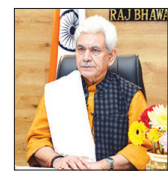


Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLJandK



We stand at a decisive turning point in J&K today. The youth of UT & terror victim families aspire to a bright future and wish to live a better life. It is our shared responsibility to make that future a reality and create the opportunities they deserve.

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JAN-JAN KA RAKHE DHYAAN TB-MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAAN

100 Days campaign launch
on 24th March 2026
commemorating World TB Day

Yes! We Can End TB. Led by Bharat. Powered by Janbhagidari.



DIPK-11963/25 Dated: 23/03/2026

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Red Fort Blast Case

NIA Searches Four Locations In J&K



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As part of its continuing investigation in the Delhi Red Fort area bomb blast case, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday conducted extensive searches at several locations in Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the statement, the counter-terror agency, which is pursuing various leads in the case RC - 21/2025/NIA/DLI, searched nine locations in the districts of Srinagar, Baramulla, Jammu, Kulgam, Ganderbal and Handwara. Several digital devices were seized during the searches and the same have been sent for forensic analysis.

A total of 11 accused have been arrested till date for their roles in the deadly blast that shook the national capital on 10th November 2025, killing several persons and injuring many others. The prime accused, Umer Un Nabi, was also killed in the lethal explosion. NIA found during investigation that Umer had

LG Sinha Vows 'Strongest Action' Against Terrorists, Their Sympathisers

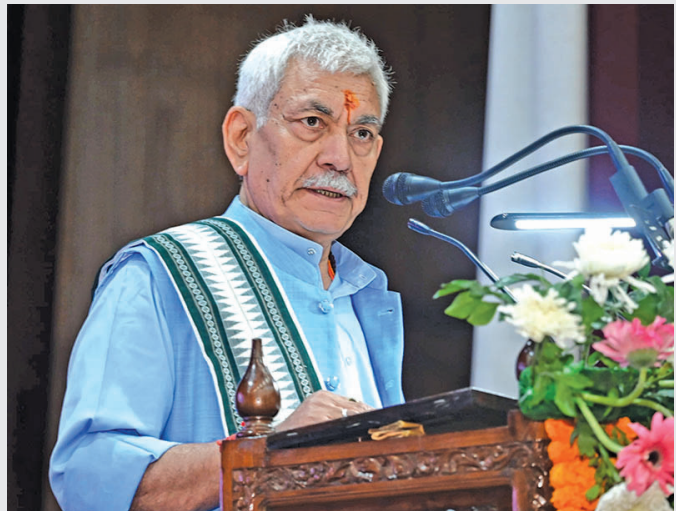
Hands Over Appointment Letters To Families Of Terror Victims Of Jammu Division

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Vowing a sweeping crackdown, the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday said that those formerly part of the "terror ecosystem" who managed to infiltrate the government will be systematically removed from their jobs and face legal punishment.

"I pledge to the families of terror victims that we will work with full commitment to secure their dignified and honourable lives. We will discharge every duty towards them with utmost seriousness, and we will not rest until justice reaches every family," the Lieutenant Governor said while handing over appointment letters to 37 Next of Kins (NoKs) of victims of terrorism, at Convention Centre Jammu.

Appointment letters were also handed over to 29 NoKs of government employees who lost their lives in service, and



beneficiaries in Age relaxation cases, under Jammu & Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022 and SRO 43.

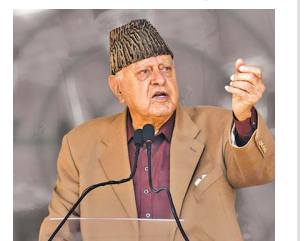
Paying tribute to the victims of terrorism, the Lieutenant Governor vowed strongest action against terror ecosystem and terrorist supporters.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that justice to terror victim families is not limited to only punishments but also healing the wounds

- Youth of UT and terror victim families aspire to a bright future and wish to live a better life.
- Our shared responsibility to make that future a reality and create the opportunities they deserve
- I pledge to the families of terror victims that we will work with full commitment to secure their dignified and honourable lives.
- We will discharge every duty towards them with utmost seriousness, and we will not rest until justice reaches every family: LG Sinha
- Justice to terror victim families is not limited to only punishments but also healing the wounds and restoring dignity
- Justice also means wiping the tears of grieving families, acknowledging their pain, and healing the wounds inflicted on their souls.
- I want to tell the remaining elements of the terror ecosystem and conflict entrepreneurs that their era of terror is over
- The people of Jammu Kashmir know fully well who shielded such terror elements, but that shield is now crumbling.

...Farooq Abdullah Firing Case

Accused Jamwal Sent To Judicial Remand Till April 6



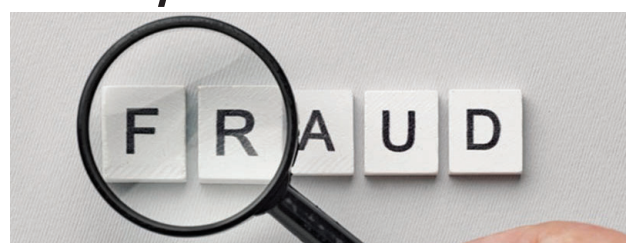
AGENCIES

JAMMU: A local court on Monday sent Kamal Singh Jamwal, accused of firing at National Conference president Farooq Abdullah at an event here, to judicial remand till April 6.

Jamwal was produced in the court on the expiry of his police remand in the case.

Abdullah had a miraculous escape on March 11 when 63-year-old Jamwal opened fire while the former chief minister was leaving a marriage function in Greater Kailash area of Jammu. The accused was overpowered and arrested along with a revolver.

ED Attaches Rs 16.86 Lakh In Digital Arrest Cyber Fraud Case In Kashmir



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Srinagar Zonal Office, has provisionally attached proceeds of crime worth Rs 16,86,465 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The attached amount is lying in a bank account maintained in the name of M/s Jeevika Foundations with HDFC Bank, Karol Bagh, New Delhi. The said account is operated by accused Gaurav Kumar

72 Private Member Bills To Be Listed, But Passage Unlikely In J&K Assembly

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: As many as 72 private member bills are scheduled to be listed for introduction in the second leg of the budget session starting on March 27. However, the chances of these bills being passed remain bleak, given that such legislations have rarely been approved in J&K's legislative history.

Despite politicking over these bills, records show that they have failed to move beyond the stage of introduction, leaving most proposals without legislative success. Since 1980, only three private member bills have been cleared by the legislature of the



erstwhile state.

Two of those were The Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Permit for Resettlement in (or Permanent Return to) the State Act, 1982 and The Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 2007, both moved by Abdul Rahim Rather, Speaker of the J&K Assembly. The third was the Jammu and Kashmir

Northern Army Commander Visits Kishtwar Calls For Sustained Momentum To Ensure Peace



AGENCIES

JAMMU: Army's Northern Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Monday visited Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, appreciating the troops for their professionalism and urging them to maintain sustained momentum to ensure lasting peace and stability in the region.

Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) suffered a major blow in Kishtwar district as the Army eliminated seven of its highly trained terrorists in a year-long operation in challenging high-altitude areas, with the last three, including most-wanted commander Saifullah, killed on February 22.

In a post on X, the Northern Command said the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Lt Gen Sharma, visited Kishtwar sector

Tulip Garden Attracts Over 57,000 Visitors In First Week: Officials

'Foreign Tourists Begin To Trickle In; Figure Based On Online Ticket Sales'

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

SRINAGAR: The Tulip Garden in Srinagar, Asia's largest, recorded a footfall of around 57,000 visitors in its first week of opening, officials said on Monday.

Assistant Floriculture Officer In-charge Tulip Garden Srinagar, Imran Ahmad, informed that the figure pertains to offline ticket sales recorded during the initial week.

"The footfall in the first week is around 57,000, and this is based on offline ticketing," he said, adding that the



online ticketing data is currently not accessible.

The officer said the online figures will be compiled and made available after the garden closes for the season.

"The online ticketing data can be accessed later and will be available once the garden is closed," he added.

No Fuel Shortage In Kashmir: Div Com

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Monday said there is no shortage of fuel or LPG in the Valley, asserting that adequate stocks are available and the situation is under close monitoring at multiple levels.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, the Divisional Commissioner, said the domestic LPG supply across Kashmir is running smoothly, with an available stock position of around 10 to 15 days. "The stock position is dynamic, but at present we have sufficient availability. Continuous monitoring is being carried out at both divisional and district levels to ensure there is no disruption," he said.

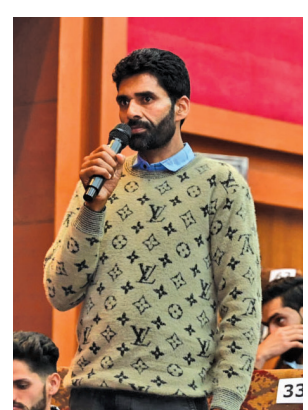
He added that supplies of petrol and diesel are also stable, with oil marketing companies being closely monitored by

LG Sinha's Healing Touch After Decades Of Loss, Jobs Provide Solace To Kin Of Terror Victims' In Jammu

YOGESH

JAMMU, MAR 23: In stories marked by grief, resilience and a long wait for justice, families of terror victims in Jammu and Kashmir found a measure of solace as appointment letters were distributed to Next of Kin (NoK) under a special initiative led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) among the beneficiaries was Masood Ahmed from Ramban, who was a child when tragedy struck his family over two decades ago. On July 15, 2001, terrorists took his father to a hilltop and killed him, leaving



behind a shattered household and years of hardship. For 24 years, the family carried the burden of loss, struggling to rebuild their lives amid memories of that fateful day.

On Monday, Masood Ahmed finally received a government job appointment letter—an outcome he and his family had waited for through years of uncertainty. The moment marked not just employment, but recognition of their suffering and a step towards restoring dignity.

In a similar case, an appointment letter was handed over to Mohammad Rafiq of Sumbal Jawari in Ramban, whose mother was gunned down by terrorists on September 24, 2006. Recalling years of neglect, Rafiq said the family had repeatedly sought compensation but found little support in the past.

"It is only now that the administration

Full Court Reference held to bid farewell to Justice Javed Iqbal Wani



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A Full Court Reference was held in the Court Room of the Chief Justice at the Srinagar Wing of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to bid farewell to Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, on demitting office upon attaining the age of superannuation.

The Full Court Reference was convened in accordance with the long-standing conventions and institutional traditions of the High Court.

The Reference was attended by Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani, Justice Sanjay Parihar, and Justice Shahzad Azeem along with the spouses of the Judges of the High Court.

The proceedings were also attended by former Chief Justices and former

Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh; senior officers of the civil administration and police, including the Secretary Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs; Senior Additional Advocate General; Deputy Solicitors General of India at Jammu and Srinagar; the President, Kashmir Advocates Association, Srinagar; Advocate Waseem Gull in his farewell address, commended the distinguished judicial service rendered by Justice Javed Iqbal Wani and highlighted his unwavering commitment to fairness, justice and constitutional values.

The Chief Justice, in his address, highlighted Justice Wani's academic excellence, professional integrity and balanced judicial temperament, noting his dedication both at the Bar and on the Bench. His tenure was marked by discipline and clarity of thought earning him respect across the legal fraternity. The Court also acknowledged the invaluable support of his family throughout his judicial journey and extended its heartfelt appreciation and best wishes for his health, happiness and fulfillment in the years ahead.

access to justice for the poor and the marginalized. She described Justice Wani as a gentleman par excellence and highlighted his positive approach, institutional contributions and respectful conduct towards members of the Bar.

President, Kashmir Advocates Association, Srinagar, Advocate Waseem Gull in his farewell address, commended the distinguished judicial service rendered by Justice Javed Iqbal Wani and highlighted his unwavering commitment to fairness, justice and constitutional values.

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Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, in his response, expressed profound gratitude to the Chief Justice, brother and sister Judges, members of the Bar, Judicial Officers, officers of the Registry and Court staff for their cooperation and support throughout his tenure. He emphasized that effective dispensation of justice is possible only through harmonious cooperation between the Bench and the Bar. He also appreciated the legal acumen, professional competence and commitment of the advocates of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and placed on record his appreciation for the dedication and assistance of his personal staff.

The proceedings of the Full Court Reference were conducted by M. K. Sharma, Registrar General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Upon conclusion of the proceedings, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani was accorded a Guard of Honor by the security personnel as a mark of respect and recognition of his distinguished and meritorious judicial service.

Special 'Vande Mataram' Phase kicks off in Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: As a glorifying tribute to India's freedom fighters and in accordance with the National Level Calendar, the District Administration Anantnag Monday started the week long special phase of "National Song, Vande Mataram" 150 Years Commemoration Campaign.

In this regard, the main function was held at Town Hall Anantnag, where Deputy Commissioner (DC), Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat presided as the Chief Guest.

ADC, ACR, ACD, DyDEO, CMO, CAO, CAHO, DEPO, ARTO, DSEO, DMO, AD FCS&CA and other officers/officials also attended the event.

The function coincided with the solemn observance of Shaheedi Diwas, honoring the supreme sacrifice of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev.

Notably, the special phase of the campaign is scheduled to be organised from March 23 to March 30 across the district.

The ceremony featured the mass singing of the National Song, Vande Mataram, which resonated through the hall. This was followed by screening of short films and slideshows of classical documents which highlighted the bravery and revolutionary efforts of our freedom fighters and national martyrs.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized the significance of creat-



ing mass awareness about India's freedom struggle. "Today, as we observe Shaheedi Diwas, we are reminded that our freedom was won through the selfless blood and toil of heroes like Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru. This is an apt opportunity to respect the great leaders and revolutionaries who made supreme sacrifices for freedom of the nation. It is also an occasion to honour their indomitable spirit and unwavering commitment to serve the motherland", the DC remarked.

Paying rich tributes to the freedom fighters, the DC said that it is the result of their courage and sacrifices that we are living in a free and democratic country with a vibrant

constitutional set up. He said the officers and volunteers should create grassroots awareness about the National Song which motivated masses across length and breadth of the country during the long and arduous freedom struggle. The DC further urged the youth to draw inspiration from the National Song and these selfless icons of freedom and contribute to the nation's progress.

Dr. Bilal also called for displaying adequate IEC material highlighting the wisdom, courage and struggle of the freedom fighters and mass leaders, at prominent public places.

On the occasion, the DC briefed about various activities, including mass singing at government

offices and educational institutions, playing documentaries, holding cultural and youth engagement activities depicting freedom struggle and role of freedom icons besides letter writing to freedom fighters which will be organised as part of the Special Phase Campaign in the district.

He enjoined upon the officers and concerned departments to ensure the planned activities are conducted with enthusiasm and patriotic fervour.

Similar events were held at all Subdivisions of the district where the respective SDMs and Tehsildars led the events, propagating the message of Shaheedi Diwas and the legacy of martyrs.

Mega Aadhaar MBU drive 2.0 launched across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), in association with the Information Technology Department, J&K and Project Samagra Shiksha, School Education Department, J&K has launched Mega Aadhaar Mandatory Biometric Update (MBU) drive 2.0 across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The drive has commenced from March 23, 2026 in winter zone schools while for schools in summer zones, it will begin from April 1, 2026 onwards. This large-scale initiative aims to cover 2,382 identified schools and provide Aadhaar biometric update services to over 2 lakh students of Jammu & Kashmir within school premises.

This initiative builds upon the success of the earlier MBU drive conducted from September to 31st December 2025, during which approximately 1.5 lakh students successfully updated their biometrics. Despite this progress, around 3.5 lakh children still require mandatory biometric updates, necessitating the continuation of the mission mode approach.

Earlier, UIDAI had rolled out the mission mode MBU drive for school children in September 2025 following

a successful technological integration with the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) application of the Union Department of School Education and Literacy. This integration enabled real-time visibility of the biometric update status of students at the school level, facilitating identification of children due for updates and enabling targeted camps within school premises.

Updating biometric details in children's Aadhaar is crucial to ensure seamless authentication while availing benefits under various government schemes, scholarships and services. It also plays an important role in enabling hassle-free registration for competitive and university entrance examinations such as NEET, JEE, and CUET.

UIDAI and Information Technology Department J&K has urged the parents and guardians to remain in close coordination with the school authorities to stay informed about the scheduled dates of Aadhaar update camps in their respective schools. They are also advised to ensure that the details in school records and Aadhaar are exactly matched to avoid any discrepancies while carrying out authentication.

DC Budgam reviews arrangements for Special Phase of Vande Mataram

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: In connection with the Commemoration of 150 years of the National Song Vande Mataram (Special Phase) and the observance of Shaheedi Diwas, District Administration Budgam Monday held a meeting under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Amir Khan.

At the outset, it was informed that a series of activities will be held across the district from 23rd to 30th March 2026 as part of the Special Phase celebrations, aimed at commemorating the historic legacy of Vande Mataram and paying rich tributes to the martyrs of the nation on Shaheedi Diwas. During the meeting, threadbare deliberations were held on ensuring the smooth and successful conduct of all scheduled programmes.

The DC highlighted the historic significance of the 150-year commemoration of Vande Mataram, describing it as a powerful symbol of India's freedom movement and national identity.



Stressing the importance of effective implementation, the DC directed all departments to ensure seamless coordination, proactive planning, and enthusiastic participation at all levels. He instructed officers to organize a wide range of activities including cultural programmes, patriotic events, awareness drives, student engagement initiatives, and community outreach programmes in all blocks and panchayats.

The DC further underscored the need to actively involve youth, educational institutions and civil society, so that the spirit of patriotism and

national pride is carried to the grassroots. He reiterated that the celebrations should be inclusive, vibrant, and reflective of the collective aspirations of the people.

Reviewing the logistical arrangements, the DC directed the concerned departments to ensure adequate infrastructure, proper publicity, and smooth execution of all events. He also stressed maintaining discipline and coordination to ensure that all programmes are conducted in a befitting manner.

On the Occasion, the DC said that such initiatives

serve as a reminder of the country's rich heritage, the sacrifices of freedom fighters, and the enduring values of unity and integrity.

He urged all stakeholders to work with dedication and commitment to make the Special Phase celebrations a grand success.

Meanwhile, Shaheedi Diwas was also observed by District officers in the conference hall of DC office complex along with its observance in all educational institutions, offices, MCs, of the District with utmost zeal and enthusiasm.

The DC emphasized that the observance of Shaheedi Diwas holds profound importance as it commemorates the supreme sacrifices of great freedom fighters, and called upon all departments to ensure that the day is observed with utmost respect, dignity, and patriotic zeal across the district.

Besides, ADC budgam, PO ICDS, all SDMs, ACD, ACP, DIO, District Information Officer, CHO, and other district and sectoral officers were present in the meeting.

Vande Mataram Celebrations Pulwama Admin organises Mega Commemoration Event at Lethpora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: District Administration Pulwama Monday organised an inaugural function at the Martyrs' Memorial of 185 Battalion CRPF Camp, Lethpora, on the occasion of Shaheedi Diwas, marking the commencement of the special phase of celebrations commemorating 150 years of the National Song "Vande Mataram".

The event commenced with the singing of the National Anthem, followed by a soulful rendition of "Vande Mataram" and a pledge-taking ceremony, reflecting a collective commitment towards the values of unity, integrity, and nation-building.

On the occasion, officials and attendees offered floral tributes and heartfelt homage to the brave soldiers who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

The programme was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner,

Awantipora, Commandant CRPF 185 Battalion, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers of Police, CRPF, civil administration, and members of the public.

Furthermore, as part of the commemorative activities, mass singing of "Vande Mataram" was held across educational institutions, sub-divisional headquarters, tehsil headquarters, BDO offices, and panchayat halqas across the district.

Following the successful culmination of the first two phases of the celebrations, the District Administration has chalked out a comprehensive schedule for the special phase, comprising a series of activities to be organised across the district. These initiatives aim to honour the sacrifices of the brave hearts of India's freedom struggle and highlight the rich historical legacy associated with the National Song.

District admin Shopian commemorates 150 Years of 'Vande Mataram'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In connection with the commemoration of 150 years of the national song "Vande Mataram", a week-long series of programmes began Monday in District Shopian under the Special Phase scheduled from 23rd to 30th March 2026.

The inaugural programme was held at GDC Shopian and was presided over by the ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Education Officer Shopian, Bashir Ahmed Shah, highlighted the profound historical significance of Vande Mataram, stating that the national song has served as a powerful source of inspiration

for generations of freedom fighters and patriots.

He emphasized that the song embodies the spirit of sacrifice, unity, and national pride, and continues to instill a sense of responsibility and patriotism among the youth.

Earlier, Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Shopian, Suhail Ahmed, in his inaugural address, underscored the importance of such initiatives in fostering civic responsibility and national consciousness among citizens.

He remarked that commemorative programmes like these not only celebrate the nation's rich heritage but also strengthen the collective resolve towards unity, harmony,



and progress. The programme featured vibrant cultural

performances presented by students from various educational institutions

including New Green Land Higher Secondary School, JNV Aglar, and Gujjar &

Bakerwal Hostel Shopian.

The performances, comprising patriotic songs and singing of national song beautifully reflected the spirit of nationalism and unity, captivating the audience.

On the conclusion of the programme, certificates were distributed among the participating students in recognition of their commendable performances and valuable contribution to the successful conduct of the event.

Among others, Principal GDC Shopian, Prof. Tariq Ahmed, District Information Officer, Shopian Showkat Hussain Ganie, officials from the Education Department, and a large number of students, were present on the occasion.

Grand Plantation Drive marks World Forest Day in Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: A grand plantation drive was Monday organized at Kralapathri in the Hakhal belt of Doodhpathri by the Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam under the Raitheh Forest Range to celebrate world forest day and kick start of 3rd phase of 150 years of celebrations of vandemataram.

The drive was conducted under the supervision of SDM Khansahib, Jahangir Ahmad Giri, and was also attended by SDPO Khansahib, Sakib Gani, and Range Officer Raitheh, Ghulam Rasool.

A large number of forest officials, administrative officers, and enthusiastic participation from school children of the district marked the event, reflecting a strong commitment

towards environmental conservation and sustainable development. The active involvement of young students added vibrancy to the programme and highlighted the importance of nurturing environmental awareness among the younger generation.

Held under the banner of the Green J&K Drive, the plantation campaign aimed at enhancing green cover, combating climate change, and promoting ecological balance in the region. The dignitaries emphasized the need for collective responsibility in protecting forests and preserving natural resources for future generations.

The event concluded with a renewed pledge by all participants to continue contributing towards a greener and healthier environment.

Blast outside former sarpanch's home in Samba; NIA, NSG teams visit site



YOGESH

JAMMU: A mysterious blast outside the house of a former sarpanch in Samba district early Monday shook the neighbourhood, officials said.

An official said the blast, whose origins were not yet known, occurred outside the residence of Jai Ram Sharma in Gawala Talab, about 10 km from the International Border in the Ghagwal sector.

"The blast damaged the house gate, a portion of the boundary wall and shattered window panes of several adjoining houses. No

casualties were reported. A team of forensic experts collected samples from the scene to ascertain the cause of the explosion," the official added.

"Teams of the National Investigation Agency and the National Security Guard, accompanied by sniffer dogs, also visited the blast site," he said.

"The incident occurred around 1.07 am. When the residents heard the explosion they came out and found that the gate had been damaged," Samba Senior Superintendent of Police Virinder Singh Manhas told reporters at

the spot.

"We have never heard such a loud explosion before. It shook the entire village and shattered the window panes of our house and nearby homes," Sharma said, requesting a thorough probe to identify those responsible for the act.

He said the police collected shrapnel and other pieces, possibly from a bomb or some explosive. "The area is also close to the border, so people are scared," the former sarpanch, whose son is serving in the Army, said. An FIR was filed in connection with the incident—(KNO)

Spring bloom paints Kashmir's highways in gold

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: With the onset of spring and mustard flowers in full bloom, several stretches along the national highway and adjoining areas in Kashmir have been transformed into vibrant yellow landscapes, drawing hundreds of tourists, mostly locals, who are flocking to these fields to relax, take selfies, and capture the seasonal beauty.

From Pampore's saffron belt to the outskirts of Anantnag and Baramulla, mustard fields have become a major attraction over the past one week. The bloom, enhanced by recent rains, has created picturesque scenes that are increasingly being compared to the Valley's tourist spots.

Locals said the footfall has surged significantly, especially with the festive rush around Eid, adding to the number of visitors.

"Over the last few days, we have seen an increase in tourists visiting these fields. But since Eid, the rush has grown even more. People stop their vehicles along the highway and spend time here, clicking pictures," Ghulam Rasool Wani, a resident of Awantipora, said.

He added that the recent spell of rain has further brightened the mustard



bloom, making the fields more attractive. "Every day, hundreds of people—families, youngsters, and even elderly visitors—are coming here. The yellow fields look stunning, and people don't want to miss the chance to capture the moment," he said.

In south Kashmir's Aishmuqam area, locals echoed similar observations.

A local, Tariq Ahmad Dar, said that the scenic beauty of mustard fields is compelling visitors to step out of their vehicles and immerse themselves in the surroundings.

"Tourists who are on their way to Pahalgam or other destinations often stop here. They walk into the fields, spend time, and take photographs. The atmosphere is lively, especially these days," he said.

In north Kashmir, the trend is equally visible. Umar Mushtaq, a resident of Tangmarg, said that tourists heading towards Gulmarg are also halting to enjoy the spring bloom.

"People visiting Gulmarg make it a point to stop along the way. These fields have become like mini tourist spots. You can see groups

taking selfies, children playing, and families enjoying picnics," he said.

Tourists themselves described the experience as refreshing and memorable. Many said that visiting Kashmir during spring offers a unique charm that sets it apart from other seasons.

Vijay Gupta, a tourist from Gujarat, said that spending time in the mustard fields has been a peaceful experience. "I feel lucky to be here during spring. The weather is pleasant, and these mustard fields are simply beautiful. It gives a sense of calm and happiness," he said.

Other visitors from different states and even abroad also expressed delight, saying that walking through the blooming fields and capturing photographs is an experience they would cherish.

Interestingly, the mustard bloom is now being seen as an addition to Kashmir's traditional list of attractions, such as Dal Lake, Gulmarg, and Pahalgam. Locals believe that if promoted properly, these seasonal landscapes could further boost tourism in the region.

Meanwhile, farmers across the Valley are optimistic about a good harvest this year. Officials said that the mustard crop has flourished due to government interventions in terms of seeds and other techniques, turning large parts of Kashmir into a sea of yellow.

"The bloom has not only enhanced the natural beauty of the Valley but is also benefiting farmers and attracting tourists travelling along the national highway and other routes," an official said.

Locals from Pampore said that there is a heavy rush of people in saffron fields where people have grown mustard, and it is proving to be one of the most beautiful selfie points for them—(KNO)

Anti-Corruption Court convicts former Tehsildar in 2010 bribery case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A Special Anti-Corruption Court in Srinagar on Monday convicted former Tehsildar Chadoora in a 2010 bribery case and sentenced him to one year's simple imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 20,000.

A spokesperson in a statement said that in a significant verdict reinforcing the commitment to combat corruption, the Hon'ble Special Judge Anti-Corruption Court Srinagar, Dr. Tasleem Arief Ganie, convicted Mohd Akram Khan, son of Jalaluddin Khan, resident of Aripal Tral District Pulwama, Presently resident of Jawahar Nagar,

Srinagar in a bribery case registered under FIR No. 20 of 2010 PS VOK now ACB.

He said, the accused, then-serving as Tehsildar, was found guilty under Sections 5(2) read with 5(1) (d) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, and Section 161 RPC, for demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹20,000 from the complainant, over the pretext of getting the property dispute settled in his favour.

Following a complaint filed on May 13, 2010, a trap was successfully laid by the Vigilance Organisation Kashmir (now Anti-Corruption Bureau), during which the accused was caught red-handed while accepting the bribe,

he said.

After thorough investigation, Charge sheet was filed on October 22, 2010 and the case proceeded for judicial determination in the Hon'ble Court. On March 23, 2026, the Hon'ble Court delivered the judgment, sentencing the accused under Section 5(2) read with 5(1)(d) of J&K PC Act and 161 RPC, of simple imprisonment for one year along with a fine of ₹20,000/-, spokesperson said.

He added this conviction marks another milestone in the Anti-Corruption Bureau's ongoing efforts to uphold integrity and accountability in public service.

'Middle East Crisis' 120 Indian students stranded at Astara, await exit clearance

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The slow evacuation of Indian students stranded in Iran continues as nearly 120 students remain stuck in Astara awaiting exit clearance, with uncertainties looming over their timely return.

According to details available, around 100 out of the 120 students currently in Astara may receive the required exit codes by March 31 due to the slow process. This has raised apprehensions among students and their families, as it may not be feasible for all of them to secure clearance within the given timeframe.

The evacuation process via land routes has been progressing at a sluggish pace, with only about 8 to 20 students crossing the Azerbaijan border each day. Authorities had earlier arranged evacuation corri-

dors through Armenia and Azerbaijan as part of a coordinated effort to facilitate the safe return of Indian nationals stranded in Iran. However, the limited daily movement has slowed down the overall process.

Several students have already been routed to Mumbai through alternative arrangements, with the majority of those evacuated so far belonging to Jammu & Kashmir.

Around 200 Indian medical students are still stranded in different parts of Iran, waiting for evacuation or relocation options.

Dr Mohammad Momin Khan, Vice President of the All India Medical Students Association, acknowledged the challenges but expressed gratitude to the authorities involved in the operation. He said that despite major holidays such as Nowruz and Eid,

officials and support teams have remained actively engaged on the ground to assist students.

"If the current pace of evacuation continues, we are hopeful that most of the stranded students will be able to leave Iran by March 31," Dr Khan said, adding that the process is still underway and requires sustained coordination.

The evacuation efforts are being carried out through close coordination between student bodies and government agencies, aimed at ensuring the safe and orderly return of Indian nationals.

Parents have proposed destinations such as Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Germany, stressing that prolonged uncertainty and disruptions could severely impact the academic future of their children—(KNO)

J&K to get its first automatic weather station in 2026 under Mission Mausam

Union Govt plans deployment of 200 Agro-AWS across country

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: The Union government on Monday said that one Automatic Weather Station (AWS) will be installed in Jammu and Kashmir in 2026 under Mission Mausam Phase-II to strengthen weather monitoring and agro-advisory services.

Replying to a question in Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Earth Sciences said that around 200 Agro-AWS will be deployed across the country during 2026, aimed at improving agro-meteorological observations and providing better weather-based advisories to the agriculture sector.

According to official data accessed, Jammu and Kashmir has been allocated one such station under the proposed expansion plan.

The Ministry further said that the India Meteorological Department (IMD) currently operates 1,008 Automatic Weather Stations across the country, including 17 in Jammu and Kashmir.

The government added that these stations play a key role in strengthening weather forecasting systems and supporting sectors like agriculture, disaster management and aviation.

It also clarified that there is no proposal at present to install new AWS alongside existing departmental observatories, and locations are selected based on technical feasibility, coverage gaps and observational requirements.

The Centre said the initiative is part of broader efforts to enhance India's meteorological infrastructure and ensure better climate resilience, including in regions like Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

3-month ration likely in J&K from April, FCS&CA awaits final nod

Centre reviews PDS reforms, procurement targets; UT working on GoI directions

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir is likely to roll out a three-month ration supply scheme from the month of April, with the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) working on modalities following directions from the Government of India, officials said here on Monday.

A CAPD official said that the department has received instructions to ensure availability of ration for three months, but the proposal is still under process.

"We have received directions from the Government of India (GoI) to provide three months' ration. The department is working on it, but things have not been finalised yet," the official said, adding that the directions have been issued to all States and Union Territories and not only to Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the scheme is anticipated to be launched at the earliest from April. "It is expected that from next month the ration scheme can start, but final-stage meetings are yet to take place and modalities are still being worked out," he said.

The official said the move is aimed at ensuring smoother and more efficient distribution of foodgrains to beneficiaries across the Union Territory.

Regarding the quantity, he said the monthly ration entitlement will be multiplied by three and provided at once.

Meanwhile, the development comes as the Centre recently reviewed key aspects of foodgrain procurement, storage and Public Distribution System (PDS) reforms with States and Union Territories.

As per details of the meeting available, chaired by the Secretary, Department of Food & Public



Distribution (DFPD) in New Delhi, the wheat procurement target for the upcoming Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2026-27 has been fixed at 303 lakh metric tonnes (LMT), while paddy procurement for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2025-26 (Rabi crop) has been estimated at 76 LMT (in terms of rice).

The Centre also projected procurement of around 7.79 LMT of coarse grains, including millets (Shri Anna) and ensured availability of packaging material with allocation of 7.83 lakh jute bales and 9.22 lakh HDPE bags.

Key PDS reforms discussed in the meeting

included pilot distribution of improved rice with up to 10 percent broken grains, QR code tagging of foodgrain bags and expansion of digital tools like "Anna Chakra" for supply chain optimisation along with Vehicle Location Tracking System (VLTS).

Other initiatives such as Subsidy Claim Application for NFSA (SCAN), Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), Smart PDS, Sarthak PDS and AI-led system "ASHA" were also reviewed.

Officials said these reforms are aimed at improving transparency, efficiency and last-mile delivery of foodgrains under the PDS.

It is important to mention, further clarity on the three-month ration scheme in J&K is expected once CAPD finalises the modalities in the coming days—(KNO)

Div Com inaugurates Gyan Bharatam Workshop, National Survey of Manuscripts in Sgr

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg Monday inaugurated a three-day Gyan Bharatam Workshop & National Survey of Manuscripts at Indian IIM, Sanat Nagar, Srinagar.

The workshop is being organized by the Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, J&K to promote identification, preservation, conservation, and digitization of centuries-old manuscripts across Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing the participants, the Divisional Commissioner underscored the importance of public participation in safeguarding manuscript heritage. He emphasized that the mission adopts a "Har Ghar Dastak" approach to reach custodians and ensure documentation of valuable manuscripts.

Highlighting the significance of the initiative, he said the Gyan Bharatam Mission aligns with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to preserve and docu-



ment India's rich intellectual and cultural legacy.

The Director, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha stated that the workshop aims to sensitize and train District Level Committees in manuscript identification and provide practical training on the use of the Gyan Bharatam Mission mobile application for field surveys.

The programme also focuses on creating awareness about the importance of manuscript preservation and digitization as part of

the broader knowledge ecosystem. The Gyan Bharatam App, launched by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, is being used to monitor progress, with regular review at the PMO level.

Sidha informed that manuscripts will remain with their custodians, while experts will assist in assessing their nature, category, and physical condition. "The department will undertake digitization free of cost", he said and

appealed private collectors to actively participate in the mission.

Dr. Jahangir Iqbal, HoD and Cluster Centre Head, Gyan Bharatam Mission, Department of Persian, Kashmir University, is the nodal officer for Kashmir.

The workshop is being attended by experts from Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, District Level Committee officers, private manuscript collectors, and officials of the department.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Humanity Feels Like It Is Slipping Away

Many have stepped back, not because they are weak, but because they are tired. Tired of the constant disrespect, the noise, the indifference. There comes a point when even the most patient voices choose silence, simply to protect their own dignity. This Eid, that silence was loud. The thin cover of "restraint" disappeared, and what remained was a harsh, unsettling reality. A time meant for prayer, gratitude, and sharing joy turned into something far less comforting. Instead of compassion, there was opportunism. Instead of generosity, there was greed. Prices rose without reason, and for many families, the effort to celebrate felt more like a burden than a blessing. The spirit of Eid—of giving, of caring—seemed to take a back seat. What is perhaps more worrying is how normal this has started to feel. When wrongdoing becomes routine and people stop reacting, something deeper begins to break. Silence is no longer a sign of peace; it becomes a sign of defeat. Those who once spoke up now hold back, not because they don't care, but because they feel unheard. And yet, all is not lost. Even in these difficult moments, there are glimpses of hope. A neighbor sharing what little they have, a shopkeeper choosing fairness over profit, a stranger showing kindness—these small acts still exist. They may not make headlines, but they quietly keep the idea of humanity alive. The real question now is where we go from here. Do we accept this slow erosion of values, or do we find the courage to push back, even in small ways? Eid is more than just a celebration; it reflects who we are. If it starts to mirror our worst habits instead of our best intentions, then we need to pause and rethink.

Maybe this moment is not just a retreat, but a chance to reflect. A chance to gather ourselves and return stronger, with a renewed sense of empathy and responsibility. Because in the end, the true spirit of any society is not measured in its celebrations, but in how it treats its people—especially when it matters the most.

Changing Identities, Changing Society

Seeking Balance Between Gender, Science And Humanity

DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Recent discussions in India on the changing relationship between gender identity, science, and society have sparked a new debate. Anaya Bangar, daughter of former Indian cricketer Sanjay Bangar, embarking on a new life after undergoing gender-affirming surgery has become not just a personal event but a subject of social, scientific, and ethical debate. This story is not only about one person's courage and self-acceptance, but also about the questions facing a society trying to find a balance between traditional beliefs and modern science in a rapidly changing world.

Understanding gender identity is a prerequisite for this entire discussion. It is not limited to the biological sex assigned at birth, but is also linked to a person's inner feelings, mental structure, and social identity. For many, their mind and body do not align, causing deep discomfort and mental stress. In such situations, steps like gender-affirming surgery, hormone therapy, and social transition provide a means of relief and balance. This is not a quick decision, but the result of years of self-discovery, psychological counseling, and therapeutic practice.

Anaya Bangar's journey exemplifies this complex process. She demonstrated the courage to understand, accept, and resolve her inner conflict over a long period of time. Her family's support during this journey is particularly noteworthy. In Indian society, where hesitation and shyness still persist regarding issues like gender and identity, a father's support of his child in this way signals a positive change. Sanjay Bangar's support is not only significant on a personal level, but also sends a message on a societal level: acceptance and understanding can facilitate any change.

An important aspect of this entire issue is the role of modern medical science. The possibility of sperm freezing before surgery and future childbearing through IVF and surrogacy has further complicated the issue. A trans woman's ability to achieve motherhood through her own biological resources appears to challenge traditional biological and social definitions. Some see this as a scientific achievement, while others consider it an interference with the laws



of nature. In fact, the concepts of "natural" and "unnatural" themselves have evolved over time. Throughout history, whenever a new technology or social change emerged, it was initially rejected, then gradually accepted. Technologies like IVF, surrogacy, and organ transplantation were once viewed with suspicion, but today they have become a source of hope and solace for millions. Similarly, gender-affirming medicine is a means of improving the quality of life for those struggling with their own identities.

It's also important to question whether people are truly happy after such changes. Various studies and experiences show that most people experience improved mental health after gender transition. Self-satisfaction increases, levels of depression and anxiety decrease, and individuals develop a more positive outlook on life. However, it's also true that not everyone's experience is the same. Lack of social

acceptance, discrimination, and prejudice often make this journey difficult. In such cases, the problem lies not only in the individual's decision, but also in society's thinking.

The transgender community still faces struggles on many levels in Indian society. Opportunities for education, employment, and social respect are limited, and they often face prejudice. In this context, Anaya Bangar's story is not only an individual achievement, but also a social signal that change is possible, provided society broadens its perspective.

This debate isn't just about science versus nature, but also about the balance between individual freedom and social responsibility. Every individual should have the right to make decisions about their lives, but society must also ensure that such decisions are made with understanding, medical advice, and ethical responsibility. Gender-affirming procedures are not imposed on anyone; rather, they are a choice for

those who want to improve their lives.

Ultimately, it's important to understand that there's no single standard for "happiness." Each individual determines the direction of their life based on their circumstances, experiences, and desires. Some find satisfaction in a traditional life, while others redefine life by embracing a new identity. It's important that society provides them with the opportunity to live their lives with dignity and respect.

Anaya Bangar's journey is not just a story of personal transformation, but a mirror for society. It forces us to consider whether we are ready to adapt to the changing world, or whether we will remain stuck in our old beliefs. This is a time for understanding, empathy, and dialogue, as the progress of any society depends on its ability to embrace diversity.

(Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

The Discipline Behind Capability

Consistency, Structure And The Sustained Pursuit Of Excellence

SUHAIB BAKSHI

Some journeys draw attention, while others invite reflection. The difference lies not only in what is achieved, but in how it is pursued, and what it reveals about effort, patience and discipline over time. In an age often drawn to moments of sudden success, it becomes easy to overlook the deeper processes that sustain excellence. Over more than two decades at the highest level, Cristiano Ronaldo has come to represent not merely achievement, but continuity. His career offers a measured illustration of how capability may be developed, refined and extended through sustained effort and disciplined intention.

Success is frequently understood through visible milestones. A decisive performance, a breakthrough opportunity, a moment that captures attention. Yet such moments, while memorable, do not in themselves explain excellence. What endures in any demanding field is seldom built on isolated flashes. It is built through consistency, through effort applied with clarity, care and repetition over time. Ronaldo's career reflects this understanding. He has remained at the highest level across changing conditions, evolving expectations and the gradual passage of years. Such continuity suggests that lasting excellence is not sustained by talent alone, but by structure. From the early stages of his career, his approach has been defined by repetition, preparation and a sustained commitment to discipline. Training, recovery and performance are not treated as separate concerns, but as elements of a unified process. Each action is purposeful. Each routine contributes to

stability. Over time, this produces not only excellence, but dependability.

Talent may open the door to opportunity, but it does not ensure its continuation. Many individuals demonstrate early promise, yet sustaining that promise requires something more enduring. Ronaldo's distinction lies in his capacity to maintain performance across time. This points towards a more considered understanding of capability. It is often regarded as something fixed, an inherent quality waiting to be expressed. His career suggests a more measured view. Capability may be cultivated. When effort is applied consistently, its effects accumulate. Small improvements, repeated patiently, give rise to outcomes that appear significant when viewed together. What appears exceptional is often the outcome of sustained refinement rather than sudden transformation.

Dependability is a form of excellence that receives less attention, yet it is among the most demanding. It requires performance to be reproduced under varying conditions, across extended periods and without reliance on circumstance. It reflects steadiness rather than intensity. Such steadiness allows progress to take root. It transforms effort into continuity, and continuity into growth. Over time, it establishes a foundation upon which higher levels of performance may be sustained.

At the centre of this process lies attention. In an environment shaped by constant demand, the ability to focus becomes essential. Ronaldo's preparation reflects a deliberate discipline in the direction of attention. Each session is approached with clarity, distractions are reduced and effort is applied with preci-



sion. This disciplined attention allows effort to become effective rather than dispersed. It reduces error, strengthens learning and reinforces consistency. Over time, performance becomes less dependent on external conditions and more anchored in internal balance.

Every meaningful pursuit carries with it a measure of pressure. Expectations, observation and uncertainty are part of many contexts. The question is not how to avoid pressure, but how to engage with it. Ronaldo's career suggests a composed and structured response. Through repeated engagement with demanding situations, unfamiliarity is reduced. What once appears uncertain becomes more manageable. Pressure does not disappear, but it becomes something that can be approached with clarity, preparation and control.

No sustained path is without difficulty. Injuries, interruptions and periods of challenge are part of any long endeavour. What distinguishes enduring performance is not the absence of such moments, but the response to them. His career reflects continuity. Recovery is approached with structure, training resumes with discipline and routines are restored with care. This

steadiness allows progress to continue. Rather than allowing difficulty to define direction, it is absorbed into the broader process of development.

Over time, change is inevitable. Conditions evolve and new demands emerge. Sustained excellence requires the ability to adjust while remaining grounded. Ronaldo's career reflects such balance. His style has evolved across different phases, moving from one form of expression to another with clarity. This adaptation is not a departure from discipline, but an extension of it. It allows performance to remain effective across time.

Belief, when supported by effort, becomes a steady source of strength. It is not simply a matter of confidence, but of continuity. Each action reinforces the next, creating a rhythm of progress. In this way, belief and effort support one another. Together, they sustain forward movement, even when outcomes remain uncertain.

Time, when approached with patience, becomes a partner in growth. Many individuals experience brief periods of excellence. Fewer sustain it across years. Longevity requires balance, foresight and consistency. Ronaldo's career

reflects this understanding. His performance is not defined by isolated peaks, but by sustained presence. This suggests that capability is not something to be reached once, but something to be continually developed.

There is a wider human lesson within this journey. Beginnings do not determine outcomes. What matters more is direction. With steady effort and disciplined focus, growth may unfold over time. This understanding carries meaning beyond sport. The principles that shape his career, consistency, attention, adaptability and belief, are applicable wherever sincere effort is made.

The conclusion is a simple one, though not an easy one. Excellence is not an event. It is a process. It is built through consistency, supported by structure and sustained through patience. Cristiano Ronaldo's career offers a visible example of this principle. It shows that capability is not a fixed boundary, but a capacity that may grow through effort, discipline and time.

The deeper lesson is enduring. Progress does not arrive all at once. It is shaped gradually, through repeated action, thoughtful effort and steady commitment. In this lies a broader reflection. The work one returns to each day, the standards one chooses to uphold and the care with which effort is applied all carry lasting significance.

Greatness is not built in moments. It is built through the systems one commits to, the discipline one sustains and the standards one chooses to uphold, consistently and with care, over time.

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Global Arms Race: A Threat To Peace, Economy And Humanity

LALIT GARGG

The accelerating arms race and the increasingly unstable global order have emerged as one of the greatest challenges facing human civilization today. The world has reached a point where wars are no longer confined to battlefields or national borders; their consequences now extend to the global economy, energy systems, environment, ecological balance, food security, and social stability. Rising tensions in West Asia, the growing confrontation between Iran and Israel, the strategic role of the United States, the Russia-Ukraine war, and the China-Taiwan tensions all indicate that the world is once again moving toward an era of military competition and power politics. This situation is not merely political or strategic—it is also a humanitarian crisis in the making. When nations spend more on weapons, sectors like development, education, healthcare, and environmental protection inevitably fall behind.

Today, almost every country is increasing its military budget, strengthening its armed forces, and purchasing advanced weapons in the name of national security. This has turned into a race in which no country wants to be left behind. Ironically, however, the more weapons the world accumulates, the more insecure it becomes. This obsession with security is, in reality, a manifestation of insecurity. When one country increases its military strength, another follows, and this cycle creates an atmosphere of distrust. It is this distrust that ultimately lays the foundation for war. Experts estimate that global military expenditure will multiply significantly in the coming years, meaning that enormous resources will be spent on preparing for destruction rather than building human development. This is certainly not a positive sign for humanity.

The crisis in West Asia currently appears to be one of the most dangerous flashpoints for the world. The



growing hostilities between Iran and Israel, tensions over maritime routes, and the direct or indirect involvement of major powers have pushed the region toward the brink of war. If this conflict escalates or continues for a long time, its impact will not remain limited to the region alone; it will affect the entire world because this region is the center of global energy supply.

A large part of the global economy depends on oil and gas, and West Asia is one of the world's largest energy-producing regions. If war intensifies there or maritime routes are disrupted, oil prices will rise sharply. When oil becomes expensive, petrol and diesel prices increase, transportation costs rise, production becomes costlier, and ultimately all goods become more expensive. In other words, the world could enter a period of global inflation. Rising inflation affects the poor and the middle class the most. Along with this, the global economy may also move toward recession.

Many countries are already struggling with economic crises, and if an energy crisis intensifies, the situation could become even more serious.

Countries like India cannot remain unaffected by such developments, as India imports a large portion of its energy requirements. Recognizing this potential threat, the Indian government has already begun preparing to ensure the supply of energy, fuel, gas, and fertilizers. However, the responsibility does not lie with the central government alone; state governments must also take steps toward energy conservation, supply management, and ensuring the availability of essential commodities.

The most worrying aspect of the current global situation is that the world appears to be preparing for war rather than trying to prevent it. Starting a war is easy, but stopping it is extremely difficult. History shows that many wars began as short conflicts but continued for years, affecting the entire world. If the West Asian

conflict expands today, it may not remain limited to a few countries but could turn into a global conflict with the involvement of major powers. Therefore, it is essential that powerful nations come forward and initiate ceasefire efforts and diplomatic dialogue. Diplomacy is always better than war, because in war, ultimately everyone loses—soldiers die, civilians die, cities are destroyed, economies collapse, and future generations suffer the consequences.

The biggest drawback of the arms race is that it slows down development. There are many countries in the world where people still struggle with poverty, hunger, disease, and illiteracy, yet governments are increasing defense spending instead of investing in education and healthcare. This is, in a way, an injustice to humanity. If even a small portion of global military expenditure were spent on education and healthcare, poverty and hunger could be significantly reduced worldwide. Unfortunately, global politics

still revolves around military power and strategic dominance.

Today, the world needs to understand that real power does not lie in weapons but in economic strength, scientific advancement, education, and human development. A nation that provides a better life for its citizens is truly powerful. War and weapons bring destruction, not development. The world must decide whether it wants to build a world of weapons or a world of humanity. If wars do not stop and the arms race continues to intensify, the coming years may bring global inflation, unemployment, economic recession, energy crises, and social instability. Such a situation would be dangerous for all humanity. Therefore, the time has come for nations to rise above narrow national interests and think in terms of global welfare, choosing peace, cooperation, and coexistence over war and conflict. The future of human civilization will be secured not by weapons, but by peace, dialogue, and cooperation.

War brings darkness—destruction, inflation, fear, and instability—while the world today needs the light of peace, dialogue, and stability. In this direction, India can play a very important role. In the global scenario today, India is not only seen as an emerging economic power but also as a moral force. India is the land of Buddha, Mahavira, and Gandhi—the land of non-violence and coexistence. If India takes active diplomatic initiatives, acts as a bridge for dialogue between conflicting nations, and raises strong ceasefire initiatives at international forums, it can give a new direction to global politics. If India promotes the four principles of peace, non-violence, global dialogue, and economic cooperation, it can play a historic role in guiding the world away from war and toward stability and peace. The future of humanity depends not on weapons, but on wisdom, cooperation, and peaceful coexistence—and this is the greatest responsibility of our time.

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The Battle For Control Of The Strait Of Hormuz Iran's Tariff Proposal And The Global Crisis

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

The Strait of Hormuz is a vital hub for global energy supply and global trade. It is a narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf to the open ocean. Approximately one-quarter of the world's oil and gas is transported through it. Iran's proposal to impose tariffs on ships transiting this strait is seen not just as an economic decision, but as a serious challenge to global politics, international law, and energy security.

This move comes at a time when the world is already grappling with energy crises, supply chain disruptions, and geopolitical tensions. Countries like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Iraq are highly dependent on this route. Oil and gas from these countries travel through this narrow channel to reach global markets. Any disruption or additional cost to this route directly impacts the global economy.

Iran argues that it maintains security in the region and should have the right to charge fees to ensure the safety of ships. However, this argument contradicts the spirit of international law. According to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), ships from all countries have the right to pass unhindered through international straits. No country can restrict this right or impose fees on it. If any country does so, it would be considered a direct violation of international law.

The history of Iran and the region demonstrates that the Strait of Hormuz has consistently been a focus of tension and strategic pressure. Over the past several decades, Iran has repeatedly threatened to close the waterway, particularly when tensions between Iran and the West have escalated. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps) has repeatedly monitored, inspected, and sometimes intercepted ships in the region.



But the current situation is different from before. It's no longer just a matter of military pressure, but rather appears to be an attempt to establish control in the form of a systematic economic structure. If this plan succeeds, it could give Iran a kind of "economic power" over this waterway, allowing it to indirectly influence international trade.

The global consequences of this potential arrangement could be severe. First, energy prices would see a sharp increase. Oil and gas prices are directly linked to the stability of this route. If ships are forced to pay tariffs or face obstacles along the route, transportation costs will increase. The impact will not be limited to energy, but will affect every commodity that is part of the global

supply chain. Food, fertilizers, industrial raw materials, and other essential commodities could also become more expensive. This will exacerbate inflation, with a greater impact on developing countries. This situation will be particularly challenging for those already facing economic pressure and import dependence.

On the other hand, this move could also escalate regional tensions. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have expressed their concerns about this proposal. For them, this is not just an economic issue, but also a question of sovereignty and security. If Iran attempts to establish unilateral control over this waterway, it could lead to regional conflict.

In this context, the role of global

powers also becomes crucial. The United States has long maintained a naval presence in the region to ensure freedom of navigation. If Iran implements its proposal, the international response could be swift and decisive. This situation could have implications at many levels, from diplomacy to military strategy.

This entire incident raises a big question—will the international system still be based on rules and cooperation, or will powerful countries use their strategic position and power to change the rules to suit themselves?

A key pillar of the global order established after World War II has been the principle that the seas and international waterways remain open to all countries. This principle

has promoted global trade and peace. However, if any country challenges this principle and is not stopped, the entire system could be undermined.

Furthermore, this incident highlights the fact that geographical position has become a major source of power today. Places like the Strait of Hormuz are not just points on a map, but have become crucial hubs of global politics and economics. Countries that control such locations can influence global trade and energy flows.

However, this strategy is fraught with risks for Iran. If it violates international law, it could face severe economic sanctions. This move could further isolate Iran, already grappling with sanctions and economic hardship. This could further weaken its economy.

It is time for the international community to unite and find a solution to this challenge. Mere rhetoric and condemnation will not suffice. All countries must work together to ensure the freedom of this waterway. International organizations must also play an active role in this issue to preserve the rules-based order.

At the same time, it is essential to keep channels of dialogue and negotiation open to reduce tensions. Any military conflict will only further complicate the situation, and the entire world will suffer the consequences.

Ultimately, this proposal to impose tariffs on the Strait of Hormuz is not just a regional policy, but a test of the global order. It will determine whether the world will move forward based on cooperation and rules or return to an era of power and control.

If this challenge is not taken seriously in time, the Strait of Hormuz will cease to be just a trade route but will become a symbol of global instability and conflict.

(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

Cybercrime cases in J&K rise steadily, 185 reported in 2023: GoI

Says Enhancing Forensic Capabilities To Tackle Growing Digital Offenses

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has revealed that cybercrime cases in Jammu & Kashmir have witnessed a steady increase over the past three years, with 185 cases reported in 2023.

According to official data presented in the Lok Sabha, J&K recorded 154 cybercrime cases in 2021, which

rose to 173 in 2022 and further to 185 in 2023, indicating a gradual upward trend in such offences.

The data, compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), highlights the growing challenge of cyber-related crimes across the Union Territory, amid increasing digital penetration and online activity.

The Ministry further informed that multiple

forensic mechanisms have been strengthened at the national level to tackle cybercrimes. At present, seven Central Forensic Science Laboratories and 27 State Forensic Science Laboratories are operational across the country to assist in investigations.

Additionally, under centrally sponsored schemes, financial assistance has been extended to

several states and Union Territories for enhancing cyber forensic capabilities, including setting up cyber forensic-cum-training laboratories.

Officials said the government continues to focus on capacity building, modernisation of forensic infrastructure, and early-stage cyber investigation support to curb the rising trend of cybercrimes—(KNO)

Centre focuses on developing J&K as mountain tourism hub

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: The Centre on Monday said that Jammu and Kashmir is receiving focused attention under various central tourism schemes aimed at developing world-class infrastructure and promoting mountain tourism in the region.

Replying to a question in Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Tourism said that while development of tourism remains primarily the responsibility of States and Union Territories, the Centre is supplementing efforts through flagship schemes like Swadesh Darshan, Swadesh Darshan 2.0, PRA-

SHAD and other initiatives.

The government said that Jammu and Kashmir has been included in the Himalayan tourism circuit under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, with multiple projects sanctioned to boost tourism infrastructure across key destinations, including Jammu, Srinagar, Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Baramulla and Kupwara.

According to official details accessed, several projects worth crores have been sanctioned in J&K under the Himalayan Circuit, focusing on the development of tourist facilities, connectivity, and infrastructure in both the Kashmir and Jammu

regions. These include projects for areas such as Anantnag, Pulwama, Kishtwar, Daksam and Ranjit Sagar Dam, among others.

The Ministry further said that the government is also investing in restoration and development works, including infrastructure created in lieu of assets damaged during the 2014 floods in the region.

Under the PRASHAD scheme, the government has also sanctioned development works at Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar to enhance pilgrimage tourism and improve facilities for visitors.

Highlighting future plans, the government said that in the Union Budget 2026-27, spe-

cial emphasis has been laid on developing world-class trekking and hiking trails in Jammu and Kashmir, recognising its vast potential in mountain tourism.

The Centre added that under various national schemes, financial assistance is being provided to improve tourism experiences, infrastructure and sustainability across the region, aiming to position Jammu and Kashmir as a global tourism destination.

The government reiterated that these initiatives are part of a broader strategy to promote sustainable tourism, generate employment and boost the local economy in Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

NIA Searches Four

masterminded the blast conspiracy in coordination with arrested co-accused and others, it said.

The agency is continuing with its efforts to unravel the larger conspiracy behind the terror attack and to identify others involved in the plot to spread mayhem and destabilise the country, statement added.

LG Sinha Vows

and restoring dignity.

"Justice also lies in which stories society chooses to remember. Justice also means wiping the tears of grieving families, acknowledging their pain, and healing the wounds inflicted on their souls. Justice also means that the stories of terror-victim families, once forgotten, are now being rewritten with renewed memory and honour.

We stand at a decisive turning point in J&K today. The youth of the Union Territory and terror victim families aspire to a bright future and wish to live a better life. It is our shared responsibility to make that future a reality and create the opportunities they deserve," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor issued a stern warning to the remaining elements of the terror ecosystem and conflict entrepreneurs, stating that their era of terror is over.

"The people of Jammu Kashmir know fully well who shielded such terror elements, but that shield is now crumbling. I warn them that there is no longer any safe haven in Jammu Kashmir for terrorists or the networks that support them," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that it is his commitment to ensure that every terror victim's family receive the justice, jobs, recognition and support they deserve after years of suffering.

"Terror victim families remained erased from society's memory for decades. Among all these stories, the most painful and bitter truth is that these families were let down by the very system whose duty and primary obligation was to protect them.

I do not see this merely as an administrative lapse but it was a civilisational failure of that time," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the terror victim families were harassed by elements of terror ecosystem and the situation was not simply injustice but it was the complete collapse of social morality.

"The elders of the society must ask themselves some tough questions- what kind of society we had become a few decades ago? How did Jammu Kashmir evolve into a system where the victim became a burden that time and those linked to terror were turned into beneficiaries?

I am confident that these questions will shake our conscience, because such practices hollowed out every value that makes a society just. Such darkness had extinguished the very spirit of law, trust, and coexistence," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said those who were part of this terror ecosystem and managed to infiltrate government machinery in the past will face the law and they will be systematically removed from government jobs and punished as per the law.

"Those directly linked to terrorism are being dismissed from service, while decades-long neglected terror-victim families are being given government jobs to secure their economic and social dignity. I see this not merely as a policy correction, but as a new moral declaration for a new Jammu Kashmir.

This is a clear message that a new order has arrived, one that will punish mercilessly those tied to terrorism and will firmly fulfil its duties to restore the dignity of victims. This moral declaration is the announcement of a system that defines justice not only in words, but in deeds," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari; Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department, Shri M Raju; Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Shri Ramesh Kumar; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Minhas; senior officials, members of various social organisations and family members of victims of terrorism were present.

Accused Jamwal

As the city judge was on leave, Jamwal was produced before the sub-judge's court and was remanded to judicial custody till April 6, a lawyer representing the accused said.

The accused was earlier granted five days' police remand by the city judge on March 12. On the expiry of the first remand on March 16, the sub-judge had extended his police remand by seven days.

"The investigation is almost complete. Therefore the court today sent him to judicial remand... whatever investigation has been conducted will be submitted in the form of a final chargesheet before the court and the family will take a call on moving a bail in the coming days," the lawyer said.

Police have constituted a Special Investigation Team under the supervision of a deputy inspector general of police to probe the incident.

The accused is facing charges under attempt to murder and the Arms Act in connection with the case.

ED Attaches Rs 16.86

S/o Jaipal Singh, who is found to be involved in a well-organized Digital Arrest cyber fraud racket, statement reads.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR No. 26/2024 dated 19.10.2024 registered by Cyber Police Station, Kashmir Zone, along with a preliminary charge sheet filed before the Honorable Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar, it reads.

The investigation pertains to a cyber fraud wherein innocent citizens were deceived through impersonation of officials from law enforcement and regulatory agencies. Investigation revealed that the accused persons, namely Gaurav Kumar, Gurpreet Singh, and Ujjwal Chauhan, in conspiracy with other associates, executed a well-planned fraud by impersonating officials of agencies such as TRAI and CBI, it reads.

Statement further reads, The victim was falsely informed that he was involved in a money laundering case linked to national security and was threatened with arrest. Under fear, coercion, and psychological pressure, the victim was compelled to liquidate his fixed deposits and transfer funds..

Accordingly, an amount of Rs. 21,00,000/- was fraudulently obtained from the victim and transferred to the bank account of M/s Jeevika Foundations, which acted as the primary beneficiary and conduit account. Out of the total defrauded amount, a sum of Rs. 4,13,535/- has already been refunded to the complainant pursuant to the order dated 28.09.2024 passed by the Honorable Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar, it reads.

However, the remaining amount of Rs. 16,86,465/-, which is identifiable and traceable in the bank account of M/s Jeevika Foundations, constitutes Proceeds of Crime under the provisions of PMLA, 2002, it reads.

In furtherance, the said amount has been provisionally attached under Section 5(1) of the PMLA, 2002. Further Investigation is under progress, statement reads.

72 Private Member Bills

Legislature Members Pension (Amendment) Act, 2014, jointly moved by NC and PDP MLAs to enhance the pension of former legislators.

Among the 72 private member bills to be listed in this session, the spotlight is on NC MLA Tanvir Sadiq's proposal to amend the Land Grants Act, a bill addressing the issue of expired leases. Sources have not ruled out the possibility of MLAs from the ruling party and its allies supporting the bill in the House. The proposal has already evoked responses from smaller opposition parties such as the PDP and the PC.

However, it is not certain that the bill will come up for introduction- the stage where the government decides whether to allow bill for consideration before it proceeds to other stages. This uncertainty arises because the bill is likely to be listed at serial number 27. Normally, 10 to 12 bills are taken up each day when private member bills are scheduled.

Other significant private member bills

include four separate proposals on liquor ban, submitted by Ali Muhammad Sagar, Mir Muhammad Fayaz, Sheikh Khurshed, and Ahsan Pardesi. Besides, three bills seeking regularisation of daily wagers have been submitted by M.Y. Tarigami (CPI(M)), Waheed-ur-Rehman Para (PDP), and Devinder Manyal (BJP).

NC MLA Bashir Ahmad Veeri's bill for amendment to the Jammu & Kashmir Reservation Act could be taken up for introduction in the House, given that it is likely to be listed at serial number 16.

A bill submitted by BJP MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia seeking ownership rights for occupants of Evacuee property could also come up for introduction in the House.

NC MLA from Pahalgam, Altaf Ahmad Wani, has submitted a bill for the protection of land and employment rights of the domiciles of the Union Territory. Its chances of coming up for introduction in the House during this session is bleak.

PDP MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para has submitted a bill for the creation of separate divisions for Chenab and Pir Panchal Valley and the creation of new districts. The bill is unlikely to come up for introduction in the House before 2028, given that it is likely to be listed at the tail end of the business.

Similarly, the National Law University Bill submitted by RS Pathania is also likely to be listed at the tail end of the business.

Private member bills are listed in business of the House according to the date their notices are received. Since 46 such bills of 2025 are pending for introduction, they will be given priority in the day's business as per the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Legislative Assembly—(KNO)

Northern Army

to review operational preparedness and security grid.

He had detailed deliberations with commanders in chain and interaction with troops.

"He appreciated their sustained efforts, professionalism and resolute conduct of operations in challenging terrain and inclement weather conditions exhorting them to maintain the momentum and seamless coordination with sister security agencies to ensure continued peace and stability in the region," the post said.

Tulip Garden Attracts

Ahmad said the visitors include a mix of locals, domestic tourists and foreigners. "There has been a good mix of locals and tourists. Around 200 to 300 foreign tourists have also visited the garden in the first week," he said.

He, however, noted that intermittent rainfall during the opening week slightly impacted visitor turnout. Despite this, officials are hopeful of an increase in footfall in the coming days. "We are expecting more visitors in the coming days," he said.

Spread over the foothills of the Zabarwan range overlooking Dal Lake, the garden this year showcases around 70-75 varieties of tulips, along with other ornamental flowers. Opened annually during the spring season, it remains a key highlight of Jammu and Kashmir's tourism calendar and attracts thousands of visitors from across India and abroad—(KNO)

No Fuel Shortage In

district-level committees to prevent any irregularities such as hoarding, black marketing or overpricing.

"Control rooms at district and divisional levels are actively following up on supply and distribution. The Food and Civil Supplies Department is generating daily reports in a centralised format, which are being reviewed regularly to ensure the public does not face inconvenience," Garg said.

Addressing complaints regarding delays in LPG deliveries, he said such issues are being handled on a case-to-case basis by Deputy Commissioners and concerned departments. "Teams on the ground are actively resolving these complaints to ensure timely delivery," he said.

The Divisional Commissioner urged people to rely only on official communi-

cation and avoid panic. "There is no need to believe in rumours or unverified information. The government is committed to keeping the public informed and ensuring uninterrupted supply," he added.

On the issue of students from Jammu and Kashmir stranded in Iran, he said both the Government of India and the Union Territory administration are making sustained efforts to ensure their safe return.

He said dedicated helplines have been set up and continuous communication is being maintained with parents through control rooms. "We are sharing every update received from the Government of India with the families. The Chief Minister has also assured all possible support," he said.

The Divisional Commissioner added that coordination between authorities and families has improved, with parents cooperating with the administration. "Our effort is that all students return safely and at the earliest. We are hopeful that the situation will be resolved soon," he said.

Reiterating the administration's commitment, he said the situation is being closely monitored and necessary steps are being taken on priority—(KNO)

After Decades Of Loss,

has come forward to help us," he indicated, reflecting a mix of relief and lingering pain after nearly two decades of struggle.

Officials said several hundred appointment letters were distributed to families of terror victims across the Jammu region since 2025. "The step is being seen as a significant outreach effort by the administration. The initiative aims to provide long-awaited relief and rehabilitation to those who have borne the brunt of terrorism," they added.

For many recipients, the gesture goes beyond employment—it represents closure to years of silent suffering, recognition of their loss, and a renewed hope for a more secure future—(KNO)

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DC Srinagar presides over Mega Job Fair at Kashmir Haat

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday presided over a one day Mega Job Fair at Kashmir Haat (Numaish Gah) Exhibition Ground, aimed at promoting employment opportunities, entrepreneurship and enhancing self-employment opportunities among the youth of the district.

Deputy Director Employment, Srinagar, Shubi Tabasum, District Employment Officer, Career Counselling Officer (CCO), other senior Officers from the Employment Department and other concerned also attended the event.

The job fair witnessed an overwhelming response from the youth who registered online for participation in the event.

Around 22 companies with adequate vacancies in diverse sectors including Tourism, Agriculture, Horticulture, Insurance, Banking, Automobile and Hospitality were part of this event offering a wide range of employment opportunities.

During the programme, the Deputy Commissioner



inspected several stalls set up by government departments showcasing various self-employment schemes. These stalls provided detailed information on scheme benefits, financial assistance, and application procedures aimed at facilitating and encouraging aspiring entrepreneurs.

Addressing on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of such job fairs in creating a direct interface between job providers and job seekers, thereby enabling placements, selections, and formal registration of unemployed youth with the Employment Department.

He further urged youth to avail hassle-free credit facilities offered under key government initiatives such as Mission YUVA, HADP, and JKICP. He reiterated that the District Administration is committed to extending all necessary support through the Employment Department to foster entrepreneurship across Srinagar.

SKUAST-K mulls online, hybrid classes amid LPG crisis



RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: Facing a growing Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) crisis, the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) is devising a mechanism to shift the regular classes to online and hybrid mode.

Top officials of SKUAST-K informed that main and satellite campuses have started facing LPG crisis. "Keeping in view the issue, we have directed the deans of the university to gear for online classes or hybrid mode of education."

He said, "The instruction for online and hybrid modes of education is a

precautionary measure, if the situation deteriorates and demands shift to online education, we must be ready for that to avoid the academic losses."

"We are preparing a Learning Management System (LMS) for the online and hybrid mode of education because more than 65-70 percent of the students in different campuses of SKUAST-K are either residing in university hostels or in Paying Guests (PGs)," the official said.

Furthermore, the official added that for the first time, the university has introduced online registration for the spring semester session. "Earlier, the students were supposed

to apply for the semester registration in the offline mode, however due to the LPG crisis we have started online registration so that the students who are currently not in the campuses can apply for the registration online."

"If situation demands online education, it requires an online portal, we will be working on it," the official added.

About the commencement of regular classes for the spring semester session the official said that the classes should normally start by next week. "Let's see what the situation demands. As of now the LPG crisis are growing."

He added, "At SKUAST-K, we have over 6,000 stu-

dent enrolment and in different campuses of the university in Kashmir, at least 25 percent students are from outside Kashmir region and more than 1000 students are outside J&K."

"We have a total of 30 hostels in different campuses of Kashmir region and on an average at least one hundred students are residing in each hostel. Moreover many students are residing in PGS," the official said.

Meanwhile, the officials at University of Kashmir and Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Awantipora said that they have not taken any call regarding the preparations or conducting the online classes—(KNO)

Two killed, 4 injured in car crash on Budhan-Dagantop road in Reasi

AGENCIES

REASI: At least two persons were killed on the spot and four others sustained serious injuries in a road accident in the Budhan area of Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Monday, officials said.

The accident involved an Eco car bearing registration number JK19A-4098 on the Budhan-Dagantop road, a hilly stretch known for sharp turns and difficult terrain, they said.

Officials said the vehicle met with an accident under circumstances that are being investigated, leading to immediate fatalities and multiple injuries.

Rescue teams and local authorities rushed to the spot soon after receiving information and shifted the injured to a nearby medical facility for treatment.

The condition of the injured was stated to be serious, officials added. Police have taken cognizance of the incident and initiated further investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the accident.

There was no immediate identification of the deceased, and efforts were underway to ascertain their identities. [KNT]

Govt assigns additional responsibilities to two senior IAS officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday issued orders assigning additional responsibilities to two senior IAS officers in the interest of smooth administrative functioning.

According to the order issued vide Government Order No. 467-JK(GAD) of 2026 dated March 23, 2026, the Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, has been entrusted with the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Information Technology Department, till the regular incumbent resumes duties.

In a similar arrangement, the Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, has been assigned the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, until the concerned officer returns.

The order further states that the arrangement will remain in force till further orders or till the respective officers resume their duties.

B'la admin launches week-long campaign to commemorate 150 yrs of Vande Mataram

GMK NEWS NETWORK

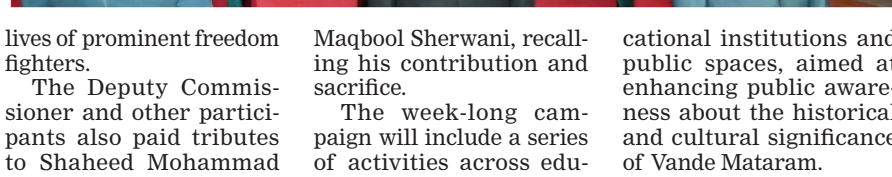
BARAMULLA: District Administration Baramulla Monday launched a special week-long campaign to commemorate 150 years of Vande Mataram at Sherwani Hall, Baramulla.

The programme was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid. On the occasion, a short documentary on the historical background and significance of Vande Mataram was screened for the participants.

Speaking during the event, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the historical importance of Vande Mataram in our Nation's freedom movement and its continuing relevance in promoting awareness of the country's historical and cultural heritage among the younger generation.

He noted that the composition by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay Ji occupies an important place in the history of the national movement and has remained associated with the spirit of public awakening during and patriotism.

An exhibition was also organised at the venue featuring photographs, biographical sketches, and brief accounts from the



lives of prominent freedom fighters.

The Deputy Commissioner and other participants also paid tributes to Shaheed Mohammad

Maqbool Sherwani, recalling his contribution and sacrifice.

The week-long campaign will include a series of activities across edu-

cational institutions and public spaces, aimed at enhancing public awareness about the historical and cultural significance of Vande Mataram.

DC Kulgam visits GDC Frisal, reviews progress of college building Construction



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Monday visited Government Degree College Frisal to take stock of the progress made on the construction of the college building.

During the visit, the DC inspected various components of the ongoing construction works and reviewed the pace and quality of development at the site.

He was briefed by the concerned about the current status of the project, timelines, and remaining

works.

The DC directed the executing agency and concerned departments to expedite the pace of work and ensure that the project is completed within the stipulated timeframe.

He emphasized maintaining quality standards while accelerating the construction process so that the facility can be made available to students at the earliest.

He also stressed the importance of developing adequate educational infrastructure in the district to facilitate better learning opportunities for students.

Trump says Iran talks progressing; Tehran denies negotiations

IANIS

NEW YORK: President Donald Trump on Monday sounded optimistic about an imminent settlement of the Iran War with major points of agreement in talks, while Tehran was signalling that there were no negotiations.

Trump told reporters that "we have points, major points of agreement, I would say, almost all points of agreement", especially on the three major points on eliminating nuclear development.

The remarks were greeted by a slump in oil prices and a rise in stock markets.

The Strait of Hormuz has moved to the centre of the conflict and the global economy, and Trump said its opening could be imminent.

Trump has demanded that Iran allow free navigation across the 40-kilometre-wide strait that is a chokepoint for 20 per cent of global fossil fuel flows.

He said that it could open immediately and be controlled by "maybe me and the ayatollah, whoever the Ayatollah is."

Trump said that his envoy, Steve Witkoff, and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, held talks with Iran on Sunday and would continue on Monday.

He did not identify the Iranian negotiators, only saying, "We're dealing with the man who I believe is the most respected and the leader."

He added that it was not Ayatollah Mojtaba Khameini, who succeeded his slain father.

But Iran's Parliament Speaker, M. B. Ghalibaf, denied that there were talks.

He said on X that "no negotiations have been held with the US, and fake news is used to manipulate the financial and oil markets and escape the quagmire in which the US and Israel are trapped".

The Iranian Foreign Ministry

spokesperson Esmail Baghaei, according to the news agency IRNA, said that Tehran had not asked to speak to Washington, as Trump had claimed.

Baghaei was quoted as saying that messages had, however, been received through "friendly countries".

Oman may be one of them because its Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi said on X that his country "is working intensively to put in place safe passage arrangements for the Strait of Hormuz".

In a placatory gesture to Tehran, he said, "Whatever your view of Iran, this war is not of

their making. This is already causing widespread economic problems, and I fear they promise to get much worse if the war continues."

Trump's statement on Truth Social and remarks to reporters did not bring clarity to the talks he said were taking place.

Last week, he had ruled out a ceasefire with Iran, saying that it was already vanquished.

He has also said that there were no credible leaders to negotiate with.

On Truth Social on Monday morning, he said, "I am pleased to report that the United States of America, and the country of

Iran, have had over the last two days, very good and productive conversations regarding a complete and total resolution of our hostilities in the Middle East."

Because of "the tenor and the tone of these in-depth, detailed, and constructive conversations", he was postponing for five days an attack on Iran's power system that he had threatened to carry out on Monday if Iran did not allow free navigation across the Strait of Hormuz.

Later, he told reporters in Florida, "They want very much to make a deal. We'd like to make you a deal, too."

He said there were agree-

ments on 15 points, three of which concerned keeping Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

After claiming that it would be short, swift action with the decapitating of Iran's leadership and destroying its missile and remaining nuclear infrastructure, Trump is facing a prolonged conflict that has led to attacks on his Gulf allies and a global energy crisis, with the Strait closed to most shipping.

With mid-term elections that would determine the control of Congress, Trump now seems to be seeking an off-ramp to keep the conflict from spiralling out of his control.

La Liga 2025-26: Four things we learned in Spain's matchday 29

IAN S

MADRID (SPAIN): FC Barcelona and Real Madrid both edged to narrow wins before the international break to keep the title race alive in the La Liga 2025-26 season.

With the league moving towards a decisive phase at both ends of the points table, Barcelona and Real Madrid are separated by four points, with Barca leading the standings with 73 points while Real Madrid have 69 points after 29 rounds of matches.

Barcelona defeated Rayo Vallecano 1-0 while Real Madrid edged archrivals Atletico Madrid 3-2 in a hard-fought Madrid Derby.

At the bottom, Levante is still clinging to survival hopes thanks to a young local striker. Here are some things we learned this weekend in La Liga.

1 Real Madrid win, but Mbappe's change was nearly costly

Real Madrid won an entertaining and controversial derby 3-2 at home to Atletico Madrid, with two goals from Vinicius Jr and one from Federico Valverde, who was later sent off.

The game saw Kylian Mbappe come on in the 64th minute to replace Thiago Pitarch, but the Frenchman looked well short of full sharpness. After Valverde's red card, his lack of mobility allowed Atletico to take control and push for an equaliser. Real Madrid said Mbappe has recovered from his knee problems, but he did not look fully fit, and the decision to bring him on nearly cost his side two vital points.

2 Break comes at the



right time for Barcelona

FC Barcelona beat Rayo Vallecano 1-0 at home thanks to Ronald Araujo's first-half goal, but Hansi Flick's side had to work hard to hold on.

Barcelona looked tired in both their pressing and passing, and Rayo created several chances to level after repeatedly beating the home side's high defensive line, only to waste them.

Fortunately for Barcelona, goalkeeper Joan Garcia produced several big saves to justify his first international call-up. Flick hopes the international break helps his players recover after an intense start to 2026.

They will certainly need to improve, because their first game after the break is away to Atletico, which beat them 4-0 in the Copa del Rey.

3 Quietly does it: Villarreal moves into third

It took Villarreal only 23 minutes on Friday night for Gerard Moreno, Georges Mikautadze, and Nicolas Pepe to secure three points in a 3-1 home win over Real Sociedad.

Villarreal produced an outstanding first half against one of La Liga's form teams and could have scored more but for the woodwork and Real Sociedad goalkeeper Alex Remiro.

The win lifted Villarreal above Atletico Madrid into third place and, even more importantly, left the club with a 14-point cushion over fifth-placed Betis with only 27 points left to play for, virtually assuring qualification for next season's Champions League.

4 Espi, the hero, as Levante keeps survival

hopes alive

Levante's 20-year-old striker Carlos Espi had played only a bit-part role until last month, but the 1.94-meter-tall forward has now emerged as the man who could save his side from relegation.

Espi made headlines with two goals in Levante's 2-0 home win over Alaves. He then followed up with goals in 1-1 draws against Girona and Rayo Vallecano, and on Saturday scored twice again in a vital 4-2 home win over bottom side Oviedo.

In four matches, Espi has earned his side eight vital points.

Levante is still second from bottom, but unbeaten in four games and with confidence growing and Espi leading the line, it now has a real chance of avoiding relegation.

IFL 2025-26: Aizawl, Chanmari lock horns in a highly anticipated derby



IAN S

Aizawl: Local rivals Aizawl FC and Chanmari FC will lock horns in a highly anticipated Aizawl derby in the Indian Football League (IFL) 2025-26 at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Aizawl on Tuesday.

Aizawl FC will be eager to bounce back from a 0-2 defeat against high-flying Diamond Harbour FC. Under head coach R. Lalruatfela, the People's Club defended resolutely in the first half of their previous outing. However, they were eventually undone by a second-half defensive lapse that led to the opening goal.

Reflecting on this setback, Lalruatfela admitted, "In that game, what I reflect on is the lack of experience of my defender. Not only because of the mistakes of the players, but also because of the calls I made. So those kinds of mistakes cannot happen, especially at this top level."

Stressing the need for better in-game adaptabil-

ity, he added, "The game cannot be predicted. Sometimes you have the ball, sometimes you don't. And when we face opponents, the game management should come from the team itself. Experience is very important."

Currently sitting in fifth place with five points, Aizawl has experienced a frustrating recent slide. "At the beginning of the season, we were doing really well. But in the last matches, from six points, we got only one point. That is not a good thing, and I am not happy with the result," Lalruatfela noted.

Seeking an immediate turnaround, the head coach is prioritising substance over style: "For me, when we are in senior football, the result is the most important thing. Regardless of how we play, the style of play, at the end of the day, winning is the most important thing."

Echoing this fierce determination, player Eric

Rempuia highlighted the squad's solid preparation and growing unity. "About our chemistry, we are much better day by day off the field and on the field," Rempuia stated. "From the coaching staff to all the players, we are preparing more than 100 per cent off the field and on the field to win these three points so that we can progress in the table to go to the top."

Standing in their way are newly-promoted Chanmari FC, who share the same home ground and also arrive seeking redemption after suffering a heartbreaking 1-2 defeat to Shillong Lajong FC. Under the guidance of head coach Victor Lalbiakmawia, Chanmari showcased their devastating attacking.

Both sides have started the campaign impressively, but are now desperate to return to winning ways. As this marks the first-ever top-flight I-League meeting between the former champions and the ambitious

debutants, the clean slate only adds to the suspense and unpredictability surrounding the matchup.

With local pride and vital points on offer, Tuesday's evening clash promises intense action. Currently sitting neck-and-neck with five points each, both teams know exactly what a victory would mean for their campaign. However, Lalruatfela was quick to downplay the emotional hype surrounding the match. "Right now, I don't think about the derby at all," he asserted. "I'm looking only for the three points. This is a very good opportunity to get the three points."

A win for either of the teams would yield a crucial three points, sending them temporarily to second in the standings. As Aizawl looks to tighten their defence and Chanmari hopes to capitalise on their dynamic attacking flair, the stage is perfectly set for a highly competitive Aizawl Derby.

IPL vs PSL: 'A debate that never needed to exist,' social media laughs it off

IAN S

NEW DELHI: In cricket's ever-expanding T20 universe, comparisons are inevitable. But some debates feel forced — and the one between the Indian Premier League (IPL) and the Pakistan Super League (PSL) is firmly in that category.

On the surface, both leagues share similarities: packed stadiums, passionate fans, and a pool of international talent. But scratch a little deeper, and the gap becomes too wide to ignore — making the comparison less of a contest and more of a mismatch.

The IPL today is not just a cricket tournament; it is a global sporting phenomenon. From record-breaking broadcast deals to billion-dollar franchises, the league has redefined the economics of cricket. It attracts the biggest names in the sport, commands worldwide viewership, and dictates trends in franchise cricket.

Former cricketers across nations — including many from India and overseas — have repeatedly acknowledged IPL's unmatched stature. For many players, it is the ultimate T20 stage, both financially and professionally.

This is not to undermine the PSL. Since its inception, the league has made steady progress. It has built a loyal fan base.

However, in terms of global reach, commercial power, and overall influence, PSL is still a developing product. It continues to carve its identity in a competitive market where leagues across the world are fighting for attention. Even its impact on Pakistan's national team remains a subject of debate, with performances in ICC events often falling below expectations.

Another key difference lies in player availability and depth. While the IPL consistently attracts top-tier international stars across all major cricketing nations, PSL often operates within limitations due to scheduling clashes and availability constraints. This further widens the visibility gap between the two leagues.

Interestingly, even several former Pakistani cricketers have echoed a similar sentiment — that comparing PSL with IPL serves little purpose. Their acknowledgement isn't defeatist; rather, it reflects a realistic understanding of where both leagues stand today.

The IPL operates on a different scale — financially, structurally, and globally. PSL, meanwhile, is on a journey of growth, trying to strengthen its brand value and expand its global footprint.

And perhaps that is where the conversation should shift — from comparison to evolution. Because the success of one league does not necessarily diminish the other, instead, it can serve as a benchmark.

So, is there really a debate? Not quite. Because sometimes, the smartest comparison is the one we choose not to make.

Social media reactions add to the conversation

The debate, however, continues to find life on social media platforms, where fans across borders rarely hold back. "IPL is not just a league, it's an industry. PSL is entertaining, but the scale is completely different," wrote one.

"Numbers don't lie — viewership, sponsorship, brand value... IPL is in another league. Healthy competition is good, but unrealistic comparisons aren't," wrote another fan.

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