unjust — it is deeply unromantic.

A Historical Perspective: Stability Was Always Valued

The notion that Kashmiri society has only recently become materialistic in marriage choices ignores a long-standing historical truth: families have always preferred stability when choosing life partners for their children.

In ancient times, we find references to endogamous marriages, often arranged within the same occupational or community group, to ensure that women could more easily integrate into their husband's profession or lifestyle. This was not merely convenience, but a cul-



tural practice rooted in social harmony and functional stability.

During the Sultanate period, Kashmiri women were married to non-Kashmiri Syeds, many of whom enjoyed royal patronage from the local rulers. These marriages were not purely romantic choices, they reflected strategic alliances based on social and religious prestige. In the Mughal era, Kashmiri women were given in marriage to imperial nobles, again underlining the significance of political alignment, class, and family status.

By the Dogra period, the preference had shifted to landowners, men whose titles and landholdings signified power and security. The roles they held mirror the societal value now placed on civil service and government employment.

Far from being new, this preference for "settled" individuals has deep roots in our cultural psyche.

Folklore as a Mirror of Values

Kashmiri folklore is rich with reflections of these marital ideals. In traditional wedding songs known as wanwun, which form a vibrant part of pre-wedding and wedding rituals, we hear repeated references to the lineage, reputation, and family prestige of the groom. These songs, passed down orally across generations, do more than entertain, they encode the social values of Kashmiri society.

The bride's family, in wanwun, takes pride in sending their daughter into a household of high cultural and social standing. The themes, expressed with poetic grace, emphasize that material

and familial stability has long shaped the concept of an "ideal match."

Wazwan and Wedding Prestige

Even the age-old tradition of Wazwan, the grand multi-course feast served at weddings, was more than a culinary experience. It was a statement of social standing and economic strength. A family unable to host an elaborate Wazwan might face judgment or rejection. To this day, the wedding feast remains a display of a family's capacity and status.

Delayed Marriages Are Not New

Late marriages are also not a modern phenomenon. Our grandparents often married in their thirties, waiting for a more "suitable" match. Whether due to dowry negotiations, social aspirations, or family preferences, such delays were common, the difference now is simply the nature of the expectations. Back then, it was acres of land, family name, or noble lineage. Today, it is often a secure job appointment.

And then, there's Habba Khatoon, the nightingale of Kashmir, who further illustrates how love and marriage have long danced with status and destiny. Though once married to a common man, she later married Yousuf Shah Chak, the ruler of Kashmir. This was not necessarily a climb in status for its own sake; her poetry suggests that her connection with the Chak ruler was one of emotional and intellectual resonance, not merely ambition.

The Real Problem: Our Expectations of Marriage

The true tension lies not in love itself,

but in how our society structures marriage. When marriages are arranged purely through social and economic filters, job status, property, caste, and community name, love is rarely even part of the conversation.

Yes, youth today feel burdened. But their pain doesn't come from failed love, it comes from the pressure to fit into a system that often doesn't allow love to breathe. Delayed marriages, emotional stress, and broken engagements are tragedies of our expectations, not of love's nature.

Can We Realign Marriage with Love?

What's needed is not a return to blind love, but a redefinition of marriage, one that values emotional maturity, compatibility, and character over cut-offs and contracts. Religious teachings, too, encourage this. In Islam, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "If a person whose religion and character you are pleased with comes to you (with a marriage proposal), marry him." — [Tirmidhi]

This criteria doesn't mention a government post. It highlights values that matter beyond economics: piety, kindness, character.

In essence: Love Needs No Appointment Order

To claim that "love now waits for a government job" is a poetic misjudgment. Love, in its essence, is still blind. It still grows in quiet glances, in soulful conversations, in shared silences. It lives in poetry, in resistance, and in faith.

What we are witnessing is not the death of love, it is the bureaucratization of marriage. And it's not love that needs reforming, it's our priorities.

Elif Shafak wrote: "Try not to resist the changes that come your way. Instead, let life live through you."

Let love live through us, free of resumes, caste certificates, or appointment orders. Only then can it remain what it has always been: pure, sincere, and beautifully blind.

And perhaps nothing captures this more gracefully than the timeless verses of a Bollywood song from the classic film Khamoshi:

"Pyar ko pyar hi rehne do, isse aur koi naam na do

Noor ki boond hai, sadiyon se baha karti hai

Sirf ehsas hai yeh, rooh se meh-soos karo."

Let love remain love, a drop of light, flowing through centuries, not to be labelled or possessed. It is not to be evaluated, only to be felt, by the soul.

Note: The piece offers a rebuttal to the column published in daily, 'Good Morning Kashmir' on 19th July 2025

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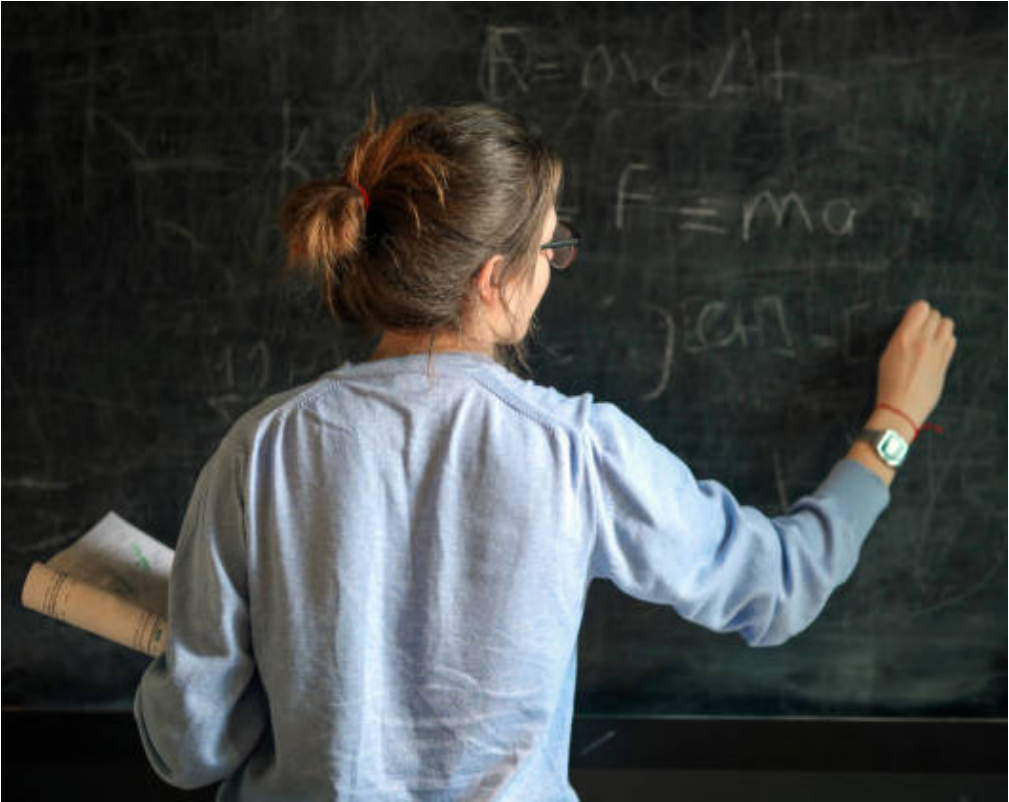
BEHIND THE CHALKBOARD

The Silent Struggle Of Private Teachers

INSHA SHAFI

Behind every successful student stands a teacher, patient, passionate, and committed to shaping young minds. Yet, in the case of private school teachers across India, this noble profession often comes with invisible hardships. While classrooms shine with modern tools and colorful boards, the lives of those who teach within them remain dimmed by neglect, low wages, and a lack of dignity.

Private school teachers are among the most underpaid professionals in the country. Despite holding postgraduate degrees, teaching certifications, and years of experience, many are paid salaries as low as 6,000 to 12,000 per month, barely enough to cover basic living expenses. In contrast, government school teachers receive higher pay, job security, and benefits, highlighting the unfair gap in compensation for the same profession. Private school teachers are often expected to deliver high results, attend to administrative duties, organize events, and work beyond school hours, yet receive neither overtime



pay nor proper recognition.

The struggles don't end with salary. Most private school teachers work without proper contracts or job security. They are vulnerable to sudden terminations, lack of maternity or medical leave, and have no access to

pension or retirement benefits. Many are burdened with fear, of speaking out, of asking for a raise, or of losing their job. In some regions, especially rural and semi-urban areas, the Minimum Wages Act is not implemented effectively, and man-

agement exploits the lack of awareness among staff.

These educators, who are the heart of every classroom, often live in quiet desperation. Behind their warm smiles and professional appearance lies a reality of unpaid bills, part-

time jobs, and unfulfilled dreams. It is heartbreaking that those who build the nation's future are unable to secure a stable future for themselves. Their emotional and financial stress affects not only their well-being but also the quality of education they can provide.

This situation demands urgent attention. Governments must ensure strict enforcement of fair salary policies in all private institutions. School managements should be held accountable for providing decent pay, professional growth, and respect to their teaching staff. Parents, too, should become more aware—asking how their fees are being used and whether their children's teachers are being treated fairly.

A society that values education must also value its educators. It is time to look beyond the chalkboard and acknowledge the silent sacrifices of private school teachers. Respect alone is not enough, they deserve justice, fair wages, and the dignity that comes with being the backbone of our education system.

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IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Lal Ded: Her Life And Works



DR. SHIBEN KRISHEN RAINA

The people of Kashmir revere Lal Ded under various names, Laleshwari, Lal-yogeshwari, Lala, Lal, and Lalarifa. Scholars have long debated over the precise period of her birth. On analysing these various views, the year 1335 AD appears to be the most plausible date for her birth.

It is likely that Lal Ded's birth name was different. In Kashmiri, Lal means 'belly,' and Ded is an honorific term used for revered elderly women. It is said she often roamed half-naked, her large belly covering her private parts. Pt. Gopi Nath Raina, in his book Lal Vakya (1920) and The Word of Lalla Prophetss (1929), suggests her birth name was Padmavati.

It is also believed that during her lifetime, Lal Ded interacted with many prominent figures, such as the then prince Shihabuddin, saints like Syed Jalaluddin Bukhari, Syed Hussain Samanani, and Syed Ali Hamadani. These events are recorded around the Hijri years 748, 773, and 781 respectively, indicating that she was not only born before these years but was mature and enlightened by then.

Like her birth, Lal Ded's death is also shrouded in uncertainty. It is only said that when she passed away, her body shone like pure gold. This event is believed to have occurred near Bijbehara, close to Anantnag (Islamabad). There is no reliable record regarding the final rites or cremation of her mortal remains. Legend has it that the saint-poet Sheikh Noor-ud-din Wali, born in 1376 CE, once suckled her mother's breast after being reprimanded by Lal Ded, implying she lived at least till 1376 AD.

Lal Ded was born in Simpura village near Pampore, about nine miles from Srinagar, into a Brahmin farming family. According to the then prevalent customs, she was married in childhood to a reputed Brahmin family in Pampore. Her husband's name is recorded as Sonpandit. Even from her young age, this proto-poetess harbored a rebellious spirit toward worldly bonds, which ultimately found expression in her deeply emotional and philosophical Vakhs (verses). She received her early education from her family guru, Shri Siddhamol, who introduced her to the secrets of religion, philosophy, knowledge, and yoga, thereby earning the reverential status of a Guru.

When Sonpandit noticed his wife grow-



ing increasingly detached, he requested Siddhamol to guide her towards worldly engagement. During a visit to her house, a profound discussion emerged among Sonpandit, Siddhamol, and Lal Ded. The topics were:

What is the greatest light?
What is the most sacred pilgrimage?
Who is the most important relative?
What is the most delightful thing in life?

Sonpandit answered: sunlight, the Ganges, a brother, and a wife.

Siddhamol offered: sight, knees (as the body's journeying tool), pocket (symbolizing wealth), and health. Lal Ded responded: self-realization is the greatest light, curiosity is the holiest pilgrimage, God is the truest relative, and fear of God is the greatest delight. Both were stunned by the profundity of her response.

Even in childhood, Lal Ded displayed extraordinary traits. She often sat alone in deep thought, never drawn by the attractions of the world—so much so that her peers mocked her for her eccentricity (Kashmiri Zabaan aur Shayari, Vol. 2, p.113). After marriage, she endured the bitterness and tyranny of her mother-in-law with great patience. Once, she went to fetch water. Her mother-in-law incited her son to spy on her. As Sonpandit approached with a stick, Lal Ded was returning with a water-pitcher on her shoulder. He struck the pitcher, which shattered, but the water remained suspended as if supported by a divine force. She used this water to fill utensils at home, and the leftover water she threw from the window created a pond that still exists, known as Lal Nag.

On another occasion, during a feast at her in-law's house, her friends teased her that she would enjoy delicious food today. Lal Ded humbly replied, "Whether sweets or savory dishes are cooked, I am fated to

eat stones." Her cruel mother-in-law would place a stone beneath a layer of rice on her plate. This incident led to a local proverb in Kashmir: "Lali neelvath chali na janah"—"Lal cannot change her fate of stones."

By now, her spiritual insight had transcended the limitations of the physical world. She began wandering in search of inner truth, even discarding her clothes. She danced, sang, and roamed freely in bliss. She considered only those men to be real who feared God—and such men, she said, were rare. Hence, she felt no shame being naked before others. When she once spotted the great Sufi saint Syed Hamadani approaching, she tried to cover herself. Hamdani asked why she was ashamed now. Lal Ded replied, "O friend of God, until now, only women passed by. You are the first man with divine vision."

On another occasion, she ran to a shopkeeper requesting clothes to cover herself, saying, "The saint who is coming recognizes me as I recognize him." As Saint Hamadani arrived, she jumped into a nearby bakery's tandoor. When the saint called out, "O Lalla, come out and see who is here," she emerged clad in radiant, divine garments. This incident inspired a Kashmiri saying: "Aayi vaanas te gayi kandas"—"She came to the grocer but went to the baker."

Lal Ded had no children, a bond from which nature freed her. She herself said: "Na pyaayas, na zaayas, na kheayam hend taney shonth"(Neither did I give birth nor partake in maternal food).

The hardships she faced in her household awakened in her a new vision of life. Her spiritual realizations blossomed into poetic expressions known as Vakhs, just like Kabir, who never used pen and paper. These verses were sung orally before being documented. Dr. Grierson, with the help of

Pandit Mukund Ram Shastri, compiled 106 Vakhs, published in 1920 in Lalvakyaani by the Royal Asiatic Society, London. R.C. Temple further studied her sayings in The Word of Lalla, published by Cambridge University Press in 1924. Rajanak Bhaskaracharya translated 60 of her Vakhs into Sanskrit.

Many other scholars, such as Sarvanand Charagi, Anand Kaul Bamzai, Ramju Kalla, Jia Lal Kaul Jalali, Gopi Nath Raina, Prof. Jia Lal Kaul, R.K. Wanchoo, and Nand Lal Talib, have contributed significantly to preserving and translating her work. Sarvanand Charagi translated 100 Vakhs into Hindi under Kalam-e-Lalarifa, Anand Kaul Bamzai 75, and Ramju Kalla published 146 Vakhs in Amritvani. Renowned writer/translator Dr. Shibeen Krishen Raina collected around 180 Vakhas and published them in a collection printed by Bhuvan Vani Trust Lucknow(1983).

Lal Ded's Vakhs are mostly in free verse with rhythmic cadence. Her philosophical insights reflect influences of Shaivism, Vedanta, and Sufism. When she emerged, Islam had already entered Kashmir as a theological system. Amidst religious dogmatism and socio-political unrest, Lal Ded rose above sectarian divisions and voiced the universal truth in the language of the common people. Her mystic vision was deeply personal: "My guru whispered a secret—turn away from the outer and seek within. Since then, my soul has danced naked."

She had attained a state beyond ego and duality. She saw no difference between self and other; between honor and insult. Her realization of the Self as Shiva was supreme: "Let people insult or mock me— I shall never harbor ill in my heart. When my Shiva has showered grace, Why should I fear what others think?" Shaken by social contradictions, her inner

being was stirred:

"I saw a wise man dying of hunger,
His body withered like autumn leaves.
I saw a fool beating for stealing food,
And my soul, disturbed, walked away."

Her understanding of Advaita (non-dualism) matched that of Shankara. She found God not in temples or rituals but within herself:

"I searched for Him in the world—
Day and night, I wandered.
At last, I found Him in my own home—
And from that day, my true path began."
She opposed religious hypocrisy and criticized both Hindus and Muslims who strayed from true piety. For Lal Ded, religion meant purity of heart.

"Your face is beautiful; your heart is like stone—
Where is the essence in that?
You read and write till your hands are sore—
But you have not removed the darkness within."

Lal Ded's poetry is a blend of philosophical depth, poetic beauty, and spiritual universality. Her expressions use metaphor, paradox, suggestion, and symbolic imagery rooted in everyday life. Most of her Vakhs evoke the tranquil Shanta rasa (aesthetic mood of peace).

Lal Ded's language marks a milestone in Kashmiri literary history. Though some consider Shitikantha's Mahanaya Prakash the first Kashmiri text, its language is far less Kashmiri than that of Lal Ded's verses. Her language is Sanskrit-rooted but also contains Persian and Arabic elements. She used Sanskrit words in original or slightly modified forms: prakash, teerth, angrah, karm, moorkh, manushya, shiv, updesh, geeta, gyaan, etc. Persian-Arabic words include sahib, dil, jigar, mushk, gul, bagh, kalma, shikar, etc.

There is no significant shrine, memorial, or temple dedicated to Lal Ded in Kashmir. Perhaps she transcended such earthly symbols. She came as a divine emissary and merged silently with the Infinite—beyond life and death: "For me, birth and death are alike.

No one dies for me—

Nor shall I die for anyone."

Lal Ded ranks among the greatest spiritual luminaries of the world. She had attained enlightenment during her lifetime and entered the abode of God. For her, life held purpose and death lost its dread. She loved God wholeheartedly and found Him within herself.

Kashmir's great Sufi saint Sheikh Noor-ud-din Wali, also known as Nund Rishi, offered the most fitting tribute to Lal Ded: "That Lalla of Padmapore drank the nectar divine— She was our incarnation. O Lord! May I be blessed as she was!"

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The Season That Took Everything

A Monologue Of A Girl Finding Her Voice In The Middle Of Silence And Storms



KABRA ALTAF

She was always the one who told the truth. Even when it hurt. Even when no one wanted to hear it.

Even when it meant walking alone. She lived with pressure like it was gravity —

constant, invisible, expected. Be better. Be strong. Be kind. Be quiet. She did what was asked. She believed in progress. She believed in people. She believed that if you were good enough, you'd be okay. But then came the season. Not winter. Not monsoon. Not a season you can track on apps or calendars but the kind that unravels everything inside you. No warning. No storm. Just... unraveling.

The things she thought would hold — cracked. The people she counted on — vanished. The truths she lived by — turned their backs on her.

And she didn't fight it. She didn't scream. She didn't resist. She just... let it happen. Years of pain — unspoken, tolerated,

justified — collapsed under their own weight. But instead of relief, she found silence. No voice. No anger. No hope. Just a hollow place where meaning used to be.

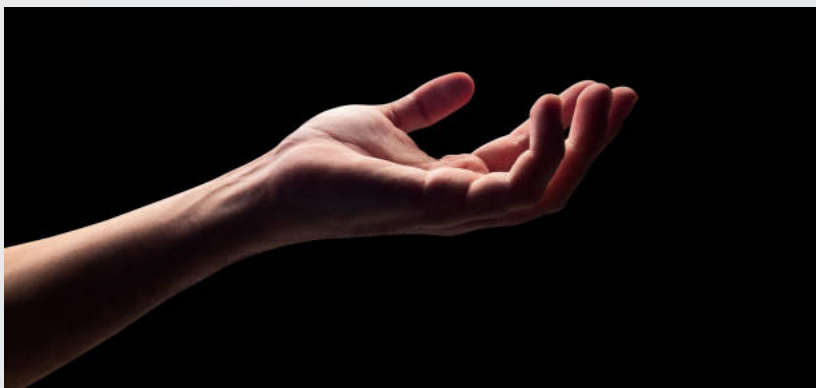
A void. Not broken — just absent. Like waking up in a house emptied overnight.

Like forgetting your own reflection. Like breathing without knowing why. She stopped believing in progress. Not out of bitterness — just clarity. She stopped believing in people. Not because they were cruel — but because they were loud. Loud with fixations. Loud with truths. Loud with noise.

So now, she watches the world like it's happening to someone else. Detached. Still. Not unfeeling — just **beyond feeling. And deep inside her, something waits. A whisper. A voice. Her own. It doesn't want applause. It doesn't want answers. It just wants to be heard — But by her.

Because maybe that's what survival truly is:

Not to be seen. Not to be saved. Just to finally hear yourself after the noise is gone. In Kashmir, even the weather lies. Seasons don't pass — they arrive like uninvited guests. Spring walks in like a rumor. Summer burns with memory.



Autumn sheds truth like dry leaves. Winter doesn't visit — it occupies. You don't live through seasons here — you negotiate.

You buy wool in September like it's insurance.

You pickle food in July like you're preparing for exile.

You smile in spring, not because you're happy — but because you survived winter.

We plan. We adapt.

We prepare for snowfall like it's an annual betrayal.

We make peace with roads that vanish, taps that freeze, and signals that disappear faster than promises in election season.

We burn kangris to stay alive — even when our hands are burned, even when our bellies scar.

And some — the poorest — don't eat. They just sit silently, warming their hunger

over charcoal that bites more than it comforts.

Because being Kashmiri isn't just surviving the snow — it's surviving the silence.

It's surviving the forgetting. We wear our strength like pherans — Heavy. Frayed. Stitched with centuries. Nobody sees the chaos beneath.

Just the calm. Just the stillness.

But we are walking cartilage and will-power.

We are broken ribs that still breathe. We are hollow voices that still hope.

And she? She's one of us.

Told the truth even when silence was safer.

Carried pressure like second skin. Hoped goodness would be her shield.

And when everything cracked, she didn't fall apart — she disappeared.

She no longer hoped people would understand.

Not because they were heartless — but because they were elsewhere.

Elsewhere in their noise. Their "solutions." Their comfort.

So she went inward.

She held her breath in rooms filled with fog. She stood in the snow with ribs too bruised to speak.

She smiled with a mouth that forgot laughter.

But even then — she stood. And then came her truth — spilled, messy, unfinished, but real:

> With this, I might write down a torn heart here.

> But what if I put it here and let it bleed —

> then what will bleed inside me for the life

> when everything suppressed finally leaves?

> All this — we live.

> We support ourselves by ourselves.

> We fight.

> We hope.

> And that's what keeps us going.

> With a heart full of hope,

> with a heart still looking for the right people,

> with a heart that still believes in love —

> we stand.

> With burned hands, I still hold the kangri.

> With broken ribs, I still smile.

> With a broken heart, I still hope.

> With a broken hand, I still write my soul.

So I welcome you —

to the place where it's heaven and nobody knows us as humans.

I welcome you to the land of many seasons —

of love, of peace, of pain,

and of life that keeps going. And even now, even after all of this — we still wait for spring.

Kabra Altaf is an eight-time national Judo medalist and a State Awardee based in Srinagar. She can be reached at Kabraaltaf55@gmail.com

India seek injury-time fightback at the other Old Trafford

AGENCIES

Anything can happen. It is the central allure of sport. And this series keeps going out of its way to highlight it. There have been mountains of runs, mid-pitch feuds, men standing tall, men breaking down, history created left, right and centre, and heartbreak to last lifetimes. Manchester would do well to stock up on tissues and saw off everything but the edge of the couch. India will look back at so many moments. The run-out that needn't have been. The backfoot defence that wasn't quite. Small things. And now that they've had a little time to digest how big their impact was at Lord's, there may be an understanding that being 1-2 down is a reality waiting to be reshaped. It is perhaps why they are pressing Jasprit Bumrah back into action. He's known to have sweet-talked destiny before.

England have someone like that too and he's had his four days' bed rest. Ben Stokes ran himself into the ground last week. Watching him, his team-mates did the same. Jofra Archer didn't care that he'd only bowled 18 overs in first-class cricket in four years of



Test-match exile. He was ready to go from 0 to 90mph. Shoaib Bashir didn't let minor details like a broken left hand keep him

from answering his captain's call. He was happy to bowl England to victory.

Both these teams had much

easier paths to victory open to them. Their flaws came in the way. Neither team is willing to let that define them. That's

why they are so good to watch. They aren't perfect. But they are determined. With the series on the line and injuries forcing

them to dig even deeper, there is every chance another spectacle awaits us at Old Trafford. Anything can happen. It is the central allure of sport. Because the people who are part of it just never give up.

Zak Crawley has hit a bit of an introspective phase in his career. The man who began an Ashes series by smacking its first ball for four is starting to appreciate a new way of doing things. His 128 runs in this series have come off 261 balls. He isn't used to playing like this but fortifying their defence is an important pursuit for a batter in this format. How does Crawley balance that growth with the pressure that is building on him from the outside? He played a significant part in England chasing down 371 in the first Test but right now his batting average for the series sits below even that of the bowler his team brings on as first change.

Rollercoasters ain't got nothin' on Rishabh Pant. The best of him at Headingley wasn't enough to win the game for India. One well-meaning mistake in the first innings became a huge turning point at Lord's. He tried to make up for it in the second innings - even though his left hand was injured - but the pain was clearly too much.

He struggled to keep hold of the bat, and this time it wasn't the slightest bit funny. An eight-day gap between matches has allowed him to heal, which brings us squarely to the question: what's in store for Pant at Old Trafford (besides taking penalties with Manchester United)?

England have already announced their XI with left-arm spinner Liam Dawson returning to Test cricket after an eight-year gap to take over as lead spinner from Bashir, who has been ruled out of the series.

England: 1 Zak Crawley, 2 Ben Duckett, 3 Ollie Pope, 4 Joe Root, 5 Harry Brook, 6 Ben Stokes (capt), 7 Jamie Smith (wk), 8 Liam Dawson, 9 Chris Woakes, 10 Brydon Carse, 11 Jofra Archer.

Nitish Kumar Reddy and Akash Deep are injured and will not be playing a part in this game. That opens up space for a potential recall for B Sai Sudharsan, and either a surprise debut for Anshul Kamboj, who picked up all 10 wickets in a Ranji trophy match last year, or a recall for Prasidh Krishna. There may also be consideration given to Shardul Thakur stepping in for Washington Sundar if the pitch is more seam-friendly. *(ESPNCRICKINFO)*

Bangladesh clinch historic T20I series win over Pakistan in Dhaka thriller

IANIS

DHAKA: Bangladesh secured their maiden T20I series with a dramatic win over Pakistan, edging out the visitors by eight runs in a tense second match at a packed Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka on Tuesday. The hosts, buoyed by a composed bowling display and a late batting charge, now hold an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Defending 134, Bangladesh's pacers - Shoriful Islam, Mustafizur Rahman, and Tanzim Hasan Sakib - rose to the occasion with a disciplined bowling performance that rocked Pakistan's top order. The visitors crumbled to a shocking 15/5 - their lowest score after losing five wickets in a T20I - within the first five overs.

Shoriful, playing in place of Taskin Ahmed, was particularly lethal, dismissing Mohammad Haris and Fakhar Zaman early. Tanzim's double strike in the fifth over further derailed the chase as he removed both Nawazs -



Hasan and Mohammad - in consecutive deliveries.

With Pakistan in disarray at 47/7, Faheem Ashraf waged a lone battle. The all-rounder launched a brave counter-attack, blasting a maiden T20I half-century, including three sixes and four boundaries. His 41-run ninth-wicket stand with Abbas Afridi briefly reignited Pakistan's hopes.

Ashraf's onslaught - including a 20-run over off Rishad Hossain - brought the equation down to 13 needed from the final over. But Mustafizur struck back, dismissing debutant

Ahmed Daniyal and sealing the thrilling win with three balls to spare.

Earlier, after electing to bat, Bangladesh were in deep trouble at 28/4, courtesy of sharp spells from Pakistan's rookies. Salman Mirza and Ahmed Daniyal rattled the top order, with Daniyal removing dangerous hitters like Parvez Hossain Emon and Shamim Hossain.

It was Jaker Ali Anik, however, who turned the innings around. The wicketkeeper-batter struck a gutsy 55, launching five sixes in a late blitz that

revived the innings. His 53-run stand with Mahedi Hasan Miraz (33 off 25) provided the platform, before he exploded in the death overs to lift Bangladesh to 133 all out - a total that proved just enough.

This landmark victory marks Bangladesh's first-ever T20I series win over Pakistan, proving a major confidence boost for a side that has endured inconsistent form in the format. For Pakistan, the loss exposes continued fragility in the batting department, particularly at the top, with major questions now looming ahead of the final match.

The two sides meet again on Wednesday, July 24, for the third and final T20I, with Bangladesh eyeing a clean sweep and Pakistan desperate to salvage pride.

Brief scores:
Bangladesh 133 all out in 20 overs (Jaker Ali 55, Mahedi Hasan 33; Salman Mirza 2/17, Ahmed Daniyal 2/23) beat Pakistan 125 all out in 19.2 overs (Faheem Ashraf 51, Abbas Afridi 19; Shoriful Islam 3/17, Tanzim Hasan 2/23) by eight runs.

Zim Tri-series: Bowlers, Seifert help New Zealand hand Proteas 7-wkt lesson ahead of final

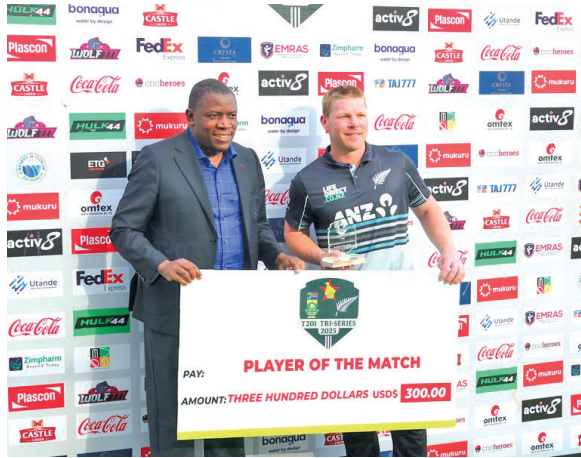
IANIS

HARARE: New Zealand's bowling brigade of Mitchell Santner, Adam Milne and Jacob Duffy claimed two wickets each while Tim Seifert slammed an unbeaten half-century as the BlackCaps outplayed South Africa in the Zimbabwe T20I Tri-series match here on Tuesday.

Santner claimed 2-26, Milne bagged 2-21 while Jacob Duffy picked 2-33 as their superb efforts in their combined 12 overs helped New Zealand restrict South Africa to 134/8 in their 20 overs, thanks mainly to Reeza Hendricks, who scored 41 from 37 balls.

Seifert anchored the calm and comfortable run-chase with 66 not out from 48 balls as New Zealand stormed to 135/3 in 15.5 overs and romped to a seven-wicket victory in what was a dress rehearsal of the final between these two teams.

As the match result did not matter much for the two sides, who had already qualified for the T20 Tri-series final to be played on Saturday, the two sides had



ample chances to experiment with playing XIs and the use of bowlers.

Though both teams used the opportunity, South Africa experimented with a spin-heavy bowling unit, but it did not quite come off and left them without enough fast-bowling resources to exploit the conditions.

Asked to bat first, South Africa landed in trouble soon as skipper Rassie van der Dussen (14) was bowled, making room to hit out at Adam Milne. From 13/1 it became 79/5 as Rubin Hermann (10), who

was run out to a brilliant piece of fielding by Mark Chapman, Dewald Brevis (13), keeper Lhuan-dre Pretorius (1), who was pushed down to No.5 to strengthen the middle-order, and Andile Simelane (11) all fell cheaply.

Opener Reeza Hendricks continued to hold the fort at the other end, making 41 off 27 balls, hitting four boundaries and one six as he helped the Proteas cross into three figures with George Linde (23 not out). Reeza and Gerald Coetzee (0) fell on the same score as South Africa slumped

to 109/7 with three more overs to go. They eventually ended up with a below-par score of 134/8 as Duffy, Milne, and Santner shared six wickets between them.

New Zealand's chase got off to a strong start, and they raised the best power-play score of 55/1 after losing Devon Conway (19) with the score reading 51. Though Rachin Ravindra (3) joined him in the dugout soon, Seifert kept the fire burning with a superb 48-ball 66.

Though Mark Chapman could contribute only 10 runs before he was out to make it 84/3, Seifert and Daryl Mitchell (20 not out) raised 51 runs for the unfinished fourth wicket stand to ensure New Zealand win the match with a lot left in the tank and go into Saturday's final in bullish mood.

Brief scores:
South Africa 134/8 in 20 overs (Reeza Hendricks 41; Mitchell Santner 2-26, Adam Milne 2-21, Jacob Duffy 2-33) lost to New Zealand 135 in 15.5 overs (Tim Seifert 66 not out; Senuran Muthusamy 2-24) by seven wickets.

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