

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Narendra Modi

@narendramodi



I congratulate my friend, Prime Minister Meloni, on becoming the Prime Minister with the longest mandate in the history of postwar Italy. This milestone reflects the trust that the Italian people place in her leadership.

GMK

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Terrorist Killed In Budgam Encounter: Army



NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: One terrorist was killed and an AK rifle along with other war-like stores were recovered during a joint operation by the Indian Army, J&K Police and CRPF in the Ashdar Gali area of Budgam district, officials said on Friday.

Army said one terrorist was killed on the second day of an ongoing operation in the Ashdar Gali area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district today.

The operation started on Thursday evening and was resumed with the first light on Friday morning. Army patrol had established 'contact' (Engaged terrorists in firing exchanges) after gunshots were heard during a cordon and search operation (CASO) in the area on Thursday evening.

In a post on X, Badami

Bagh headquartered Chinar Corps of the Army said, "OP ASHDAR, Budgam. Based on specific intelligence input, a Joint Search Operation was launched by Indian Army, @JmuKmrPolice and @crpf_srinagar in general area Ashdar Gali, Budgam.

"Vigilant troops observed suspicious activity and upon being challenged, terrorists opened fire, prompting a fierce exchange of gunfire during which one terrorist was neutralised and one AK rifle and other war-like stores recovered." Search operation in the area is still underway.

One of the biggest anti-terrorist operations was carried out by the army in Chrar-e-Sharief town of Budgam district in 1995, where the shrine of Kashmir's patron Sufi saint, Sheikh Nuruddin Wali, is situated.

Pakistani •P-06

Five Kashmir Glacial Lakes Classified 'Very High' For GLOF Susceptibility: Study

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Five glacial lakes in the Kashmir Himalaya have been classified as having very high susceptibility to glacial lake outburst floods, with modelling indicating that a potential outburst could affect 2,704 downstream buildings, 15 major bridges, roads and a hydropower project, according to a study published in the Journal of Glaciology.

The study assessed 155 glacial lakes using multiple indicators linked to GLOF susceptibility. Bramsar, Nundkol, Bhagsar, Chirsar and Gangabal were placed in the very-high-susceptibility category.

Thirty-five additional lakes were classified as having high susceptibility, while 77 fell into the moderate category.

The researchers identified differences in the factors contributing to the susceptibility of individual lakes.

Bramsar emerged with the



highest susceptibility index, followed by Nundkol, Bhagsar, Chirsar and Gangabal.

The assessment estimated that potential outburst events from Bramsar and Chirsar

could affect 406 buildings and five bridges. Events involving Nundkol and Gangabal could affect 1,184 buildings, four bridges and a hydropower project, while Bhagsar could expose

1,114 buildings and six bridges along with the Mughal Road.

Taken together, the five lakes were found to have potential downstream exposure involving 2,704 buildings •P-06

'Wular Lake Shrinks From 90.57 To 65.33 Sq Km In Four Decades'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Wular Lake's surface area declined from 90.57 square kilometres in 1985 to 65.33 square kilometres in 2024, according to a new remote-sensing study that documents a

sustained reduction in the lake's extent over nearly four decades.

The study analysed satellite imagery from 1985, 2000, 2015 and 2024 using Normalized Difference Water Index and Support Vector Machine classification techniques.

The lake's surface area declined

to 76.62 square kilometres by 2000 and further to 69.77 square kilometres in 2015 before reaching 65.33 square kilometres in 2024.

The study also estimated a reduction in average water storage from 176 million cubic metres in 1985 to 65 million cubic

metres in 2024.

The researchers associated the long-term changes with climate variability, reduced precipitation and human interventions, while also examining the role of urbanisation and water extraction. •P-06

CM Meets HM; Discusses Statehood, Other Key Issues



FILE PHOTO

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi and discussed a range of key issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting focused on restoration of Statehood, finalisation of the Transaction of Business Rules, rationalisation of reservations and other important matters related to public welfare and

development.

The Chief Minister also briefed the Union Home Minister on the First International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK), scheduled to commence in Srinagar from September 7.

Omar Abdullah thanked the Union Home Minister for the timely assistance and support being extended to Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of flood-related damage reported across several areas.

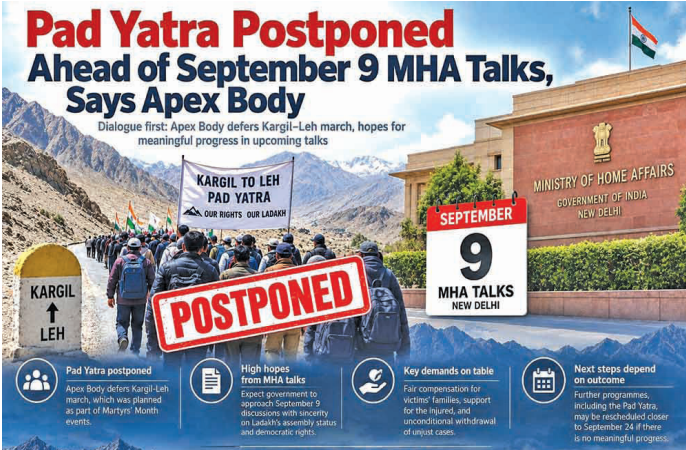
Apex Body Postpones Kargil-Leh Pad Yatra Ahead Of Sept 9 MHA Talks

GMK NEWS NETWORK

LEH: The Apex Body has announced the postponement of its proposed Pad Yatra from Kargil to Leh following the Ministry of Home Affairs' decision to hold sub-committee-level talks on Ladakh-related issues in New Delhi on September 9.

The march was planned as part of a series of programmes during September, being observed as "Martyrs' Month" in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the September 24 incidents last year. However, with talks scheduled just ahead of the proposed march, the leadership decided to defer the programme.

Apex Body representatives said they expect the government to approach the September 9 meeting with sincerity and make meaningful progress on Lada-



kh's longstanding political and democratic demands. They particularly highlighted discussions over a detailed proposal concerning an elected legislature and greater democratic representation for the Union Territory.

The leaders said other pending issues should also be addressed during the talks, including adequate compensation for the families of those who lost their lives, assistance for people injured during •P-06

CS Assesses Framework Of 'Draft J&K EV Policy 2026'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday called for a reliability-first and fiscally prudent approach to electric mobility in Jammu and Kashmir, with EV adoption to be scaled up with establishing adequate service readiness, winter performance and dependable charging infrastructure.

The Chief Secretary was chairing a meeting to review the comprehensive framework of the Draft Jammu and Kashmir Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2026, formulated by the Transport Department with support from the Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG).

The meeting was attended by ACS, Power Development Department; ACS, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department;



Commissioner Secretary, Law; Secretary, Transport; Commissioner, JMC/SMC, besides other concerned officers and subject experts from CITaG.

While speaking the Chief Secretary directed that implementation of the proposed policy should follow a strictly sequenced approach, beginning with service preparedness before expansion of charging corridors and wider market adoption.

He stressed •P-06

'Successfully And Precisely Injected' PM Modi Hails GSLV-F17 Launch, EOS-05 Reaches Orbit

IANIS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on the successful launch of the GSLV-F17 rocket carrying the EOS-05 Earth observation satellite, describing the achievement as a matter of national pride.

PM Modi took to his social media 'X' and said, "Yet another outstanding achievement by ISRO and a proud moment for our nation. The successful launch of GSLV-F17 carrying EOS-05, India's first-ever imaging satellite from Geosynchronous orbit is a reflection of the excellence, innovation and growing capabilities that define India's space sector."

"The growing partnership between ISRO and Indian industry is adding new strength and scale to our space



programme and expanding India's capabilities across the entire space ecosystem," he said.

The GSLV-F17 rocket lifted off successfully from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, at 2:55 a.m. IST on Friday in a pre-dawn launch.

The EOS-05 satellite was subsequently placed into its designated sub-geosynchronous transfer orbit.

ISRO Chairman Dr V Narayanan expressed satisfaction over the mission's outcome, saying the GSLV-F17 had precisely injected the advanced Earth observation satellite

into its intended orbit.

Mission Director Thomas Kurian described the achievement as a significant milestone for the GSLV programme. He said the mission marked the 19th flight of the GSLV and carried a specially configured Earth observation satellite capable of providing near-real-time imaging.

Kurian also pointed out that EOS-05 is the heaviest satellite that the GSLV has placed into a geosynchronous transfer orbit or sub-GTO orbit. He credited the successful launch to years of extensive preparation and dedicated efforts by scientists, engineers and other teams involved in the mission.

The EOS-05 mission is designed to strengthen India's Earth observation capabilities. The satellite is expected to provide a continuous view of the country from an altitude of nearly 36,000 km •P-06

Records 98.43% Literacy J&K Achieves Fully Literate UT Status: Edu Min

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has achieved the status of a Fully Literate Union Territory, with Education Minister Sakeena Itoo announcing a literacy rate of 98.43 percent under the ULLAS, NBSK programme.

Itoo described the achievement as a historic milestone and credited teachers, officers, volunteers and learners for their efforts in taking education to communities across J&K.

"With deep honour, I declare that Jammu & Kashmir has achieved the noble distinction of becoming a Fully Literate Union Territory, recording an outstanding literacy rate of 98.43% under the ULLAS - NBSK," Itoo said.

She also thanked Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his leadership and support in strengthening education.

Itoo said the achievement marks the beginning •P-06

Traditional Shobha Yatra Marks Janmashtami Celebrations In Srinagar



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Srinagar on Friday came alive with faith, colours and festive fervour as Kashmiri Pandits celebrated Janmashtami, marking the birth of Lord Krishna, with prayers, devotional singing, a traditional Shobha Yatra and cultural festivities across the city.

The celebrations began with devotees offering prayers at temples, observing fasts and participating in bhajan-kirtans and other religious rituals. Temples

were decorated with flowers, lights and colourful displays, while devotees gathered to mark the occasion with traditional fervour.

According to details obtained said, the main attraction of the celebrations was the traditional Shobha Yatra taken out by the Kashmiri Pandit community through the streets of Srinagar.

The procession started from the historic Ganpatyar Temple in Tankipora, Habba Kadal, and passed through several localities, •P-06

IGP chairs security review meeting ahead of forthcoming Int'l Film Festival

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone Sujit Kumar IPS chaired a security review meeting for the forthcoming International Film Festival. The meeting focused on strengthening security arrangements and ensuring comprehensive preparedness for the smooth and secure conduct of the festival.

According to a statement issued, the meeting was attended by Addl. Commissioner SB Srinagar, DIG SSB Srinagar, DIG ITBP Srinagar, DisG of Police including CID Kashmir, CKR Srinagar, Traffic Kashmir, Armed/IR Kashmir, DisG of CRPF South/North Srinagar, DIG BSF Ftr Hrs, SSP PCR Kashmir, SSsP of Traffic City Srinagar, district Srinagar, Railways Kashmir, Traffic Rural Kashmir, Security Kashmir, CID SB (K), CID (CIK), APCR Srinagar, SO to IGP Kashmir, CO SDRF 1st Bn Srinagar, Asstt Director SIB Srinagar, Col GS (IS) 15 Corps SP Cargo, Joint Director Information, Joint Director Tourism, Deputy Director Fire & Emergency Services and other officers.



At the outset of the meeting, IGP Kashmir reviewed the overall security preparedness, deployment plans and arrangements being put in place for the smooth and secure conduct of International Film Festival. Detailed discussions were held on venue security, deployment of personnel, access control, surveillance, crowd management, traffic regulation, emergency response mechanisms and inter-agency coordination.

Sujit Kumar stressed the need for adequate and strategically planned deployment at all identified venues, keeping in view the expected movement and gathering of visitors, participants, dignitaries and other stakeholders. IGP Kash-

mir also directed the officers to ensure thorough route clearance and appropriate deployment of Road Opening Parties (ROPs) along designated routes to ensure secure and uninterrupted movement during the festival.

Officers were directed to put in place effective crowd management measures, maintain regulated entry and exit points, and ensure smooth movement of people around the venues. Sujit Kumar also emphasised the need to formulate and implement appropriate traffic management plans, ensure smooth vehicular movement and deploy adequate personnel at vulnerable and congested points to minimise inconvenience to the public.

IGP Kashmir stressed

the importance of close coordination and real-time sharing of information among all participating agencies to maintain a robust and responsive security grid throughout the event. He directed officers to maintain heightened alertness, strengthen surveillance and undertake all necessary preventive and security measures well in advance.

The meeting concluded with a comprehensive review of the preparedness measures and directions for further strengthening the security arrangements in coordination with all concerned agencies, ensuring a safe and secure environment for the successful conduct of the festival—(KNO)

Interns' demand genuine, but should not be politicised: Health Minister

'Those playing politics should recall what they did for interns during their tenure'

JAHANGEER GANAIE

BIJBEHARA: Health and Medical Education Minister Sakeena Itoo on Friday said the demand of MBBS and BDS interns for enhancement of their stipend is genuine, but maintained that the issue should not be politicised.

Speaking to reporters in Bijbehara, Itoo said she was herself a doctor and had a clear understanding of the difficulties faced by medical interns during their training period.

"I have been a doctor myself, and I understand the difficulties interns face. They are playing an important role in hospitals, and their concerns are genuine," she said.

The minister, said the matter was already under consideration and the con-



cerned file was presently with the Finance Department.

She assured that the government would make every possible effort to address the issue and take steps for the welfare of interns at the earliest.

However, Itoo expressed displeasure over attempts to give a political colour to the ongoing protest, saying that the genuine concerns of interns should

not become a platform for political point-scoring.

"The issue of interns is very genuine, but it should not be politicised. Those who are trying to play politics over this issue must also recall what they did for interns when they were in government and what steps they took for their welfare during their tenure," she said.

The remarks come

amid the ongoing protest by MBBS and BDS interns across Jammu and Kashmir, who have been demanding an enhancement in their monthly stipend.

Itoo reiterated that the government was seized of the matter and said efforts were underway to resolve the issue through the appropriate administrative process.

During her visit to Bijbehara, the minister also appreciated Padma Shri awardee Javed Tak for his social work and contribution towards education and the welfare of children.

She assured him of every possible support from the Social Welfare and School Education departments for the functioning and development of Zaiba Aapa Institute of Inclusive Education at Bijbehara—(KNO)

Warwan Glacial Lake Expanded 308% In 25 Years

Study Warns Of Potential Flood Cascade

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: A glacial lake in the remote Warwan basin of Kishtwar district has expanded by about 308 per cent between 1999 and 2024, with a new scientific study warning that an avalanche-triggered glacial lake outburst flood could generate a cascading sequence of flooding and debris flows downstream.

The study, currently available as a 2026 pre-print, examined mass movements, glacier changes and glacial lakes in the Warwan sub-basin. Researchers found that Lake-B expanded from approximately 0.075 square kilometres in 1999 to 0.306 square kilometres in 2024.

The study also identified previous avalanche and GLOF events in the basin. An avalanche in September 2020 struck a proglacial lake and triggered a GLOF, resulting in the complete drainage of stored water and sediment and the formation of



a downstream debris flow.

For Lake-B, modelling of a worst-case large-magnitude scenario involving a rock-ice avalanche estimated a peak liquid discharge of about 2,214 cubic metres per second immediately downstream of the lake.

The modelling indicated that up to 97.5 per cent of the lake's water could potentially be drained in that scenario.

The researchers identified settlements including Youdu and Qaderna, along with roads, bridges and residential structures, within potential inunda-

tion zones.

They also warned that the availability of loose sediment from previous mass movements could increase the possibility of debris-flow cascades, potentially affecting downstream infrastructure and hydropower facilities.

The researchers stressed the need for preparedness, mitigation planning and early-warning systems closer to the source of a potential GLOF.

The findings represent a modelled risk assessment and do not indicate that an outburst flood is imminent. [KNT]

J&K High-Altitude Areas Warmed By Nearly 1°C In Two Decades: Study

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's high-altitude areas have experienced warming of nearly 1°C over the past two decades at several locations, including Pahalgam and Gulmarg, according to a study based on 45 years of temperature observations.

Published in Scientific Reports, the study analysed temperature records from 1980 to 2024 from 10 India Meteorological Department observatories across Jammu and Kashmir.

The stations included Jammu, Srinagar, Pahal-

gam, Gulmarg, Qazigund, Kokernag, Kupwara, Banihal, Batote and Bhaderwah.

The researchers found evidence of elevation-dependent warming, with temperature trends differing across the region's elevation range.

The annual mean temperature increased at a rate of 0.18°C per kilometre per decade in the analysis, while winter maximum temperature showed an elevation-dependent trend of 0.43°C per kilometre per decade.

The study found particularly pronounced warming at several high-altitude locations,

including Pahalgam and Gulmarg, where temperatures have risen by nearly 1°C over the past two decades.

The researchers linked wintertime elevation-dependent warming to surface-albedo processes, while increases in minimum temperatures were associated more closely with atmospheric moisture and longwave radiative conditions.

They said the observed changes have implications for high-altitude hydrology, the cryosphere and climate resilience in the Himalayan region. [KNT]

Staying Away from Democratic Process in Past Was 'Not a Good Decision': Bilal Lone



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir political leader Bilal Gani Lone has said that staying away from the democratic process in the past was "not a good decision," as he reflected on Kashmir's political history and the challenges that shaped politics in the region.

In an interview with Hala Bol News, Lone said that the practice of issuing "hartal calendars" was largely associated with the hardline Hurriyat faction led by Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

Speaking about the Hurriyat Conference and the broader political environment in Kashmir, Lone said that irrespective of the ideology pursued by the Mirwaiz-led Hurriyat

faction, political actors in the region faced pressure from multiple quarters.

He cited extremist elements, militant organisations and pressure tactics from Pakistan among the factors that complicated political decision-making and influenced the course of politics in Jammu and Kashmir.

Lone indicated that these pressures had a significant impact on the political environment and made participation in the democratic process more difficult.

His remarks come amid renewed debate over Kashmir's political past, the role played by separatist organisations and the consequences of staying outside the democratic process.

Zabarwan Series New Kashmiri Textbooks Launched in Srinagar

ZUBAIR QURESHI

SRINAGAR: A grand book release ceremony for the Zabarwan Series of Kashmiri textbooks for Classes 1st to 5th was held at a local hotel in Srinagar on Friday.

The ceremony was graced by veteran author and translator Prof. Neerja Mattu, renowned poet Prof. Naseem Shafie, President of Adbi Markaz Kamra, Mohd Amin Bhat,

renowned educationist



Ishfaq Ahmad Khan, and educationist Aijaz Ahmad Wani, among others.

Young award-winning writer and author of the series, Dheeba Nazir, welcomed the guests and spoke about the work and research that went into developing the Zabarwan

tongue among younger generations.

Other speakers hailed the efforts of Vision Books International and author Dheeba Nazir, describing the publication of the series as an important initiative towards strengthening Kashmiri language education.

Bali Slams NC-Cong Govt Over Long-Pending Grievances of Medical Interns

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) Jammu & Kashmir State President, Vivek Bali has strongly criticised the present National Conference-led elected government and its alliance partner, the Indian National Congress, over the long-pending grievances of protesting MBBS and BDS medical interns in Jammu & Kashmir.

In a statement issued to the media, Vivek Bali expressed serious concern over the plight of medical interns who are demanding an increase in their monthly stipend from the existing ₹12,300 to ₹30,000.

Bali said that the stipend of medical interns has reportedly remained unchanged since 2019, despite the substantial rise in the cost of living and



the demanding nature of their professional responsibilities. Medical interns work under stressful conditions, including night duties, emergency services, patient care and other critical responsibilities in hospitals.

"Medical interns are an essential part of our healthcare delivery system. They work long and demanding hours and provide vital services to patients. Their contribution must be recognised with fair and dignified compensation," Bali said.

He urged the J&K Government to take the

demand of protesting MBBS and BDS interns seriously and initiate an immediate review of their stipend. He said the government cannot remain silent when young medical professionals are compelled to take to the streets for legitimate and long-pending demands.

Bali further criticised the NC-led government over what he described as the failure to fulfil several major commitments made during the election campaign, including promises relating to employment, free electricity, LPG cylinders and regularisation of daily wagers.

He also questioned the functioning of the J&K Health Department and urged Health Minister Ms. Sakina Itoo to personally intervene in the matter and engage with the protesting interns.

"The government must not ignore the genuine

concerns of our young medical professionals. A responsible elected government should listen to their grievances, hold immediate dialogue and take a time-bound decision on the revision of their stipend," Bali added.

Vivek Bali called upon the J&K Government and the Health Department to initiate immediate dialogue with the protesting interns, review their stipend on priority and announce a clear and time-bound decision on their demand.

He reiterated that SBSP Jammu & Kashmir stands with the genuine concerns of medical interns and healthcare professionals and will continue to raise issues related to the welfare of healthcare workers, patients and the overall strengthening of the healthcare system in Jammu & Kashmir.

Janamashanti Celebrations

DC Anantnag visits Ragnath Ram Ji Temple Sherbagh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: On the auspicious occasion of Janamashtami, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Friday visited Ragnath Ram Ji Temple, Naghal Sherbagh, to greet the devotees and take stock of the facilities and arrangements available.

The DC was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Tariq Ahmad Malik, Tehsildar Anantnag, officers from line departments, and representatives of the temple management.

During the visit, the DC participated in the ceremo-



nial observances alongside the temple management representatives and expressed hope that the festival would bring prosperity and happiness to people's lives. He observed that such festivals present an ideal opportunity to strengthen the bond of love and mutual respect between different communities.

Interacting with the management committee, the DC stated that the historic temple has long stood as a symbol of brotherhood that defines the region's rich syncretic heritage. He appreciated the enduring spirit of unity among the people and urged everyone to continue preserving the area's cultur-

al and religious traditions.

On the occasion, the DC reviewed the overall arrangements and directed the concerned departments to ensure all basic facilities including smooth power and water supply, sanitation, traffic management, and medical care remain available for ease and convenience of the devotees. He instructed officials to keep all services fully operational throughout the festivities so that the celebrations proceed smoothly and hassle-free. He further directed them to maintain close coordination with temple representatives, address emerging issues promptly, and extend full support to the devotees.

FM Sitharaman invites global CEOs to invest in India



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NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held a series of discussions with CEOs of global companies in New York on the new investment opportunities in digital infrastructure opening up in India's fast growing economy, according to an official statement posted on X on Friday.

In a meeting with Sanjeev Ahuja, Chairman and CEO, Tillman Holdings, the Finance Minister said that India's policy design, including recent budget announcements, facilitates investment in digital infrastructure and alluded to the rapid growth in areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud computing, digital services and enterprise technology.

These sectors, she said, are generating sustained demand for data centres, high-capacity networks and reliable power infrastructure.

In this context, firms like Tillman are well-positioned to participate in the next phase of India's digital infrastructure growth, she said.

The two also discussed opportunities pertaining to the development of large-scale, resilient and sustainable digital infrastructure campuses.

In another meeting with Marsh Re CEO Dean Klisura and Devanshu

Dhyani, head of the company's strategy and corporate development, the Finance Minister said India offers global professional-services and risk-management firms a combination of a large domestic market, skilled talent, expanding infrastructure, digital capabilities and an increasingly reform-oriented business environment.

She noted that these strengths are underpinned by India's robust economic performance as the fastest-growing major economy in the world, as reflected in the GDP growth of 7.8 per cent in Q1 of FY 2026-27.

Team from Marsh RE acknowledged and appreciated the reform orientation of the Government of India and said that the company is keen to further grow and expand its presence in India, particularly as the country offers a level playing field along with a well-informed regulator, IRDAI.

Marsh Re also informed that it has strengthened its focus on GIFT City and is increasing its engagement with financial ecosystem there across products and services.

In a meeting with Alejandro Perez, Group COO, BNY Mellon, the discussion focused on India's resilient growth trajectory and opportunities for deeper invest-

ment by global financial institutions. With real GDP growth of 7.8 per cent in Q1 of FY 2026-27, India's strong domestic demand, deepening financial markets and reform-oriented policy environment continue to strengthen investor confidence.

Perez highlighted BNY Mellon's longstanding commitment to India and its view of the country as a critical market in its global operations and growth strategy.

He also highlighted the company's engagement with leading Indian institutions, including IITs, with a focus on developing and nurturing high-quality talent and noted that the evolving role of BNY Mellon's India operations, with the country increasingly serving not only as a delivery centre but also as a strategic global hub for innovation, technology and advanced capabilities, including Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The discussion also covered opportunities arising from India's growing financial ecosystem, Digital Public Infrastructure, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), and GIFT City-IFSC.

The Union Finance Minister invited the team of BNY to visit GIFT-IFSC and explore the plethora of products and services that are on offer there.

MBBS, BDS interns meet Health Minister, reject one-month timeline

'No more assurances; strike to continue till stipend hiked to Rs 30,000'

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: A delegation of protesting MBBS and BDS interns on Friday met Health Minister Sakeena Itoo and the Chief Minister's Advisor, urging the government to take immediate steps to resolve their long-pending demand for enhancement of their monthly stipend.

During the meeting, the minister told the interns that the matter was under consideration and sought one month's time to complete the process and issue a formal order. The interns, however, did not agree to the proposed timeframe and made it clear that their strike would continue until a concrete decision was taken.

Dr Tasaduq, an intern from GMC Srinagar who was part of the delegation, said that the minister informed them that the file had been sent to the Finance Department and



that the government was working out a roadmap to resolve the issue.

"The minister sought one month's time from us, but we disagreed. We told her clearly that we have already waited and cannot call off the strike merely on assurances. Until our demand is fulfilled and an official order is issued

enhancing our monthly stipend from Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000, we will continue our strike," he said.

The interns maintained that they were seeking a formal and written commitment from the government rather than another assurance, saying they would reconsider their agitation only after an official

order regarding the stipend enhancement was issued.

Dr Mohammad Momin Khan, Incharge AIMSA J&K said the interns had already been waiting for a considerable period and wanted clarity on the timeline and mechanism for resolving the issue.

"The interns need a

concrete commitment. If the government is serious about resolving the matter, there should be a clear roadmap and a formal order. They cannot be expected to withdraw their protest on assurances alone," he said.

The delegation included AIMSA leaders Dr Tasaduq, Dr Akib, Dr Shahnawaz, Dr Faraz and Dr Zamin, along with Dr Mohammad Momin Khan, who has been coordinating and supporting the interns' efforts.

The MBBS and BDS interns have been on strike across government medical colleges in Jammu and Kashmir, demanding revision of their monthly stipend from the existing Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000.

The protesting interns said they would continue their agitation until the government formally approves and issues the order for the enhanced stipend—(KNO)

IndiGo plane hits pole while parking at Srinagar airport

All passengers, crew members safe; no injuries reported

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: An IndiGo flight from Navi Mumbai to Srinagar came into contact with a VDGS pole while being positioned at a bay at Srinagar Airport on Friday morning, officials said.

They said all passengers and crew members were safe, with no injuries reported.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said IndiGo flight 6E 225 (VT-NOG), operating from Navi Mumbai to Srinagar, was involved in an incident while being positioned at Bay No. 06 at Srinagar Airport at approximately 0902 hours.

He said the aircraft came into contact with the VDGS pole during the parking process.

The spokesperson said all passengers and crew members were safe and no injuries were reported.



Passengers and crew were safely deboarded using manual aircraft stairs.

"The details and circumstances leading to the incident will be examined by the appropriate authorities as per the prescribed procedures. The exact cause will be ascertained following the completion of the inquiry, and no conclusion regarding the cause is

being drawn at this stage," reads the statement.

The spokesperson said airport operations remained normal, with flight arrivals and departures continuing as per schedule. Srinagar Airport remains committed to ensuring safe, secure and efficient operations for all passengers and stakeholders—(KNO)

Public Service Commission headless for nearly 3 weeks

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) has remained headless for nearly three weeks, rendering the constitutional body virtually non-functional.

The Commission, mandated to conduct recruitment for gazetted posts, has been without a chairperson since August 15, 2026, when Arun Kumar Choudhary, a former IPS officer, completed his term as Chairman.

"The Commission's functioning has been severely hampered due to the absence of a chairperson as it cannot take key decisions on the recruitment process," an official said on condition of anonymity.

He explained that legally the Commission comprises a chairperson and other members. "So, it is clear that in absence of a Chairperson, the Commission cannot discharge its key functions," he said.

Officials pointed out that the Government has powers to appoint an Acting Chairperson to ensure normal functioning. Article 316(1A) of the Constitution of India states: "If the office of the Chairman of the Commission becomes vacant or if any such Chairman is by reason of absence or for any other reason unable to perform the duties of his office, those duties shall, until some person appointed under clause (1) to the vacant office has entered on the duties thereof or, as the case may be, until the Chairman has resumed his duties, be performed by such one of the other members of the Commission as the President, in the case of the Union Commission or a Joint Commission, and the Governor of the State in the case of a State Commission, may appoint for the purpose."

At present, the Commission is left with only two Members -Dr. Rajiv Singh and Asaf Mehmood Sagar—(KNO)

LUMPY SKIN DISEASE

Javid Dar emphasizes accelerated vaccination, intensified surveillance



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Friday chaired a meeting to review the prevailing situation of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and the measures being undertaken for its effective containment across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Minister was briefed on the district-wise status of the disease, vaccination coverage, availability of medicines and vaccines, sample collection and testing besides other containment measures being implemented by the Animal Husbandry Department. It was

informed that nine active epicentres have been reported in Kashmir, with 59 cattle affected, including 55 active cases while no deaths have been reported so far.

Ganderbal is the most affected district, accounting for 52 cases across seven epicentres, followed by Bandipora with three cases and Srinagar with the remaining cases.

Taking detailed district-wise feedback, Javid Dar directed the concerned officers to strictly adhere to the prescribed treatment protocols and expedite the vaccination drive to prevent further transmission of the disease. He stressed the need for intensified surveillance and timely intervention, particularly in areas reporting higher

incidence of LSD.

The Minister called for strengthened field-level coordination, adequate deployment of veterinary experts and field staff and regular visits to affected areas. He also directed the department to intensify awareness campaigns, including door-to-door outreach, to educate farmers about preventive measures, early reporting and appropriate care of affected livestock.

Javid Dar directed the officers to ensure adequate availability of essential medicines and vaccines in all affected areas besides maintaining close monitoring of the situation for timely and effective response.

The Minister emphasised that concerted efforts by all stakeholders, coupled with scientific treatment, timely vaccination and greater farmer awareness, are essential to contain the disease and safeguard livestock.

HoDs of Animal Husbandry Kashmir, Chief Animal Husbandry Officers and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

Sakeena Itoo Visits Zaiba Aapa Institute of Inclusive Education Bijbehara



GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Minister for Social Welfare, Education and Health, Sakeena Itoo Friday visited the Zaiba Aapa Institute of Inclusive Education, Bijbehara, and took a comprehensive overview of the facilities, educational programmes and rehabilitation services being provided to children and persons with disabilities.

During the visit, the Minister inspected various facilities of the institute, including classrooms, intervention classes, physiotherapy services and the physical rehabilitation department. She interacted with the staff and took

keen interest in the educational, therapeutic and rehabilitation activities being undertaken for children with disabilities.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Bijbehara, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Veeri; Mission Director, Poshan; Chief Education Officer; Chief Medical Officer; Tehsil Social Welfare Officers; CDO Bijbehara and other concerned district officers.

During the visit, the Minister expressed satisfaction over the functioning of the Zaiba Aapa Institute of Inclusive Education and appreciated the dedicated efforts of the institution towards the education, rehabilitation, care and empowerment of children

and persons with disabilities.

She assured the management of the institute that the Government would extend all possible support and cooperation through the concerned departments. She also directed the district officers accompanying her to maintain close coordination with the Humanity Welfare Organization Helpline and extend necessary institutional support to strengthen services for persons with disabilities.

The Minister appreciated the entire team of Humanity Welfare Organization Helpline for its sustained efforts towards disability inclusion, rehabilitation, education and social empowerment.

In his welcome address, Founder and Chairman, Humanity Welfare Organization Helpline and Zaiba Aapa Institute of Inclusive Education, Javed Ahmad Tak, presented a welcome address and briefed the Minister about the activities and initiatives of the institution. He also highlighted various policy issues concerning the rights, welfare, empowerment and social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Teachers' play a pivotal role in shaping the future of nation: Farooq Abdullah



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah, in his message on Teachers' Day said that teachers hold a highly respected and valuable position in society. He said that teachers play a pivotal role in shaping the future of a nation by imparting quality education and guiding students towards becoming responsible and capable citizens.

In his statement, Dr Farooq Abdullah said that the role of teachers in the field of education has remained invaluable and unforgettable. He appealed to teachers to leave no stone unturned in enlightening their students with the light of knowledge. At the same time, he urged private school owners to address the long pending demand of teachers employed in their private institutions. "It's important that the private school teachers are given due respect and salary for the services they provide."

He also asked teachers to shoulder the responsibility of nurturing good character, values, culture and civility

among children so that they grow into exemplary citizens and a valuable asset to society.

Dr Farooq Abdullah said that the people of Kashmir take immense pride in the fact that the benefactor of Kashmir, late Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, began his career as a teacher. He said that immediately after assuming the reins of public administration, Sheikh Sahib took effective measures to accord priority to the education sector.

He recalled that when Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah assumed the leadership of the state, the literacy rate was below six percent. He said that Sheikh Sahib remained committed from the very beginning to his mission of seeing the people of Kashmir educated and empowered. It was through his sustained efforts and vision, he said, that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh gradually became illuminated by the light of education. He congratulated the people of J&K for achieving an outstanding literacy rate of 98.43 percent.

Four SKUAST-K students bag research fellowships in Japan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Four students from Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir have been selected for competitive research fellowships in Japan, advancing the institution's international academic engagements. The selections take place amid expanding educational ties

between India and Japan, which include a mutual framework aiming to host 10,000 Indian students and researchers over the next five years.

The selected scholars include doctoral student Tabish Jaan and master's student Misbah Fayaz, both pursuing biotechnology under the supervision of Dr. Sajad Majeed Zargar, Head of the Division

of Plant Biotechnology. From the discipline of plant pathology, doctoral scholar Sayima Nargis, working under the guidance of Dr. Tariq Rasool, along with master's graduate Nulevino Iralu, who completed her degree under the supervision of Dr. Aflaq Hameed, have also secured placements.

Tabish Jaan, Misbah Fayaz, and Sayima Nargis

have been awarded the JST-LOTUS Fellowship for two years, one year, and three years respectively, while Nulevino Iralu earned a four-year Japanese Government MEXT Scholarship. During their tenures across Japanese research institutes, the scholars will focus on molecular biology and biotechnology applications aimed at mitigating biotic and abiotic stresses in

crops and addressing critical nutritional challenges.

During their tenures at research institutes across Japan, the scholars will focus on molecular biology and biotechnology applications aimed at mitigating biotic and abiotic stresses in crops and improving nutritional security. The programs will grant them direct access to Japanese laboratory infrastructure,

research methodologies, and collaborative developmental projects.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai commended the students and their academic mentors, observing that the fellowships align with the university's ongoing efforts to build sustained institutional links with global scientific organisations.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

IFFJK: Festival That Puts Kashmir On World Map

Holding an international film festival in Srinagar is no ordinary achievement. In a place that has for decades been viewed through the narrow lens of conflict, an event that brings filmmakers, artists, critics and cinema lovers from across the world to Kashmir carries a significance far beyond the screening of films. It is a statement. It tells the world that Kashmir is not merely a headline about unrest, controversy or uncertainty. It is also a land of art, culture, hospitality, creativity and immense human potential.

The Srinagar International Film Festival has once again placed Kashmir on the global cultural map. And that deserves to be acknowledged without political prejudice or unnecessary cynicism. For nearly two months, the administration and the Raj Bhawan have been working tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to ensure that this ambitious event becomes a success. Organising an international festival in Srinagar is not a small administrative exercise. It requires coordination between departments, security agencies, cultural institutions, hospitality providers, filmmakers and countless people working away from the spotlight.

The real test, however, is not merely whether the inaugural ceremony is grand or whether the cameras capture impressive visuals. The real achievement will be if the festival changes the way the outside world sees Kashmir.

For years, Kashmir's image has been defined by others. Television screens have often carried images of protests, violence, shutdowns and political confrontation. Such images become permanent stereotypes in the minds of people who have never visited the Valley. Cinema can challenge those stereotypes more powerfully than a hundred official statements.

When a filmmaker from another part of our country, or another country, comes to Srinagar, interacts with Kashmiris, experiences its hospitality and takes back stories of its culture and beauty, Kashmir travels with that person. That is soft power in its purest form. The administration and the Raj Bhawan therefore deserve credit for pushing an event of this scale and for working relentlessly to make it happen. But congratulations should not end with the closing ceremony. The festival must become an annual cultural institution rather than a one-time spectacle.

Srinagar has the landscape, heritage, talent and atmosphere to become a serious destination for international cinema. What it needs now is continuity, professional management and a long-term cultural vision. Local filmmakers, actors, writers, musicians and technicians must be given meaningful opportunities. Kashmiri cinema and storytelling must find a prominent place on the festival platform. Film workshops, masterclasses and collaborations should continue throughout the year.

Most importantly, the event should belong to Kashmir, not merely happen in Kashmir. An international film festival in Srinagar is therefore much more than red carpets, cameras and screenings. It is an opportunity to reclaim Kashmir's cultural identity and project it to the world on its own terms. For once, let Kashmir make international headlines not because of what divides it, but because of what it creates.

And if the Valley can become a meeting place for the world's filmmakers, artists and storytellers, then Srinagar will have achieved something far more valuable than hosting a festival. It will have reminded the world that Kashmir has a story beyond conflict, and that story deserves to be seen.

Teachers: The Real Architects Of Modern Society



MAHMAD

Teachers play a pivotal role in shaping society by influencing the character, values, and intellect of young individuals, extending well beyond conventional classroom subjects. They serve as catalysts for intellectual development and foster curiosity, advocate for critical thinking, and stimulate creativity. The classroom acts as the fertile ground where knowledge is planted, and teachers are the caretakers who ensure these seeds flourish into informed and reflective individuals. This intellectual growth is essential for a nation's advancement, as it fosters innovation, scientific progress, and informed decision-making. A truly great society is established on a solid foundation of education, with teachers at the core of that foundation. They are not merely instructors; they are the guiding lights who cultivate knowledge, shape values, and inspire future generations. The significance of teachers in society cannot be confined to the classroom, as their influence extends far beyond.

Teachers are the initial mentors who assist children in comprehending the world around them. They introduce young minds to knowledge, spark curiosity, and create pathways for development. The groundwork established by teachers serves as a stepping stone for a lifetime of learning. The responsibilities of a teacher go beyond academic instruction. They instill values, discipline, empathy, and integrity—qualities that ultimately define a student's character. The role of teachers in character development is vital, as they impart lessons in kindness, resilience, and responsibility that cannot be found in textbooks. This equilibrium of academic and life skills is what enables students to flourish not only in school but also in life. Behind every successful student is a teacher who once inspired them to dream. Educators challenge limits, foster ambition, and motivate children to have faith in their capabilities. By igniting curiosity, they kindle the flame of imagination that transforms learners into innovators. The influence of teachers



on students is what converts aspirations into tangible achievements.

Educators are not merely teachers; they are visionaries, mentors, and the architects of society. The significance of teachers in our communities stems from their capacity to harmonize knowledge with values, discipline with empathy, and ambition with kindness.

A crucial element of a teacher's responsibilities is to impart values of respect and dignity. By exemplifying and instructing respect for elders, peers, and younger individuals, teachers assist students in cultivating interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence. These principles are essential in nurturing a compassionate and inclusive society. Furthermore, teachers act as ethical role models, guiding students in comprehending and adhering to moral and legal standards. Teachers play a vital role in equipping students with the life skills necessary for success in both personal and professional spheres. Tackling the challenges they encounter in our nation necessitates a comprehensive strategy, which includes improved compensation for teachers, equitable funding for educational institutions, and a societal transformation in acknowledging the critical importance of education.

As Nelson Mandela wisely remarked,

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." It is crucial that we recognize and support our teachers, who are the builders of this transformative force. Teachers transcend the role of mere educators; they embody visionaries, mentors, and architects of society. The significance of teachers within society is rooted in their capacity to harmonize knowledge with values, discipline with empathy, and ambition with kindness.

A crucial element of a teacher's responsibilities is to impart values of respect and dignity. By exemplifying and instructing respect for elders, peers, and younger individuals, teachers assist students in cultivating interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence. These values are essential for nurturing a compassionate and inclusive society. Furthermore, teachers act as ethical role models, guiding students in comprehending and adhering to moral and legal standards. Teachers are vital in equipping students with the life skills necessary for success in both personal and professional spheres. Addressing the challenges they encounter in our nation necessitates a comprehensive strategy, which includes improved compensation for teachers, equitable funding for educational

institutions, and a societal transformation in acknowledging the critical importance of education.

In contemporary education, teachers have evolved beyond being mere repositories of knowledge; they now function as facilitators of learning. Rather than being the sole source of answers, they inspire students to seek solutions independently. They guide students in utilizing resources, posing critical questions, and uncovering answers through research, dialogue, and exploration.

Teachers serve as catalysts, fostering an environment where students can construct knowledge and learn to apply it in real-world situations. Today, teachers assist students in navigating emotional challenges, whether it involves managing stress, organizing time, or confronting social pressures. They create a nurturing environment where students feel secure in expressing themselves and addressing their personal difficulties.

Nelson Mandela wisely remarked, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." It is our moral duty that we honor and support our teachers, who serve as the architects of this transformative force.

The author can be mailed at sandt178@gmail.com

Teachers' Day

Restoring The Dignity Of A Noble Profession



HAROON RASHID BHAT

There are professions that build roads, bridges, institutions and economies, but there is one profession that quietly builds the human being, the profession of teaching. A teacher does not merely teach a subject, complete a syllabus or prepare a child for an examination; a teacher shapes minds, awakens curiosity, nurtures character and plants the seeds of values that may continue to grow throughout a person's life. This is what makes teaching one of the noblest professions. Teachers' Day, therefore, should not remain confined to flowers, greetings and ceremonial speeches; it should become an occasion for collective introspection about the place we have given to teachers and the direction in which education is moving.

In many societies, teachers continue to enjoy professional trust, dignity and autonomy. Finland, for example, is often cited for treating teaching as a respected profession and trusting teachers with considerable professional responsibility. The message is profound: a society that wishes to build a responsible and enlightened generation must first create an environment in which its teachers can work with dignity and confidence. Sadly, the teacher in our society is increasingly being reduced from a guide and mentor to a mere performer of examination results. The relationship between teacher and student, once rooted in respect and human connection, is gradually being overshadowed

by marks, competition, careers and material expectations. Education itself has become increasingly transactional. We often ask what education can help a child earn, but rarely ask what kind of human being it can help that child become.

Marks, degrees and employment are certainly important, but education loses its deeper meaning when success is measured only through these achievements. A truly educated person must also possess compassion, honesty, patience, discipline, humility and a sense of responsibility towards society. Knowledge may make a person capable, but values make that knowledge meaningful. At the same time, it would be unjust to hold teachers solely responsible for every weakness in our educational system. Education is a shared responsibility involving teachers, parents, students, institutions and society. Teachers must certainly examine themselves and remain committed to professional integrity, competence, punctuality, fairness and continuous learning.

The dignity of teaching cannot be demanded merely as a right; it must also be earned through conduct and commitment. Yet, it is equally wrong to judge an entire teaching community because of the shortcomings of a few. Every profession has individuals who may fall short of their responsibilities, but isolated failures should never become a justification for humiliating an entire fraternity. Constructive criticism is essential for improvement, but criticism born of jealousy, hostility or personal grievances only weakens the social respect upon which education depends.

The recent TET issue has, unfortunately, also become a source of teasing and ridicule for some teachers. Here we must distinguish between



professional assessment and social humiliation. An examination may assess certain areas of knowledge, but it cannot measure the complete personality or professional worth of a teacher. A set of multiple-choice questions cannot measure patience, compassion, classroom experience, dedication, moral influence or the countless lives touched during years of service. Even students, and sometimes members of our own families, may jokingly ask, "Baba, aap ko exam dena hai?" without realising the emotional pressure such remarks may create.

But consider a teacher who, after years of sincere service, is unable to qualify a particular examination for one reason or another. Should one examination become the measure of that teacher's entire professional life? Should years of classroom experience, service and contribution suddenly lose their value? Examinations may be necessary for accountability and professional development, but accountability should never become humiliation. If teachers need improvement, the system should provide training, guidance and support rather than allowing an examination to become a social instrument of ridicule.

Behind the statistics of education are thousands of teachers whose contributions

remain largely invisible. Every morning, teachers leave their homes, often travel considerable distances, enter classrooms, manage diverse learners, perform administrative duties and continue their work despite numerous challenges. Their efforts rarely make headlines, yet their influence can remain in the lives of students for decades. A teacher may spend only an hour teaching a lesson, but a few words of encouragement may restore a child's confidence; a moment of patience may prevent a child from losing hope; and a teacher's recognition of a hidden talent may alter the direction of an entire life. This invisible influence is perhaps the most profound contribution of teaching. Unfortunately, the moral environment surrounding education is also becoming fragile.

Respect, humility, patience and tolerance are increasingly being replaced by suspicion, confrontation and instant judgment. Social media can magnify individual incidents and quickly turn them into sweeping judgments about an entire profession. Teachers must be accountable, but accountability must be accompanied by fairness and dignity. Parents should see teachers as partners rather than adversaries; students should understand that questioning is a vital part of learning, but

disrespect is not; and educational authorities should trust teachers as professionals while ensuring that responsibilities are fulfilled. Ultimately, restoring the dignity of teaching requires more than celebrating Teachers' Day once a year. It requires a change in our collective attitude towards education itself.

Teachers must strive to become worthy of the noble position they occupy, while society must provide them with trust, respect and a healthy professional environment. Parents must rediscover the value of cooperation, students the meaning of respect, and institutions the delicate balance between accountability and dignity. Above all, we must rescue education from the narrow pursuit of marks and material success and restore its moral and human purpose. Education should not merely teach a person how to earn a living; it should teach a person how to live.

Teachers' Day should therefore be a day not merely to praise teachers, but to ask whether we are giving them the respect, trust and dignity necessary for them to perform their sacred responsibility. When we weaken the teacher, we weaken one of the foundations upon which society rests; when we restore dignity to the teacher, we restore faith in education and hope for the future. Teaching remains noble not because every teacher is perfect, but because the mission of shaping human beings is itself noble. The future of a nation is not shaped only in parliament, offices, laboratories or markets; it is quietly shaped every day in classrooms, where teachers and students meet. If we truly wish to build a better society, we must begin by restoring dignity, trust and purpose to that classroom.

Haroon Rashid Bhat is a teacher by profession. He can be mailed at Minamharoon123@gmail.com

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Kashmir

Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher

Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editors

Suhail Mir

Sulaiman Muhammed Shah

Legal Advisor

Bashir Sidiq

Bureau Chief Jammu:

Harbans Nagokay

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Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

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■ Blurred Line

Protecting The Sanctity Of Teacher-Student Bond



WANI ARAFAT

There was a time when seeing an ustad on the road would make a student lower his or her gaze, step aside or even walk away. It was not always fear, but rather adab and respect. A teacher was a guide, a role model, a character that taught himself. But with the passage of time, the bond has changed; some changes are too serious to be blamed on the gap between generations. As we observe Teachers Day, celebrating those who form the minds of the youth, we must also reflect on certain values and boundaries that provide the teacher-student bond with its dignity. We must not put the entire responsibility on the teachers and students, but must not ignore the truth staring in our faces.

The relationship between a student and the teacher is supposed to have a professional boundary, but sometimes that boundary becomes weak. Talk of studies can turn into talks of cigarettes, drugs, intimate meetings and closeness. A teacher can be friends with a student on Instagram, chat on WhatsApp, reply to his or her stories and then start sharing intimate details. A message for homework can become a chat session everyday; late-night messages, deleted chats, photos, emotional intimacy and unnecessary meetings can rob both parties of that boundary that protects one from the other. Social media can aid education, but without having limits can also be a safe space for inappropriate behaviour.

The most heartbreaking issue is the emergence of secret and inappropriate relationships. A teacher holds a position of authority and may influence marks, examinations, recommendations and opportunities. When the teacher abuses that position of trust for money, gifts, intimacy, sexual attention or other personal favours, then trust is abused. In some cases, a student may abuse such trust of the teacher to also seek better marks, examination concessions, popularity, protection or other benefits through such personal



intimacy. But this is not a reason to blame girls. A minor is not equal to an adult who holds the position of authority. When an adult abuses a child's trust or exploits a child, the adult holds more responsibility. Simultaneously, allegations must be investigated fairly and acted upon according to the law.

Islam provides us the boundaries. The Quran says, "Do not go near zina." This is a warning for not only the final forbidden act but the pathways that can lead towards it. The Quran also instructs believing men and women to guard their gaze and chastity. For teachers and students, the boundaries of modesty, dignity and appropriateness are therefore not old-fashioned but rather safeguards. Unnecessary private chats, secret meetings and inappropriate emotional intimacy should not be considered innocent behaviour when crossing professional boundaries.

Islam encourages the concept of adab in seeking knowledge. A student must have adab with the teacher, but a teacher has an amanah or trust with the student. Authority is not a license to humiliate, manipulate, harass or exploit. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) taught with mercy, patience and wisdom, and the teacher must also correct the student without damaging his or her confidence and be a role model. A teacher who teaches moral-

ity but secretly breaks a student's trust not only betrays that student but betrays the dignity of the entire profession. The relationship between the teacher and the student must be one of respect. Students should feel safe in their school or college and be able to ask questions, share their concerns and report wrong behaviour without facing humiliation or punishment.

Smoking and drugs only worsen the situation. When a teacher smokes or takes drugs with students, the act itself can be considered a lesson. A student can think that if a teacher does it, then it cannot be wrong. When the society is already concerned about the addiction of the youth, an educator can be a hurdle in the way rather than a facilitator towards addiction. A teacher can be a friend, but not an accomplice to illegal and harmful actions.

Sometimes there is a disturbing trend of academic favours. A student wants higher marks, examination concession, protection, popularity or an easy path to success. A teacher can mislead to create the illusion that intimacy or inappropriate behaviour can fetch academic favours. Some students also think the same and the education becomes a trade of favours. Marks should reflect knowledge, not relationships. No student should think that personal intimacy is the price for good marks, and no teacher should

mislead to create such an idea.

Parents and institutions also have a responsibility. Parents must teach children to have respect for teachers, but must also tell them that no teacher has the right to threaten, manipulate, abuse or sexually exploit them. Schools and colleges in Jammu and Kashmir must have strict guidelines for teachers and students to interact on social media and have private meetings. Students should not be afraid to report any problems through appropriate and safe channels. Teachers should be guided to have appropriate behaviour on social media with students. Institutions must not cover up serious misconducts to protect their image. Simultaneously, every complaint or allegation must be investigated fairly so that justice is delivered to both students and teachers.

Let us not romanticise the past. Students should not be so scared of teachers that they cannot ask questions or report misconduct. Respect is not fear and asking questions is not disrespect. A healthy teacher-student relationship must be based on mutual respect, boundaries and responsibilities. Our objective is not to make students hide from teachers again, but to encourage a culture where students respect their teachers and teachers earn that respect through their character and behaviour.

On Teachers Day, the best tribute

A teacher can be friends with a student on Instagram, chat on WhatsApp, reply to his or her stories and then start sharing intimate details. A message for homework can become a chat session everyday; late-night messages, deleted chats, photos, emotional intimacy and unnecessary meetings can rob both parties of that boundary that protects one from the

we can give to the teaching profession is not only flowers, messages and ceremonies. It is to preserve the dignity of the relationship between the ustad and the shagird. A true teacher does not only teach from a textbook; the teacher teaches through character and integrity. And a real student knows that knowledge is better when sought with dignity and adab.

Final Verdict: We do not need blind fear, but adab, trust and boundaries. The teacher must be an example, the student must learn with respect and the classroom must remain a safe space of knowledge, safety and dignity, thus preserving this timeless adab of Ustad-Shagird.

Author writes on social issues, culture and public concerns with the aim of raising awareness and inspiring change.

Insolvency And The World Of Crookes

How Insolvency Laws Reward The Rich And Punish The People



BHABANI SHANKAR NAYAK

Capitalism is a barbaric and unforgiving system, especially toward the working people and the planet on whose shoulders it stands, exploiting human beings and nature alike. Yet, with the help of the state and government, it designs policies and processes that help to socialise the crisis, forgiving corporations when they fail to repay their borrowings due to insolvency or bankruptcy. Insolvency is a financial situation which triggers legal process of discharging debts that cannot be repaid by the debtor. From Lehman Brothers in the US during the 2008 crisis, to Mr Subhash Chandra's Rs 22,006-crore debt being written down to just Rs 6.5 crore in the personal insolvency proceedings recently concluded in India in 2026, and countless other such examples across the world, all reveal a deeper economic arrangement. This arrangement takes the form of insolvency laws and policies tailored to the needs of crony capitalists and investors, who socialise their risks while privatising public resources and the personal savings of working people, all with the unwavering support of states and governments across the globe. Capitalism and bedbugs follow the same functional logic of parasites and its ideological values: surviving by sucking others' blood. However, bed bugs are often better than the managerial crooks of crony capitalism, a system where politicians, corporates, bankers, and legal practitioners ensure that the state and government provide security to the private capitalist class without any form of risk.

Global insolvency trends show that more corporations and businesses are following the secure path of insolvency as a method of escaping with public money.

States, governments, and their tribunals tend to approve these insolvencies. It looks as if failed industrialists, business owners, and investors are being rewarded by governments, almost like an insurance policy for business failures. But when common people fail to repay their small loans, they are harassed by financial institutions with legal threats and, often, physical threats. For the rich, however, there is always the path of insolvency to follow, where governments and banks simply write off their loans based on political, professional and personal networks. It is argued that a robust insolvency ecosystem, based on quick insolvency processes such as early settlements and out-of-court settlements, helps build business resilience, market maturity, consumer confidence, and stronger value-preserving recoveries, while also creating conditions for a positive business and investment trajectory. These claims lack any empirical evidence. The so-called case studies lack facts and figures to justify these fraudulent claims.

Historically, various societies dealt with insolvencies in different ways, but most of the time, bankrupts were branded as social and economic evils and as crooks. Bankruptcy laws were historically designed to provide a legal framework for debt recovery. Practices ranged from 'debt slavery' in Greece to humiliation and punishment by imprisonment and death, which were enforced across Europe and other parts of the world. The Romans, English, and French imposed the death sentence on bankrupts. However, the approach to bankruptcy has shifted over time, from punishment and retribution to recovery, allowing the debtor time and space to repay over time. Most religions advocate forgiving the debtor, which contributed to the growth of the Jubilee Debt Relief campaign for indebted countries. Similarly, insolvency laws were designed to offer debt relief to individuals and businesses who failed due to circumstances beyond their abilities and control.

The Statute of Bankrupts, or Bankruptcy Act 1542, in England is the first legislation which deals with insolvency and argues in its preamble that: "where divers and sundry persons craftily obtain-

ing into their hands great substance of other men's goods do suddenly flee to parts unknown or keep their houses, not minding to pay or restore to any their creditors their debts and duties, but at their own will and pleasure consume the substance obtained by credit of other men, for their own pleasure and delicate living, against all reason, equity and good conscience ... the Lord Chancellor ... shall have power and authority by virtue of this Act to take ... imprisonment of their bodies or otherwise, as also with their [real and personal property however held] and to make sale of



said [real and personal property however held] for true satisfaction and payment of the said creditors, that is to say; to every of the said creditors a portion, rate and rate like, according to the quantity of their debt." In this way, the 1542 Act denounced the debtors who fraudulently obtained goods and services on credit, escaped from repayment, and squandered the wealth on personal pleasure, while granting the Lord Chancellor the power to imprison the debtor, seize their property, and distribute the proceeds proportionally among creditors.

However, this very essence of the 1542 Act was diluted over the years, as individual debts and corporate, business, and investment debts were treated differently with the rise, expansion, and consolidation of capitalism. In the name of innovation in the field of law, banking and finance, individual debtors continue to face the wrath

of the law, whereas well-networked corporates and businesses escape their debts in various ways across the world with the help of modern bankruptcy laws and their legal processes. These have created corporate insolvency regimes with the support of the state and government, regimes that are fully concomitant with the interests of crony capitalism. It looks as if governments create policy and legal loopholes for the corporates to escape from their debt. Individual debtors continue to suffer from personal stress, legal threats, and social stigma of bankruptcy, whereas corporates,

are alien to the capitalist system, for as Fourier observed, "bankruptcy is the only social crime that is epidemic, and that necessarily makes the reliable man imitate the rogue". This dynamic is central to contemporary crony capitalism, which uses insolvency as an honourable business strategy to escape from massive debts, while common people continue to suffer under their debt burden.

In Capital, Vol. III, Part V, Chapter 27, Karl Marx argues that the credit system incentivises capitalist production and exploits 'the labour of others, to the purest and most colossal form of gambling and swindling', a process that produces crises within credit circulation. Such a framework of crony capitalism and its criminal system where insolvency laws work as a purification ceremony for failed businesses, bankers, and corporates. Such a system only promotes crime and criminals, both in the financial world and in society at large. Insolvency not only operates as a form of socialist relief for the capitalist classes but also accelerates conditions of exploitation, inequality, and hegemonic hierarchy in society, where radical social, political and economic change is abandoned in favour of business and market stability, all to ensure profit accumulation and the survival of the capitalist system.

Insolvency is itself a systemic loophole designed for the survival of capital at the cost of people. Insolvencies have been transformed into legal regimes of capitalist accumulation. The insolvency laws across the world need radical reforms to protect people and their savings held in banks and insurance companies. The current insolvency laws promote the daytime robbery of people's money, gambling with it in speculative financial markets or siphoning it off to subsidiaries under the guise of internal borrowings and lending, all within the frameworks of crony capitalism supported by states and governments. This is no longer sustainable, as it destroys people's trust upon which economic systems are built.

The author can be mailed at bhabani79@gmail.com

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty storm into China Masters semifinals

SHENZHEN (CHINA): India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty produced a fighting performance to beat Denmark's Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen 21-13, 16-21, 21-18 and enter the semifinals of the China Masters Super 750 badminton tournament on Friday.

The Indian pair made a strong start but were pushed into a decider after the Danes levelled the contest.

Satwik and Chirag held their nerve in the final game to seal a hard-fought victory. The win continued the Indian duo's impressive run at the China Masters, where they have reached the semifinals in every edition since 2019, finishing runners-up in 2023 and 2025.

The victory also marked their second win over Astrup and Rasmussen at the China Masters, after they had beaten the Danish pair in the quarterfinals in 2024.

Earlier, Kidambi Srikanth's campaign at the China Masters ended after losing to Lee Cheuk Yiu in



the quarterfinals.

Srikanth suffered a 16-21, 16-21 loss at the hands of Lee at the Shenzhen Arena. It was Srikanth's first quarterfinal appearance in a BWF World Tour Super 750 event or above in three years.

Lee's lead in their head-to-head record was also increased as a result of the defeat, as Srikanth has now lost their last four matches in a row to him. In the first round of the 2018 India

Open, he was victorious over the Hong Kong player for the only time in his career.

In the pre-quarterfinals, Srikanth pulled off a stunning upset over Canadian World No. 9 and recent World Championship bronze medallist Victor Lai, winning 21-18, 21-19. He had defeated Chinese Taipei's World No. 21 Chi Yu-chen 21-16, 21-15 in just 35 minutes in the opening round.

The Indian women's singles campaign at the BWF Super 750 badminton tournament came to an end on Thursday after Tanvi Sharma lost 21-17, 18-21, 21-16 to Japan's Tomoka Miyazaki.

Meanwhile, India's mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Olympian Tanisha Crasto lost their second-round match 21-18, 21-18 against Liu Kuang-Heng and Hsu Yin-Hui of Chinese Taipei.

RPL final draws thousands to Pulwama as night cricket craze peaks

Pulwama chose hope over headlines: MLA Waheed Para

JAHANGEER GANAIE

PULWAMA: The second edition of the Royal Premier League (RPL) reached its much-awaited finale on Friday evening, drawing thousands of cricket enthusiasts to Pulwama as the day-night final brought the town to life with an extraordinary display of public participation and sporting enthusiasm.

The final between Sultan Warriors Baramulla and Royal Goodwill Cricket Club played out under floodlights at the Sports Stadium Pulwama, with a massive crowd gathering at and around the venue to witness the contest. The two sides had also featured in the tournament's opening match, making their return to the final a notable culmination of the league.

The overwhelming response to the final led to heavy movement of vehicles toward the stadium, causing traffic congestion at several locations in Pulwama town. Long queues of vehicles were witnessed at various points as spectators from Pulwama and other parts of Kashmir made their way to the venue.

The huge turnout once again underlined the growing popularity of local cricket tournaments in Kashmir,



particularly night cricket, which has emerged as a major attraction for young people and sports lovers.

The RPL Season 2, which began in August, featured 10 teams competing in a 20-over leather-ball format at the Sports Stadium Pulwama. The tournament brought together players from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir and provided local cricketers with an opportunity to compete in a professionally organised sporting environment.

The tournament was organised by Irfan Sarkar, who has been associated with the league since its inception. The second edition witnessed strong public interest from its opening game, with thousands of spectators turning up for matches and creating a lively atmosphere around the stadium.

Friday's final, however, took the enthusiasm several notches higher, with the stadium packed with spectators and cricket fans cheering for their respective teams.

The scale of the gathering also presented a challenge for traffic management, as the concentration of spectators and vehicles around the stadium resulted in congestion at several points in the town. The movement of traffic slowed considerably as people continued to arrive for the final.

The RPL has increasingly become more than just a cricket tournament, with its organisers and supporters projecting it as an initiative aimed at providing youth with a constructive platform through sport.

Pulwama MLA Waheed Para, who has been associated with the Royal Premier League, said the overwhelm-

ing response to the event demonstrated the enthusiasm and potential of the youth.

"Tonight, Pulwama chose hope over headlines. Forty thousand-plus hearts beating as one under the lights—not for politics, not for conflict, but for cricket. This is what healing looks like," Para said. He said the league represented a youth-led effort to create opportunities for young people through sports.

"What the government should be doing, our youth are doing themselves. Built by the youth, for the youth and of the youth," Para said.

Para described the event as a reflection of the ability of sport to bring people together, saying every boundary and six during the tournament represented a celebration of hope and youthful energy.

Meanwhile, Irfan Sarkar described the initiative as much more than a cricket match, saying the RPL could prove to be "game-changing for Pulwama."

The league has also provided a platform for established and emerging cricketers to share the same field. Several recognised players from Jammu and Kashmir have participated in the tournament, adding to its appeal among spectators—(KNO)

Sr Men Inter-Department Hockey: PSPB, RSPB, FCI, SAI win one-sided matches

HYDERABAD: Petroleum Sports Promotion Board, Central Secretariat, Sports Authority of India, Food Corporation of India and Railway Sports Promotion Board emerged winners in a mix of one-sided contests and closely fought battles in the 6th Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Department National Championship 2026, which got underway on Friday at Hyderabad, on Friday.

Eight fixtures were

played across Pools A, B, C and D in closely fought battles on the opening day of the competition.

Sports Authority of India (SAI) put up the day's most emphatic performance, thrashing Defence Accounts Sports Control Board 20-1 in a Pool B fixture that saw the floodgates open from the first quarter itself. Nitesh Sharma was the standout performer with a five-goal haul, while Akash Pal struck a hat-trick.

Captain Vikas and Triloki Venvanshi both notched braces,



with Sachin Dungdung, Sunit Lakra, Sunil, Vishal Pandey, Manish Kumar, Deepak Singh Fartyal and Shivam Patel also finding the net as SAI announced their title intentions in style. Rahul replied for Defence Accounts.

In the other Pool B tie, Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) got their campaign off to a winning start, edging past Central Reserve Police Force 4-1. Thrishul Ganapathi H struck twice, with skipper Parmod and Tiras K also among the scorers. Lovejeet Singh was

on target for CRPF.

Pool A saw Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) register a comfortable 7-1 win over Sashastra Seema Bal, with Gurjot Singh and Kumar Varun both scoring braces and Devindar Walmiki (C) also getting among the goals. Om Rajnesh Saini rounded off the scoring for PSPB, while Praveen Chauhan pulled one back for SSB. In the day's other Pool A encounter, Central Secretariat kept a clean sheet in a 3-0 win over I.T.B.P. Central Hockey Team, with Bharath Mahalingappa

Kurtakoti and Paulus Lakra sharing the goals between them.

In Pool C, Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) came out on top in a high-scoring affair, defeating Steel Plant Sports Board 6-3. Kanagaraj Selvaraj was among the goals along with Ritendra Pratap Singh, Yogesh Singh, Atish Dodrai, Akshay Dubey and Amrit Tirkey, as Services held their nerve after Steel Plant, through Lelsan Minz, Amit and Amrit Horo, kept the contest alive till the closing stages.

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