

‘Not Too Late To Preserve Kashmir’s Architectural Soul’

An Architecture Educator reflects on the fading elements of traditional Kashmiri design and stresses the importance of meaningful, not superficial, revival

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: As modernity sweeps through Kashmir’s skylines and homes, Qazi Qamar, Head of the Department of Architecture at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), believes it is still not too late to preserve the region’s architectural soul — but



REVIVAL IS GOOD, BUT IF YOU’RE PASTING PVC panels and calling it Khatamband, that’s not preservation — that’s deception.

the approach must be thoughtful, evolved, and locally rooted.

In a candid conversation with Kashmir Observer, Qamar stressed that while several key elements of traditional Kashmiri architecture have faded from contemporary construction, there remains a chance to protect what’s left — and even

reimagine it for the present.

“It’s never too late. What’s lost can’t be recreated, but what survives must evolve — not just be locked up like a museum piece,” he said.

Qamar underscored the need to reframe the conversation around heritage, saying it should not just be about saving

ornamental facades but rethinking the kind of spaces people inhabit. He warned against the cosmetic revival of elements like Pinjrakari or Khatamband.

“Revival is good, but if you’re pasting PVC panels and calling it Khatamband, that’s not preservation — that’s deception. We must preserve | [More on P10](#)

Terrorist Killed In Udhampur Encounter

Agencies

Jammu: A terrorist of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit was killed in an encounter with security forces on Thursday, while three of his associates remained trapped in a forested area in Jammu and Kashmir’s Udhampur district, officials said.

The group of four terrorists was being tracked for a year. They were confronted by a joint search party of the army and police in the remote Bihali area of Basantgarh in the morning, they said.

According to officials, reinforcements have been rushed in and a massive search operation is going on despite bad weather.

“In the ongoing operation by the Indian Army and the J&K Police, one terrorist has been neutralised till now. Operation continues,” a defence spokesperson said.

Operation Bihali comes a week ahead of the start of the annual Amarnath Yatra in the Kashmir Himalayas.

Inspector General of Police, Jammu range, Bhim Sen Tuti, said contact was established with the terrorists at around 8.30 am.

“They are believed to be four in number | [More on P10](#)

1.3 Million Drug Users In J&K

95,000 Minors Addicted To Opioids

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is facing an unprecedented drug abuse crisis, with more than 13.5 lakh people in the Union Territory currently addicted to various substances, including over 1.68 lakh minors between the ages of 10 and 17. Among these children, nearly 95,000 are opioid users — the most disturbing figure yet in a growing health and social emergency.

The data, revealed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment shows that Kashmir’s children are increasingly falling into the trap of hard drugs. In addition to opioids, 8,000 minors are using cannabis, 19,000 are dependent on sedatives, 46,000 inhale toxic substances, and smaller but significant | [More on P10](#)

Robust Security Arrangements In Place For Yatra: LG Sinha

Pilgrims Urged To Travel In Official Yatra | Helicopter Services Suspended Over Safety, Security Concerns

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In the wake of the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday reassured the public of stringent security arrangements and significant infrastructure upgrades ahead of the 40-day Amarnath Yatra, set to commence on July 3. While registrations initially dipped by over 10 per cent following the April 22 attack, confidence among devotees is returning, with 85,000 pilgrims already reconfirming their participation.

“Before the April 22 incident, registration was progressing well. However, following the attack, we witnessed a 10.19 per cent decline compared to last year,” Sinha told reporters at Raj Bhawan.

The attack at Baisaran in the Pahalgam area had left 26 people — mostly tourists — dead. According to the LG, around 2.36 lakh pilgrims had registered prior to the incident.



“Confidence is gradually returning among devotees due to the efforts of the administration and security forces. Registrations have started picking up again,” Sinha said.

To ensure proper coordination, the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) has initiated a reverification process for pilgrims who had registered before April 22. “So far, 85,000 pilgrims have reconfirmed their registration,” he added.

Asked if the incident had impacted | [More on P10](#)

180 Companies Of CAPF Deployed Across Jammu: IGP

A total of 180 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), which is 30 more than previous years, have been deployed for the security of annual Amarnath Yatra in Jammu division this year, a senior police officer said on Thursday.

Inspector General of Police, Jammu zone, Bhim Sen Tuti assured a safe pilgrimage to every ‘yatri’ but appealed them to undertake the journey in official convoys if they plan to travel from Jammu rather than travelling independently. The 38-day-long yatra to 3,880-meter-high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas is scheduled to start from the twin routes — the traditional 48-km | [More on P10](#)

‘Muharram Processions To Follow Last Year’s Routes’

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that Muharram processions in Srinagar will follow the same routes as they did last year. He made the announcement during a press conference held at the Raj Bhawan, convened to brief the media on preparations for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra.

“The routes followed for Muharram processions last year will remain unchanged this year,” LG Sinha said while responding to a query during a press conference

here on Thursday.

LG administration lifted a 34-year ban dating back to 1989 on the traditional 8th Muharram procession in Srinagar last year. On July 27, 2023 the authorities allowed the 8th Muharram procession along its traditional route in Srinagar—from Guru Bazar, through Lal Chowk, to Dalgate.

Meanwhile, the LG’s remark on Muharram processions is likely to evoke positive responses from various religious bodies, particularly Shia organisations, who have been pushing for revival of all traditional routes.

Muharram Observances Begin In Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As Muharram commenced Thursday evening, Shia-majority areas of Kashmir wore a solemn look with black flags and banners commemorating the anniversary of Karbala tragedy.

From Srinagar to Budgam and Baramulla, preparations are underway for processions and sermons. Youth have set up refreshment stalls and decorated Imam Bargahs, while authorities are coordinating logistics, traffic, and medical aid to ensure peaceful observance.

Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar, is one of the four sacred months in Islam and holds deep religious significance for Muslims across the globe. It also marks the beginning of a period of mourning for Shia Muslims, culminating in Ashura, the 10th day of Muharram, commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS), the beloved grandson of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh), in the plains of Karbala.

Local youth and volunteers have swung into action, setting up Sabeels (refreshment stalls), cleaning and decorating Imam Bargahs, and | [More on P10](#)

Patwari Penalised In Bribery Case Barred From Sensitive Posts For 5 Yrs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Financial Commissioner, Revenue, Jammu and Kashmir, has imposed strict disciplinary penalties on Haroon Rashid Bhat, the then Patwari Halqa Harri Ganiwan, Tehsil Kangan, District Ganderbal, after a departmental enquiry found him guilty in a bribery case.

Bhat was caught red-handed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)’s Anti-Corruption Branch while accepting a bribe of 20,000 in exchange for providing revenue extracts. The incident took place on March 11, 2024, following which Bhat was immediately placed under suspension.

A departmental enquiry was initiated alongside the criminal investigation, and after detailed proceedings | [More on P10](#)



‘Amarnath Yatra: A Shared Responsibility’: LG At All Party Meet

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday held a meeting with political leaders at the Raj Bhawan here to discuss preparations for the annual

Amarnath Yatra, which is scheduled to begin from July 3.

The meeting was attended among others by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Sat Sharma, Nirmal Singh and Kavinder Gupta of the BJP, Tara Chand and Ghulam

Ahmad Mir of the Indian National Congress, Showkat

Ahmad Mir and Jagdish Singh Azad of the National Conference, Mohamad Yousof Tarigami of the CPI(M), Sajad Gani Lone of the Peoples Conference, Altaf

Bukhari of the Apni Party, and Ittija Mufti of the PDP.

The Lieutenant Governor shared the dedicated efforts made by the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, the administration, the Jammu and Kashmir Police, other

security forces and all the stakeholders for the safe and successful conduct of the pilgrimage.

“With the blessings of Baba Amarnath and the significant enhancements to essential | [More on P10](#)

A Year On, Grazing Rights In Budgam Still In Limbo Despite Court Order

Villagers in Branwar say authorities are delaying the gram sabha meant to decide their grazing rights under the Forest Rights Act.

Syed Mohammad Burhan

It has been almost a year since a local court in Chadoora ordered officials to hold a maha gram sabha in Branwar and nearby villages to decide on grazing rights under the Forest Rights Act (FRA). But villagers say the authorities have failed to act.

A group from Branwar in Budgam district told Kashmir Observer that the local Gujjar community and other forest dwellers are still waiting for their legal rights under the FRA, which was extended to Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370.

The group said that despite the Sub Judge Chadoora’s order last July, the Budgam



district administration has not held the gram sabha needed to grant grazing rights in the Chaskaninaad meadows and nearby areas in the Pir Panjal Forest Division.

The meadows, spread over about 1,000 hectares, are used by

many local families, but the annual grazing rights are still pending.

The court had directed the authorities to organize a gram sabha, or village assembly, to decide these claims under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers | [More on P10](#)

Centre Revives Singhpora Vailoo Tunnel Project

Peerzada Mohsin Shafi

Srinagar: The central government is making fresh efforts to move forward with two long-awaited tunnel projects in Jammu and Kashmir: the Singhpora Vailoo Tunnel and the Sudhmahadev-Dranga Tunnel.

The renewed push comes as part of a recent ₹10,000 crore package for infrastructure in the region, which also includes key projects like the Sadhna Tunnel and the Mughal Road Tunnel.

In the past, there were rumours that the Singhpora Vailoo and Sudhmahadev tunnel projects had been scrapped. At the time, Kashmir Observer reported that the claims were false.

Official replies to Right to Information (RTI) requests and a written assurance from the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways to the



LONG-DELAYED TUNNELS MAY SOON get financial clearance, boosting connectivity in J&K.

Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir confirmed that the projects were still being actively considered.

Now, new reports from Infra Today say the two tunnel proposals are expected to come up in the next Public Investment Board (PIB) meeting, where they may finally get financial approval.

The Singhpora Vailoo Tunnel is planned to connect Kishtwar and Anantnag. Once built, it would offer an all-weather route and reduce travel time, a major relief | [More on P10](#)

Let Talks Conclude Soon: CM On Statehood Demand Says Rs 10,600 Cr Projects A Boost For J&K



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday urged for an early conclusion to discussions on restoring statehood to the Union Territory, saying people deserve what they have long been demanding.

“Let there be discussions, that’s a good thing. But we want them to conclude soon so that the people of Jammu and Kashmir get what they’ve been

asking for,” Omar told reporters on the sidelines of a national integration camp organised by the NCC Directorate of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

Welcoming the recent sanctioning of infrastructure projects worth ₹10,600 crore for the region, Omar said the approved tunnels and roadworks will provide a major boost to connectivity and development.

“There has been a long-standing | [More on P10](#)



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Friday | 27-06-2025

2

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAGOORA)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of SOLIYA IRSHAD D/O IRSHAD AHMAD MALIK R/O TILAGAM Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 25/03/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
KREERI

fko

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAGOORA)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of SOLIYA IRSHAD D/O IRSHAD AHMAD MALIK R/O TILAGAM Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 25/03/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
KREERI

fko

From Office of the Advocate
Muneer Ahmad Dar And Associates

In the case of

1. Nazima Nazir D/O, Nazir Ahmad Bhat R/O, Matipora Pati Kripalpura Tehsil Singhpora
2. Rafiq Akhter W/O, Fiza Ahmad Misgar R/O, Gunbagh Lalbazar Srinagar
3. Safiya Qayoom W/O, Mohammad Qayoom Lone R/O, Matipora Kripalpura Sari Singhpora
4. Mudasiir W/O, Zahoor Ahmad Hakak R/O, Pir Haji Mohammad Sahib Tehsil and district Srinagar A/P, Sheikh Hamza colony Safiya Masjid Lalbazar Srinagar
5. Zahoor Ahmad Hakak S/ Ghulam Ahmad Hakak R/o Lalbazar Srinagar.
6. Fiza Ahmad Misgar S/o Ghulam Mohammad Misgar R/o Umer Hall Srinagar.
7. Nazir Ahmad Lone S/o Ali Mohammad Lone.
8. Nazir Ahmad Bhat S/o Ghulam Ahmad Bhat Both residents of Singhpora
9. Mussadiq Yousuf Lone S/o Mohammad Yousuf Lone R/o Ussan Khole Tehsil Pattan Caveators

(Caveator)

V/s

Public at large
In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

fko

Sd/advocate

از نیابت یومی

عنوان:- درخواست خنایب صنوبر جان دختر محمد متجول کمار سائنہ سنگی پورہ برادر

عطاگی OBC تحت 176 SRO بحق خود بزم رومکار

اشتیہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائنہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بزمہ کمار پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بار سے پیش پناوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائنہ واقعی سمارڈ ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سائنہ سنگی پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائنہ کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

محمد متجول کمار ولد راحد سکار تجارت 58 سال

عائشہ بیگم زوجہ گھر یلکام 55 سال

محمد متجول پسر تجارت 32 سال

زہیر متجول پسر مزدوری 29 سال

صنوبر جان دختر زیر تعلیم 26 سال

سیرت جان دختر گھر یلکام 23 سال

سائنہ مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنیکٹیو میواری مدنی

9,000 روپے تک ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عوز یا

عروض ہتو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار سار ذات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے حذر یا عترض عدالت حذرا کو دفتر ی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد از ر سے میعا کوئی حذر یا عترض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائبہ قصبہ لدار

FKO



UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage (%) Basis from approved and eligible Electric Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/U.T/ Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E- Challan (in Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of Residential Block for Teaching Staff at South Campus, University of Kashmir (Electric works and Fire fighting)	31.93Lacs	Rs.1100/-	63,860/-	28-06-2025 to 21-07-2025 (6.00 PM)	22-07-2025 (12:00 Noon)	"AAY"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net / www.jktenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer

NIT No: F(E.Tend) (UCD)/KU/22/25
DIPK-NB-915/25
DATED: 26-06-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Erstwhile Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division Srinagar)

Contact No: 0194-2496089, Email Id: xennhchdk@yahoo.in

GIST of e-tender
e-NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2025-26/30/ e-tendering,
Dated: 25-06-2025
(Short Term)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited In two cover system on percentage basis from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work: --

Name of Work	Est. Cost	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No	Earnest Money	Position of Funds
1. Rewinding of 3 phase, 60 HP capacity, 440V, 50HZ, 2900 rpm electric motor connected with Fire fighting pump installed in the pump house of Govt. Dental College/ Hospital, Srinagar	57,000/-	200	10	210 GDC of 2025 Dt:24.06.2025	M&HDS/TS/ 18 of 06/2025	2% of the estimated cost	Available with intending Department

1. Downloading of Bids:- The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 25.06.2025 (16.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 25.06.2025 (16.00 hrs)
2. Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 25.06.2025 (18.00 hrs) to 02.07.2025 (13:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
3. Opening of Bids :- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 02.07.2025 at 15.00(hrs)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
M&HD, Srinagar

No: M&HDS/TS/1910-14,
DIPK-3002/25
DATED: 26-06-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JSD (PHE)
RURAL WATER SUPPLY DIVISION, GANDERBAL/SGR.

H.Q: Cheki-Duderhama Ganderbal.

e – mail: pherwsd@gmail.com, Phone/Fax: 0194 – 2416292,

NOTICE INVITING e – TENDERS:

GIST OF e – NIT No: - 14/ JS-PHE/RWSD/Civil of 2025-26

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir U.T, e – tenders are invited (in TWO - Cover System) on "Percentage and Unit Item Rate Basis" for Registered / Approved / Valid Civil Contractors/Agencies for the following work(s):

S. No	Name of work	Tentative Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of tender doc. (In Rs.)	Amount of earnest money (In Rs.)	Time for completion	Class of contractor	Major Head of account	Tender Call
1.	Annual Stage Contract for repairing work/ Periodical Maintenance/ Documents, of the Departmental Water Tankers and DG Set Divisional Office (25KV, 03 Phase) of Jal Shakti Rural Water Supply Division Ganderbal for the Financial year 2024-25	4.50	500.00	13500.00	Upto ending March 2026	Registered / Approved / Valid Agencies/Automobile Dealers/ Workshop holders	MH:2215/ Tanker Service).	1st

Position of Funds: - Available. Funds:- Available.

The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>
From 23.06.2025(04:00 PM) UPTO 30.06.2025 (upto 12:00P.M)

= I) GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: www.jktenders.gov.in

As per schedule of dates given below TABLE (II)

01	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	23.06.2025
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 23.06.2025 (04:00 P.M) to 30.06.2025 (up to 12:00 P.M.)
03	Bid Submission Start Date	From 23.06.2025 (04:00 P.M) to 30.06.2025 (up to 01:00 P.M)
04	Bid submission End Date	30.06.2025 (up to 01:00 P.M)
05	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)	30.06.2025 at 02:00 pm in the Office of the Executive Engineer JS-PHE RWS Division Ganderbal / Sgr (H.Q. Cheki Duderhama Ganderbal)

Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money in shape of CDR/ FDR and Treasury Receipt (mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the NIT) as cost of Tender Document under M.H 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer JS-PHE RWS Division Ganderbal/ Sgr (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified and shall be valid for 45 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer JS- PHE RWS Division Ganderbal / Sgr (H.Q. Cheki Duderhama Ganderbal) on 30.06.2025at 02:00PM.If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue

No: JS-PHE/ RWSD/ Corrs. /2708 – 32
DIPK-2997/25
DATED:- 26.06.2025.

Sd/-
(Er. Fayaz Ahmad Bhat)
Executive Engineer JS-PHE
RWS Division Ganderbal/ Sgr.

PM. SHRI SCHOOL JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA AISHMUQAM
DISTT. ANANTNAG

CBSE AFFILIATED SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR CLASS VI AT JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA
AISHMUQAM DISTT. ANANTNAG

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Aishmuqam, a CBSE-affiliated co-educational residential school, is now accepting online applications for admission to Class VI for the academic session 2026–27. The last date for submission of application is 29 July, 2025 and the selection test will be conducted on 11.04.2026.

Eligibility: Candidates should be bonafide resident of the district, currently studying in Class V in a government or government-recognized school within the same district and born between (01.05.2014 to 31.07.2016).

For more details and to apply, visit www.navodaya.gov.in or <https://cbseitms.rcil.gov.in/nvs>

DIPK-3017/25
dated: 26-06-2025

Principal
JNV Aishmuqam

Srinagar MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

Ph. No. 0194-2458118 Email: lrwdsmc@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE INVITING E- TENDERS

NIET NO:14 e-Tendering/2025-26

Dated: 24-June-2025

For and on behalf of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors for the following work:-

SL No.	Ap- proval SL No.	Name of work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (Non-refund-able)	Earnest Money (CDR)	Time of Comple- tion in days/ Weeks	Class of Contractor (Civil)	Technical Sanction/ Dated	Head of Account
1.	263	Laying of tiles from the H/o Abdul Ahad Khan upto the H/o Abdul Majeed Khan at Old Tempora near Masjid Sharif Ahli Hadees	Rs. 3.12/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 6240/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	50 Dated: 25/06/2025	City Grant
2.	266	Laying of tiles from the H/o Showkat Ahmad Wani upto the H/o Manzoor Ahmad Hajam at Old Tempora near Bund	Rs. 1.88/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 3760/-	10 Days Strictly	DEE	51 Dated: 25/06/2025	
3.	189	Upgradation of lane & surface drain & tile path at Magar- mal Bagh near Gurduwara Lane	Rs. 6.42/-	Rs. 300/-	Rs. 12840/-	15 Days Strictly	CEE/ DEE	54 Dated: 25/06/2025	
4.	204	Upgradation of lane from H/o Ab. Raheem Bhat to Ab. Salam Bhat & others at Lachmanpora, Batamalo	Rs. 3.25/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 6500/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	56 Dated: 25/06/2025	
5.	183	Development of link road from main road to H/o Fayaz Ahmad Mir via Shabir Ahmad at Sector 12 Lane 7 Ham- daniya Colony	Rs. 1.06/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 2120/-	10 Days Strictly	DEE	57 Dated: 25/06/2025	
6.	186	Installation of tiles near Astaan Sharief Lane Shallapora Allochibagh.	Rs. 3.47/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 6940/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	58 Dated: 25/06/2025	
7.	206	Construction of lane from H/o Tanveer Ahmad to H/o Mohd Bhat at Firdous Abad lane no. 06 Batamalo Sgr	Rs. 2.24/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 4480/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	59 Dated: 25/06/2025	
8.	87	Construction of cement concrete surface drain from H.No. 01 Mohammad Ishaq Khanday to H.No. 05 Dr. Muzaffar Kachoo at Hamza Colony Bemina	Rs. 4.42/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 8840/-	15 Days Strictly	DEE	60 Dated: 25/06/2025	
9.	205	Repairing of lane no. 08 at Firdous Abad Batamalo	Rs. 2.98/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 5960/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	61 Dated: 25/06/2025	
10.	165	Development of lane near H/o Aijaz Ahmad, Mohammad Ishaq Bhat & others at Chana Mohalla Hyderabad	Rs. 1.87/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 3740/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	62 Dated: 25/06/2025	
11.	257	Installation of steel iron gate at Qamarwari opposite Dr. Agarwal Eye Hospital Khan Mohalla	Rs. 0.27/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 540/-	5 Days Strictly	DEE	63 Dated: 25/06/2025	City Grant
12.	128	Upgradation of lane from link road to the H/o Abdul Gaffar Sheikh near Masjid Huda Rose Lane Mehjoor Nagar.	Rs. 0.75/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 1500/-	10 Days Strictly	DEE	64 Dated: 25/06/2025	
13.	211	Upgradation of cement concrete drain in front of Dispensary/Badi park New Colony, Batamalo	Rs. 1.50/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 3000/-	10 Days Strictly	DEE	65 Dated: 25/06/2025	
14.	187	Renovation of lane & drain near H/o Suraj Singh to Tirath Singh & others at Kousar Masjid Allochibagh. Sgr	Rs. 3.41/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 6820/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	66 Dated: 25/06/2025	
15.	164	Solling/metalling from Masjid Yousuf to H/o Mehraj Ahmad Ganai, Manzoor Ahmad Ganai, Bashir Ahmad Ganai Gogo Humhama	Rs. 2.16/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 4320/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	67 Dated: 25/06/2025	
16.	139	Upgradation of Sector L main lane Iram Lane, Budshah Nagar Sgr.	Rs. 3.16/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 6320/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	68 Dated: 25/06/2025	
17.	132	Fixing of manholes from H/o Nisar Ahmad Ahanger upto H/o Irshad Ahmad Dar at Astan Mohalla Natipora.	Rs. 0.19/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 380/-	5 Days Strictly	DEE	69 Dated: 25/06/2025	
18.	43	Construction of RCC pipe drain & lane from H/o Mohammad Ibrahim Bhat to H/o Gh. Qadir Bhat at Chinar Mohalla Durbal & from H/o Syed Shabir Rizvi H/o Dr Jehangir, Syed Yousuf & others at Sharifaabad Hamdaniya Colony	Rs. 14.05/-	Rs. 600/-	Rs. 28100/-	15 Days Strictly	BEE/ CEE/ DEE	52 Dated: 25/06/2025	AFa
19.	59	Upgradation of lane by way of tiling & raising of manholes from H/o Paramjeet Singh upto Bilal Ah Bhat Preetam Singh & others at Gulshan Colony Sector E Allochibagh Sgr	Rs. 10.88/-	Rs. 600/-	Rs. 21760/-	15 Days Strictly	BEE/ CEE/ DEE	53 Dated: 25/06/2025	
20.	63	Construction of lane/ drain from H/o Ashraf Wani via Jan Mohd Sofi to H/o Qadir Guru at SD Colony Batamalo	Rs. 4.34/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 8680/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	55 Dated: 25/06/2025	

Accord of Administrative Approval:

Available

Other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

CRITICAL DATE SHEET

1.	Publish date	25-06-2025
2.	Document download date	25-06-2025 06:00 PM To 09-07-2025 06:00 PM
3.	Bid submission/uploading date	25-06-2025 06:00 PM To 09-07-2025 06:00 PM
4.	Bid Opening date	10-07-2025 11:00 AM
5.	Submission of hard copy for successful bidder	11-07-2025 10:00 AM To 04:00 PM

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

1. The Earnest Money (EMD) in respect of the advertised Cost of the work should be 2% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC.EMD2% of the successful bidder will be discharged when the bidder has signed the Agreement & furnished the required Performance Security
2. The contractor shall have to furnish the performance security @5% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC of the value of contract valid till DLP before issuance of LOA / LOI. In case of L-I failing to provide performance security @5% for the works within 7 days after being notified, his bid shall be cancelled and work shall be executed through other sources U/R at the risk, cost and responsibility of L.I.
3. In case of Holidays/office happens to be closed on the date of opening of bids. Bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
4. The intending tenderer /bidder should attach sales tax clearance certificate with upto date Validation without which no tenders/bids will be entertained.
5. The bid shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer LRWD, SMC at Old Funds office Building Karan Nagar near National School Municipal Park on 10-07-2025 at 11:00 AM.
6. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Bank Receipt/ e- Challan pledged in favour of Chief Accounts Officer SMC in the Municipal Account No: 021601020000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch. Scanned copy of the same with mention of NIET No. & Serial no. to be uploaded along with all other documents. The bidder shall be barred / black list as per law for tender fee in form of Bank Receipt, tender fee receipt and other relevant documents including Bid Security (CDR/FDR/BC) duly filled up, if found with any ambiguity or unattended, correction / overwriting for any work, such tender / bid shall be considered as invalid bid and shall be out rightly rejected and action U/R shall be initiated. The Bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the Bid due date.
- Name of the Bank:- Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
- Branch:- Balgarden, Srinagar
- Bank Account No:- 02160102000000007
- IFSC Code:- JAKA0GARDEN
- MICR Code: 190051008

6(a). Any payment for Tenders fees through online mode shall necessarily mention the following information. (Sender Name, Account No of Sender/Beneficiary, Transaction ID, Reference ID, Transaction date and time, The Remarks should necessarily mention NIT NO, SNO and LRWD). Further use of pencil in writing (NIT No and S.No) on tender fees and EMD must be avoided.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Left River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

No.SMC/EELRWD/653-662
DIPK-NB-906/25
DATED: 26-June-2025.

DISCLAIMER: KASHMIR OBSERVER MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE INFORMATION CARRIED IN DISPLAY/CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS, APPEARING IN THE NEWSPAPER IS CORRECT. HOWEVER THE NEWSPAPER TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY NOR DOES IT NECESSARILY ENDORSE THE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT



Conference On Innovations In Chemical, Material Sciences Concludes

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The two day national conference on “In-novations in Chemical and Material Sciences for Sustainable Development”, organized by the Chemistry Department, Islamia College of Science and Commerce”, concluded here.

During the conference, young minds and emerging researchers from various academic and research institutions from across the country presented their findings and viewpoints. It served as a vibrant forum for knowledge exchange and intellectual deliberations, with the participation of eminent scientists, researchers, academicians and young scholars from across the country.

The sessions served as a vibrant platform for these budding scholars to present their innovative works across a diverse range of topics-spanning environmental remediation, green chemistry and sustainable technological interventions.

The validation ceremony was presided over by Professor Sharifudin Peerzada, Dean Academic Affairs, University of Kashmir while Dr. Majid Zaman Baba was the guest of honour. T

The dignitaries highlighted the importance of research for material innovations, green technologies and interdisciplinary studies for sustainable development and a safe future.

The keynote address was

delivered by Professor Javed N Agrewala from IIT Ropar, who presented a compelling and thought-provoking overview of scientific innovations aimed at achieving a sustainable future. He highlighted the urgent need for interdisciplinary research and technological solutions that align with the principles of sustainability.

Earlier, the conference was inaugurated by Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education.

Shantmanu highlighted the need to include sustainability in all areas of higher education. He stressed that students must be prepared to face global challenges and called for education that encourages real-world solutions.

The inaugural session concluded with the release of Conference Souvenir and College Newsletter followed by vote of thanks presented by Dr.Taulat Qayoom, Secretary, Staff Council, Islamia College.

The conference was spread over four technical sessions involving various themes on sustainability and innovations.

The plenary lecture by Professor Javed N Agrewala from IIT Ropar presented a promising new nano-vaccine approach to address the morphine addiction, a major global challenge. He highlighted the vaccine's potential as a long-term solution to prevent and manage opioid abuse.

SKIMS MCH Observes Intl Day Against Drug Abuse

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, a significant awareness and interactive event was held at SKIMS MCH Bemina, Srinagar.

The mega event was held under the aegis of the newly established Advanced Centre for Mental Health and Addiction Medicine with support from Addiction Treatment Facility, under the Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, in collaboration with Narcotics Control Bureau and Group on Concerned Citizens (GCC).

The programme was organised in collaboration with key stakeholders, including experts from the Department of psychiatry, JK Police, Narcotics Control Bureau, Education Department, Drug Control Department and other departments.

The event started with deliberation on the theme of today's program “Breaking the Chains: Prevention, Treatment and Recovery for All” which was graced by eminent speakers and delegates from all walks of life.

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javed Ahmad Dar, was the chief guest on the occasion. He addressed the persistent stigma surrounding substance use. He strongly advocated for recognizing addiction as a medical disorder and urged society to offer compassionate care, dignity and reintegration to the affected individuals instead of discrimination.

Javid Dar emphasized the importance of maintaining mental health and building willpower to strengthen individuals against the challenges of drug abuse. This focus can help the individuals develop resilience and overcome adversity.

Khursheed Ahmad Ganai, guest of honour, shed light on the alarming rise in substance use in the region. Keeping in view the current data and trends, he emphasized the need for multi-sectoral collaboration and urgent policy-level interventions to combat the issue.

Dr. Mohd Ashraf Ganaie, Director SKIMS, called attention to the genetic and biological underpinnings of substance use disorders. He emphasized the need for a deeper scientific understanding of addiction and supported a shift in perception from behavioral blame to neurobiological insight.

IMHANS-K Observes International Day Against Drug Abuse



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences Kashmir (IMHANS-K), Department of Psychiatry, Government Medical College Srinagar, held a series of awareness programs and educational events across Kashmir on Wednesday to raise awareness about drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The initiatives were part of the global campaign tied to this year's theme: “Break the Cycle, StopOrganizedCrime.”

The main event was held at IMHANS-K in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Wakf Board. It included a workshop for Imaams and Khateebbs, with around 30 participants, focusing on the role of religious leaders in preventing drug abuse.

Delivering the welcome address, Dr. Yasir Hassan Rather, Professor and In-charge Head of De-addiction Services at IMHANS-K, expressed concern over the alarming rise in substance use in the region. “There is an urgent need for collective and community-based interventions. Religious leaders can be proactive agents of change in curbing this crisis,” he said.

Dr. Arshad Hussain, Professor and Head of Unit at IMHANS-K, talked about the preventive strength of faith in his keynote address.

Dr. Arshad Hussain, Professor and Head of Unit at IMHANS-K, said faith can play a strong role in preventing

drug use. In his key note address, he said faith-based interventions can keep our children away from substances and serve as a formidable preventive strategy. He urged Imaams and Khateebbs to utilize their pulpits, particularly Friday sermons, to disseminate messages of a drug-free lifestyle.

Dr. Fazle Roub, Assistant Professor and DM in Addiction Medicine at IMHANS-K, delivered an expert talk on the pivotal role faith leaders can play in prevention, early interven-

on early awareness and the importance of prevention.

In another such session, Dr. Sajid Mohammad, Assistant Professor, represented the institute at a program organized by the AMT School at Government Medical College Srinagar, where he discussed the current drug addiction landscape in Kashmir.

Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Suhaff and Dr. Ubaidullah, both Assistant Professors, participated in awareness programs at B.Ed College, Srinagar and the Central University of Kashmir,

THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR COLLECTIVE AND COMMUNITY-based interventions. Religious leaders can be proactive agents of change in curbing this crisis,”

tion, and reducing stigma around addiction. Mr. Saleem, a trained counselor, also presented a session on current trends in substance use and community-based strategies for intervention. IMHANS-K also extended its outreach through multiple parallel events across the valley.

In another major outreach initiative, Dr. Heena Afzal and Dr. Syed Mehvish Yaver from IMHANS-K collaborated with Srinagar Police to conduct an interactive workshop at Broadway Education Hub. The session targeted students from 9th to 12th grades, as well as UPSC aspirants, and focused

respectively, delivering joint lectures on youth engagement and prevention strategies.

At Islamia College, Srinagar, Dr. Marya Zahoor, Senior Resident at IMHANS-K, addressed students under the college's NSS Wing. She spoke about the psychological and societal toll of substance abuse.

Organisers said that the day-long events aimed not just at awareness but also at catalyzing a coordinated response involving faith-based institutions, academic bodies, and the public to collectively tackle the region's growing drug problem.

Satish Sharma Tours Lal Chowk Constituency

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant public outreach initiative, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Youth Services & Sports, Information Technology and Transport, Satish Sharma undertook an extensive tour of Lal Chowk constituency, aimed at reviewing the ongoing development works, inspecting public infrastructure and directly engaging with the local populace.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Lal Chowk, Ehsan Pardesi, along with senior officers from the FCS&CA, Youth Services & Sports and Transport Departments.

During his visit, the Minister extensively inspected several sports fields across the constituency. Taking firsthand stock of their condition, he issued immediate directions for face-lifting and upgradation of the facilities to better serve the youth of the region.

At Lasjan, the Minister reviewed the local sports ground and directed for its immediate beautification and enhancement. He also called for preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for transforming the site into a multi-facility Indoor Sports Stadium, aimed at providing the



youth with state-of-the-art training and recreational infrastructure.

The Minister further visited the sports fields at Panthachowk and Soiteng, where he emphasized the need for urgent infrastructural improvements. He directed the concerned officers to initiate necessary interventions to convert these fields into modern, well-equipped play areas capable of hosting a variety of sporting activities.

While interacting with numerous local deputations, the Minister reassured the public that the government remains committed to welfare of the people and is actively pursuing development projects at

an accelerated pace. He reiterated the administration's focus on grassroots-level engagement and responsive governance.

Taking a comprehensive review of FCS&CA operations, the Minister directed the departmental officers to ensure uninterrupted and timely delivery of essential food supplies and grains. He stressed on addressing the public grievances with utmost urgency and accountability.

Additionally, the Minister assessed the transport facilities within the constituency. He instructed the concerned department to ensure adequate and reliable public transport connectivity for all areas under Lal Chowk.

DC Reviews Progress In Implementation Of HADP

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to review the progress of various sectors under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme(HADP) in the District, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex here today.

Besides, Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab and Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, the meeting was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, District Sericul-

ture Officer, AD Director Fisheries, Srinagar and other concerned


At the outset, Deputy Commissioner was given a brief appraisal on the progress under HADP by the respective Departments in the District, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex here today.

On the occasion, the DC instructed all the stakeholder Departments to compile a comprehensive data of all registered farm operating families in the district as per the laid down guidelines under the scheme. He stressed on adapting a structured framework for tracking and

managing the progress of various projects within the HADP.

The DC asked Officers to implement the scheme with focus on HADP performance metrics to track and evaluate the progress and effectiveness of the programme to achieve saturation under HADP to achieve holistic & sustainable agricultural development.

The DC directed the concerned Officers to intensify efforts to bridge the existing gaps and ensure maximum coverage of eligible farmers under the HADP in Srinagar District. He asked the Departments to lay emphasis on streamlining the application and verification processes to avoid delays in benefit disbursement.



• TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686

• PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883

• PDD: 0194-2450213

• FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155


• CAPD: 18001807011

• SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081


• Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS



• SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259

• ANANTNAG: 01932-228243

• BARAMULLA: 0194-102029


• BAJBHERA: 01932-228243

• PAMPORE: 01933-294132

• PATTAN: 01954-293507

• QAZIGUND: 01951-296153


HIGHWAY STATUS



• Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)

• Mughal Road - (Open)

• Srinagar- Leh- (Open)



HIJRI
CALENDAR

PRAYERS

FAJR

3:36

ZUHR

12: 33

ASR

5:33

Magrib

7:50

ISHA

9:31

This Day In History

- 1709 - Peter the Great of Russia defeats Charles XII of Sweden at the Battle of Poltava.
- 1862 -Battle at Garnett's/Golding's Farms, Virginia
- 1864 - Atlanta Campaign: Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia
- 1940 - Soviet Army attacks Romania
- 1940 - USSR returns to Gregorian calendar
- 1950 - North Korean troops reach Seoul, UN asks members to aid South Korea, Harry Truman orders US Air Force & Navy into Korean conflict
- 1957 - The British Medical Research Council publishes a report suggesting a direct link between smoking and lung cancer.
- 1960 - British Somaliland becomes part of Somalia
- 1961 - Ghana imposes a total ban on exports to South Africa and South West Africa
- 1962 - NASA civilian pilot Joseph A. Walker takes X-15 to 6,606 kph, 37,700 m
- 1962 - Ross Perot begins Electronic Data Systems
- 1962 - In South Africa, the General Law Amendment Act (Sabotage Act) No 76 commences, increasing the state president's power to declare organisations unlawful and to add further restrictions to banning orders
- 1973 - Uruguayan president dissolves parliament and heads a coup d'état
- 1976 - Air France Airbus hijacked in Germany to Uganda
- 1978 - Soyuz 30 carries 2 cosmonauts (1 Polish) to Salyut 6 space station
- 1978 - US Seasat 1, 1st oceanographic satellite, launched into polar orbit
- 1979 - Heavyweight Muhammad Ali confirms that his 3rd retirement is final (it isn't)
- 1980 - Italian plane crashes into Tyrrheense Sea, kills 81
- 1982 - STS-4, 4th NASA Space Shuttle mission, launches
- 1983 - NASA launches space vehicle S-205
- 1983 - Soyuz T-9 carries 2 cosmonauts to Salyut 7 space station
- 1994 - Aerosmith become first major band to let fans download a full new track free from the internet
- 1995 - Space shuttle STS-71 (Atlantis 14), launches
- 2001 - The International Court of Justice finds against the United States in its judgement in the LaGrand Case.
- 2007 - The Brazilian Military Police invades the favelas of Complexo do Alemão in an episode which is remembered as the Complexo do Alemão massacre.
- 2007 - Gordon Brown becomes Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

From KO Archives

J&K To Stop Shahtoosh Trade

Observer News service

SRINAGAR: The government will stop Shahtoosh trade owing to world-wide criticism and problem being face by traders dealing in it outside, the chief minister of the State Dr Farooq Abdullah told mediapersons here today.

Dr Abdullah said that though the state has its own act regulating the Shahtoosh trade, yet it has become problematic to sell it beyond the state in view of ban in the rest of the country. Even weaving of Shahtoosh invites action.

The chief minister also referred to the recent judgement of the High court on this issue.

To a question Dr. Abdullah said the government is contemplating to amend the state law in this regard. He said the government is considering several proposals to rehabilitate the Shahtoosh traders of the State.

"Instead of Shahtoosh we will promote Pashmina in a big way which is State's one of the monopolized items having tremendous potential," the chief minister said, adding that exhibitions would be held at important centres to popularize Kashmiri shawls world-over.

(Kashmir Observer, June 27, 2000)

NORTHERN RAILWAY					
E-TENDER NOTICE					
Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer/J&K acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the works/services listed below. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make online payments against these tenders. Document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.iimps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.					
Tender Type	Bidding System	Date of Uploading tenders	Bid Closing Date/Time	Date and Time of Opening E-Tender	
Open	Single packet System	25.06.2025	16.07.2025 at 15:00 Hrs.	16.07.2025 at 15:30 Hrs.	
SN	Tender Number	Details of Tender			
1	02-2025-Laundry-JAT	Setting up of infrastructure for linen management facilities at JAT Coaching Depot.			
		Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of completion
		Rs 2,46,43,018.54/-	Rs 2,73,200/-	45 Days	180 days
For more details, please log on to www.iimps.gov.in					
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE					
1920/25					

India Snubs SCO Draft for Ignoring Pahalgam Attack

Press Trust Of India

Qingdao- The perpetrators and sponsors of terrorism must be held accountable, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on Thursday, even as he chose not to sign a communique by the bloc for not explicitly addressing India's concerns over Pakistan-backed cross-border terrorism.

The SCO operates under the framework of consensus, and Singh's refusal to endorse the document resulted in the SCO defence ministers' conclave ending without a joint communique, people familiar with the matter said.

There was no clear-cut approach to combating terrorism, including cross-border terrorist activities, they said.

In his address, Singh said there should be "no double standards" in combating terrorism and urged the SCO member nations to condemn the menace with unity.

Besides India and China, the SCO comprises Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

In an oblique reference to Pakistan, Singh said some countries are using cross-border terrorism as an "instrument of policy" to provide shelter to terrorists.

"The biggest challenges that we are facing in our region are related to peace, security and trust-deficit," he said.

"And the root cause of these problems is increasing radicalisation, extremism and terrorism."

Singh said peace and prosperity cannot co-exist with terrorism and proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) in the hands of non-state actors and terror groups.

"Dealing with these challenges requires decisive action, and we must unite in our fight against these evils for our collective safety and security," he said.

The defence minister said those who sponsor, nurture and utilise terrorism for their narrow and selfish ends must bear the consequences.

There should be no place for double standards in combating terrorism, he said, adding the SCO should not hesitate to criticise nations indulging in double standards in combating the menace.



Khamenei: Iran Won't Kneel, U.S. Demands Met With Steel

Trans Asia News

Tehran: In his first televised address following the ceasefire that ended the deadliest Iran-Israel confrontation to date, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei vowed that Iran "will never surrender" to the United States, denouncing recent American rhetoric as insulting and delusional.

Responding to U.S. President Donald Trump's assertion that Iran must "surrender," Ayatollah Khamenei dismissed the idea as laughable, invoking Iran's ancient civilisation and national pride.

"The American president indicated in one of his statements that Iran must surrender. Surrender! It is no longer a question of enrichment, nor of the nuclear industry, but of the surrender of Iran," said Sayyed Khamenei in a televised speech carried by state media on Thursday.

Reminding the American president of Iran's great history and civilisation Ayatollah Khamenei said calls for Iran's surrender were too big for the mouth of a US President.

"Of course, such a statement is far too grand for the mouth of the US president," the leader remarked. A nation like Iran—with its greatness, its history, its culture, and its national will forged in steel—to speak of surrender in reference to such a country is a joke to anyone who knows the Iranian people."

He hastened to add that the American governments have,

since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, been at odds with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"They've clashed with us time and again, each time with a different excuse—human rights, democracy, women's rights, uranium enrichment, missile development," Iran leader said.

"But at the core, it has always been one thing: they want Iran to surrender."

Ayatollah Khamenei said previous US presidents didn't make such assertions outright because no rational human being accepts telling a nation to surrender, so they disguised it under slogans.

"This president exposed that truth—he made clear that the Americans will only be satisfied with the total surrender of Iran, and nothing less," Khamenei said.

"The Iranian people must know: this is why we oppose America. This is the root of the hostility, and this is the great insult the Americans direct at our nation."

He reminded the Americans that the Iranian people are a great nation, steeped in ancient civilisation with cultural and civilisational wealth hundreds of times greater than that of America or similar nations.

"To expect a country like Iran to surrender to another is sheer nonsense—and it will surely be laughed at by every wise and sensible person," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Without naming Israel directly, Ayatollah Khamenei referred to it as a "fallacious Zionist regime." "With all that

commotion and all those claims, the Zionist regime was practically knocked out and crushed under the blows of the Islamic Republic," he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei said, the US entered the war directly because it feared that if it didn't, the "Zionist regime would be completely destroyed," adding "US intervened to save them (Israeli's) but gained nothing from the war."

Iran leaders remarks come two days after a ceasefire halted a 12-day war between Iran and Israel – the foes' deadliest and most destructive confrontation – and mark his first public appearance since June 19.

The speech also comes amid conflicting accounts in the US over the extent of the damage inflicted by US strikes on key Iranian nuclear sites at Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan during the conflict. US President Donald Trump said the strikes "obliterated" the nuclear facilities.

But Iran leader said US President had "exaggerated" the impact of the attacks claiming the US strikes "did nothing significant" to Iran's nuclear facilities.

"The Islamic republic won, and in retaliation dealt a severe slap to the face of America," he said, a reference to Iran's missile launch targeting a US base in Qatar, the largest in the Middle East.

Congratulating the Iranian nation for what he described as great victory, Ayatollah Khamenei said the idea of the Islamic Republic being capable of delivering such devastating strikes had never even crossed the enemy's mind, but it did happen.

Trump's f-bomb: Psychologist Explains Why President Makes Fast, Furious Statements

Press Trust of India

Washington: Donald Trump's latest forthright outburst was made as part of his attempts to create a peace deal with Iran and Israel.

"I'm not happy with Israel," he told reporters on June 24. "We basically have two countries that have been fighting so long and so hard that they don't know what the fuck they're doing."

This came a day after Trump had announced a ceasefire between Israel and Iran. By the

next day, the ceasefire had been violated by both Iran and Israel. Trump was clearly furious, and his language showed it.

This was not a verbal slip – there was no immediate correction, no apology, no nonverbal indication of embarrassment. He just stormed off, clearly angry.

This is not the kind of language that is normally associated with a president. Some have been reported to use the f-word before, but usually behind closed doors.

We expect presidents to be calm, measured, thoughtful, considered. Trump's comment was none of these things.

Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th US president, once recommended a foreign policy strategy that was based on speaking softly and carrying a big stick. He was suggesting quiet menace, but Trump showed frustration, barely contained. His furious, aggressive response was like something straight out of an old psychology textbook.

Modi Likely To Attend BRICS Summit in Brazil Next Week

Press Trust Of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to embark on a five-nation tour next week to attend the BRICS summit in Brazil and to enhance India's ties with four other nations, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

Besides Brazil, Modi is set to visit Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina and Namibia, they said.

The main focus of the trip will be his visit to the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro to participate in the BRICS summit on July 6 and 7.

BRICS brings together 11 major emerging economies of the world, representing around 49.5 per cent of the global population, around 40 per cent of the global GDP and around 26 per cent of the global trade.

BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

The summit of the grouping is likely to deliberate on a range of issues including mainstreaming the interests and aspirations of the Global South, the people cited above said.

India is likely to call for united efforts to deal with the challenge of terrorism, they said.

The motto of Brazilian chairship is "Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance". The summit will



The main focus of the trip will be his visit to the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro to participate in the BRICS summit on July 6 and 7.

culminate in two high-level declarations on financing the climate change regime and the governance of artificial intelligence.

Modi is set to also hold wide-ranging talks with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva as part of the bilateral visit to Brazil, the people cite above said. The Indian side has decided to go ahead with Modi's visit to Brazil though there have been reports that Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin will skip the BRICS summit.

Modi is travelling to Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Ghana and Namibia as part of India's focus to enhance ties with the countries of the Global South.

Indian Navy Staffer Held for Leaking Info to Pak

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: An Indian Navy staffer posted in naval headquarters in Delhi was arrested in Jaipur for allegedly leaking defence-related sensitive information to a Pakistani handler in exchange for money, a police official said on Thursday.

Vishal Yadav, an upper division clerk (UDC) in the Directorate of Dockyard at the Navy building, allegedly also shared details on Operation Sindoor – strikes carried out by the Indian Armed Forces in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Inspector General of Police (CID-Security) Vishnu Kant Gupta said Yadav, originally from Rewari in Haryana, leaked the classified information to a female Pakistani handler posing as an Indian woman.

"Yadav confessed to receiving approximately Rs 2 lakh in total for the information he passed on," Gupta said.

"This included Rs 50,000 for leaking information related to Operation Sindoor," the IGP said, adding some of the payments were also made in cryptocurrency. Special public prosecutor Sudesh Kumar Satwan revealed that intelligence agencies caught hold of Yadav while they were investigating an old case, during which a

lead led them to him. Agencies then put him under surveillance, and when it was determined that he sent confidential information to the handlers of the Pakistani intelligence agency, Yadav was questioned, Satwan said. He was finally arrested when sensitive documents were found on his mobile phone.

Intelligence sources said that Yadav was first approached on Facebook. The Pakistani handler sent a friend request under the fake identity "Priya Sharma". The two started communicating regularly and eventually shifted to WhatsApp and later to Telegram, a platform known for its encryption-enabled messages. Police said that Yadav initially received small payments of Rs 5,000 - Rs 6,000 for lower-grade information. However, the handler allegedly encouraged him to provide more valuable intelligence in exchange for higher compensation. That's when Yadav began sharing critical defence-related data.

"He was lured by money and ended up leaking sensitive information from the Navy headquarters," Gupta said.

"After monitoring his social media activity and confirming his links with a Pakistani handler, he was detained in Jaipur for joint interrogation involving multiple national agencies," the IGP said.

Woman Drives Car On Railway Track Near Hyderabad, Disrupts 8 Trains

In a bizarre incident, a woman drove her car for about 8 km along a railway track on the city outskirts on Thursday morning, disrupting several train services.

The woman suddenly entered the railway track at a level-crossing gate between Shankarpally-Nagulapally stations and continued driving the car despite attempts by railway staff to stop her, according to a railway official.

She later, shifted to an adjacent track and started driving in reverse towards the gate. The railway staff and others managed to stop her.

The woman, who appeared to be mentally disturbed, reportedly confronted the police personnel after being stopped.

However, she was subdued and taken for medical tests.



The woman was previously working in a software company, the police said. The railway police would register a case.

The incident led to disruption of four passenger trains and an equal number of goods trains, the railway official said. Services were restored after railway engineering teams inspected the tracks and confirmed their safety.

PTI

NEWS MAKERS

‘You Have Phones, Clothes Because of Us’: BJP MLA Sparks Row

In controversial remarks, Maharashtra BJP MLA Babanrao Lonikar told a gathering that people who criticise his party and government should know they are getting "clothes, shoes, mobile, monetary benefits of schemes and money for sowing because of us".

Speaking at a function on 'Har Ghar Solar' scheme in his assembly constituency Partur in Jalna district of central Maharashtra, the former state minister highlighted the BJP-led government's welfare schemes and development work, and went on to berate the critics of his party.

A video of Lonikar's controversial remarks surfaced on social media on Thursday and invited strong criticism from the opposition.

"There are a few people and especially the youth who criticize us and our party on social media platforms. We gave overhead water tanks, concrete roads, function



halls and benefits of various government schemes in your village," he is heard telling the gathering.

"Babanrao Lonikar gave salaries to mothers of those who criticize us and also sanctioned pension for their fathers. (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi gave Rs 6,000 to your father for sowing (a reference to PM

Kisan Samman Nidhi). Your sister is benefiting from the Ladki Bahin Yojana. The clothes, shoes, mobile phones that you (BJP critics) have is because of us," the MLA is heard saying in the video.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC and Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Ambadas Danve hit out at the BJP legislator for his tasteless remarks and dubbed him as an "indigenous version of the British".

Speaking such a language is not good in a democracy, he noted.

"Your MLA status is because of the people. Your clothes, shoes, air tickets, leadership position, diesel in (your) car is also because of the people," Danve wrote on X while hitting out at the ruling party lawmaker.

"People should remember these words (of Lonikar). Elections (of local bodies in the state) are coming," the Shiv Sena (UBT) leader further said.



Landslides Disrupt Vaishno Devi Pilgrimage; New Track Blocked

Observer News Service

KATRA/JAMMU: A fresh landslide triggered by heavy rains on Thursday blocked the new track leading to the revered Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop the Trikuta hills in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The landslide occurred near Satya View Point along the Himkoti route, an area already identified as vulnerable due to incessant rainfall in recent days. As a precaution, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board had earlier diverted pilgrims to the traditional old route.

Despite the disruption, the pilgrimage is continuing smoothly via the old path. However, the battery car and heli-

copter services have been suspended in view of the prevailing weather and safety concerns.

Officials also reported that a separate landslide hit the track leading to the Bhairav temple, temporarily halting the movement of pilgrims on that route as well. Rescue and maintenance teams have been deployed with machinery to clear debris and restore movement on both tracks.

Earlier this week, on June 24, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had directed the administration to identify vulnerable spots on the pilgrimage routes and implement measures to mitigate the risks of landslides and falling stones, ensuring safety of the devotees.

Legislative Committee On Environment Assesses Environmental Issues



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Legislative Committee on Environment of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly held a high-level review meeting at the Assembly Complex here today to assess and examine the pressing environmental issues and challenges faced across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was presided over by Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami; Chairman of the Committee and attended by MLAs Peerzada Mohammad Syed, Rajiv Jasrotia, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad, Khurshid Ahmed, Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo, Irshad Rasool Kar and Darshan Kumar; members of the committee.

Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Ecology and Environment, Sheetal Nanda; Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita; PCCF J&K, Chairman Pollution Control Committee; Director Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing and other senior officers of department also attended the meeting.

Speaking during the meeting, Chairman of the Committee, M.Y. Tarigami, highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir is very sensitive in terms of environment and nature and therefore we need to collectively work for strengthening our grassroots-level awareness and community involvement for various conservation initiatives. "The ecological balance of Jammu and Kashmir is very fragile. We must act decisively to protect our forests, rivers and biodiversity for future generations", M.Y. Tarigami stated.

Underlining several critical issues of environmental degradation, the Chairman of the Committee emphasized on the department to conduct routine checks on industries and indus-

trial estates and assess whether they are operating under established norms and regulations. He also asked them to keep vigil on operations of stone crushers across the UT and take appropriate measures for reducing their impact on river banks and river beds.

While speaking on waste management and other issues, M.Y. Tarigami called upon the officers of the department to organise regular awareness campaigns in schools and colleges across Jammu and Kashmir regarding waste management techniques and environmental protection. He asked the officers to utilise the services of environmental experts and activists, NGOs, scientists and other groups for protection and preservation of the environment across UT.

During the meeting, the members of the Committee voiced deep concern over growing environmental degradation in several regions like illegal deforestation, pollution of water bodies and improper waste management practices. They also expressed displeasure over pollution due to unregulated mining activities and non-functioning of several Sewage Treatment Plants across UT.

The members emphasized on the critical need for sustainable development and called for urgent, coordinated action by government departments and enforcement agencies for environmental preservation and protection.

During the meeting, the Committee resolved to monitor the implementation of key environmental regulations more rigorously. It underscored the importance of strict compliance with the Environment regulations and rules.

ACB Arrests Mineral Supervisor Of G&M Dept For Accepting Bribe

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday said to have trapped and arrested a Mineral Supervisor of Geology and Mining department for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 15,000.

As per a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau received a written complaint alleging that Basharat Habib, Mineral Supervisor in the Geology & Mining Department, was demanding a bribe for allowing the lifting of minor minerals (sand).

"On receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was con-

ducted, which confirms the demand of bribe by the public servant concerned and accordingly, a case FIR number 11/2025 U/S 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended) was registered in Police Station ACB Srinagar and investigation was taken up," the statement added.

"During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and the accused public servant was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs 15,000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witnesses. The accused was taken into custody on the spot."

J&K Police Honoured For Excellence In Passport Verification



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a historic first, Jammu & Kashmir Police has been adjudged among the best-performing police forces in India for their outstanding contribution to passport verification services for the year 2024-25. Based on official verification data, J&K Police finalized an impressive 134219 passport application verifications during the period April-2024 to March-2025 reflecting an exceptional disposal rate and a commitment to timely service delivery.

The award was given by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) during the Passport Seva Divas, commemorating the enactment of the Passport Act, 1967. This day is observed every year to mark the provision of a statutory framework

for the issuance of passports and other travel documents by the Government of India. A high-level segment of the celebration was held at CB Muthamma Hall, Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, New Delhi, graced by Shri Pabitra Margherita, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, alongside senior officials from the MEA, other government departments, representatives from 37 Passport Offices across the country, officials from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and key service providers.

One of the key highlights of this year's observance was the recognition of exemplary performance in the crucial area of Police/CID verification by J&K Police, an essential component in the passport issuance process.

The recognition is a testa-

ment to the relentless efforts of the officers and officials of the CID and Police departments, who stepped beyond their comfort zones and worked tirelessly to ensure quick and efficient passport application verifications. Their hard work has brought pride to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and its police force.

The prestigious Certificate of Recognition was presented to J&K Police by the Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs. The award was received by Shri Rayees Mohammad Bhat (IPS), DIG CID, who represented J&K Police at the national event.

This is the first time that the dedicated efforts of J&K Police in the timely disposal of passport cases have been formally acknowledged at the national level.



ONE OF THE KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS YEAR'S OBSERVANCE was the recognition of exemplary performance in the crucial area of Police/CID verification by J&K Police, an essential component in the passport issuance process.

KCCI Delegation Calls On LG Sinha

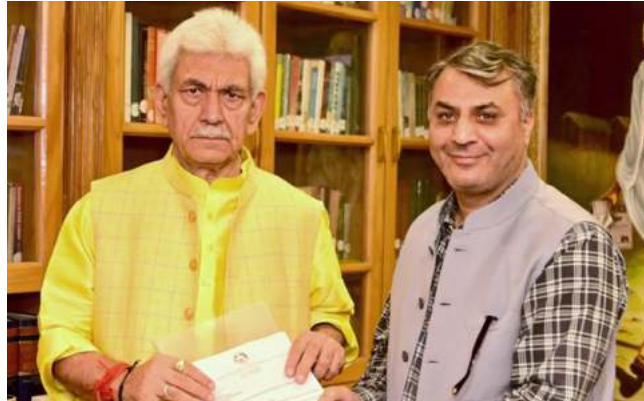
Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A delegation of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), led by its President Javid Ahmad Tenga, called on the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, at Raj Bhawan Srinagar on Wednesday to discuss urgent economic and public welfare matters impacting the region.

The delegation included Senior Vice President Ashiq Hussain Shangloo, Junior Vice President Fayaz Ahmad Punjabi, Joint Secretary General Umar Nazir Tibetbaqal, and Treasurer Zubair Mahajan.

During the meeting, the KCCI team raised several pressing concerns requiring immediate administrative intervention. The Chamber expressed its full support for the ongoing Amarnath Yatra and reiterated Kashmir's unwavering commitment to communal harmony, mutual respect, and traditional hospitality. It urged the Lieutenant Governor to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage and emphasized the need to facilitate unhindered access for tourists to all destinations in the Valley during the Yatra.

The delegation also requested appropriate administrative steps for the smooth observance of Muharram, underlining its religious significance as the first and one of the most revered months



in the Islamic calendar.

Referring to the tragic April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, the KCCI highlighted the grave economic consequences it has had on Kashmir's tourism sector. While welcoming the reopening of 16 tourist destinations as a confidence-building step, the delegation appealed for the reopening of all remaining destinations that were closed in the aftermath of the incident to help revive the region's struggling economy.

Another key concern raised by the Chamber was the growing financial distress faced by local businesses. The delegation sought the Lieutenant Governor's intervention in directing the Jammu and Kashmir Bank to extend the repayment deadline under its Special One-Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme – Karz Se Mukti – by at least six months. They also called for a revised OTS scheme with an enhanced

financial ceiling, aligned with current MSME guidelines, to allow more distressed units to benefit.

The Lieutenant Governor received the KCCI delegation warmly and assured them that their concerns would be addressed with a sincere and constructive approach. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to the revival and sustained growth of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. "All necessary measures are being taken to boost the sector and create a conducive environment for the business community. People will soon witness a revival of tourism like the days before the Pahalgam incident," the LG assured.

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry reaffirmed its commitment to supporting peace, economic revival, and social harmony across Jammu and Kashmir.

Police Attach Property Of Notorious Drug Peddler

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: In a decisive move against the drug menace, Police in Anantnag on Thursday said to have attached an immovable property belonging to a notorious drug peddler under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

"Acting under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act, 1985, police attached a single-storey residential house belonging to Azad Ali Khan son of Gull Ali Khan resident of Kehribal Ranbirpora Mattan. The said individual has been a repeated offender and is involved in multiple NDPS cases, including FIR No. 68/2013 U/S 8/20 NDPS



Act, FIR No. 82/2017 U/S 15/18 NDPS Act and FIR No. 10/2022 U/S 8/15 NDPS Act & 48 Excise Act of Police Station Mattan.

The action was taken as part of legal proceedings to disrupt the illicit gains from drug-related activities," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

"The property was identified as illegally acquired during the

course of investigation and enquiry conducted by Mattan Police, and was established to have been procured through illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The offender had been previously detained under the PIT-NDPS Act at District Jail Reasi, Jammu, and has been recently released," police said.

Meanwhile, the statement added that "J&K Police remains committed to ensure a drug-free and crime-free society, and such actions will continue with greater intensity. The public is once again urged to come forward with any information related to drug peddling and help make the district a drug-free zone."

MUHARRAM 2025:

Kashmir Adorns Black Banners



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- With the advent of the Islamic month of Muharram, the Kashmir valley has been enshrouded in black banners and hoardings, mourning the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (A.S), the grandson of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Pertinently, Imam Hussain was martyred alongside 72 of his companions, in the battle of Karbala in 680 CE against the army of the Umayyad caliph Yazid.

Shia Muslims hold mourning rituals in this month, which peak on Ashura, the 10th of Muharram, commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (A.S.).

Roads and Highways in Shia-dominated localities are festooned with black flags and banners in homage to the martyrs of Karbala. Prominent areas such as Central Kashmir's Budgam town, the Srinagar-Baramulla Highway, Alamgari Bazar, Saida Kadal, Lal Chowk, Foreshore Road, and Shalimar localities in Srinagar city have been adorned with banners in a bid to pay homage to martyrs of Karbala.

A significant emblem of Islamic resistance, a 65-foot flag locally known as alam sharif, dedicated to Hazrat Abbas (A.S), the Half-brother of Imam Hussain (A.S) has been erected on the Foreshore Road by the youth of the adjacent Lashkari Mohalla.

Similarly, Imambargahs, the congregational halls for Shia commemoration ceremonies, have been similarly draped in black sheets and banners.

Hussain Mir, a painter and calligrapher from Zadibal, said the preparations for mourning begin way before the commencement of the holy month.

"The calligraphic works on banners commence months prior to Muharram. We inscribe poetry in praise of Imam Hussain (A.S) and include socially pertinent messages." He said.

Ilyas Rizvi, an oral historian and craft researcher, has been chronicling Muharram in Kashmir for a decade. He emphasized the cultural significance. "Writing verses in praise of Imam Hussain (A.S) on banners is a vital art form within the community. This art has evolved over time, with specialized artists curating calligraphic designs on the banners."

Elaborating on the transformations within this tradition Ilyas said some decades ago, only black banners were hoisted. Nowadays, red and green banners are also prevalent. Furthermore, the banners were predominantly inscribed in Urdu, but now English and Persian are also utilized."

In recent years Kashmir valley had seen some instances of youth being electrocuted while hoisting banners. Shia organizations and Mohalla committees have urged youth to take precautions while erecting banners.

"To all our brothers, please be mindful of electrical poles and high-voltage wires when putting up Muharram banners and flags. As we honor the sacrifices of Imam Hussain (A.S) and the martyrs of Karbala, let us also prioritize safety and take necessary precautions to avoid accidents," the notice from Shia Association read.

"Together, let's make Muharram 2024 a safe and memorable one, and may our actions reflect the values of courage, sacrifice, and unity that Imam Hussain (A.S) embodied." It added.

SSP Ganderbal Reviews Security Arrangements Ahead Of Muharram

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In view of the upcoming holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram 2025, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ganderbal, Khalil Ahmed Poswal on Thursday visited Dab area to assess and review the security arrangements in place.

During his visit, SSP Poswal evaluated the preparedness of local police units and other security agencies to ensure the peaceful and smooth conduct of Muharram-related events.

He interacted with com-

munity representatives and highlighted the importance of maintaining communal harmony and fostering coordination between law enforcement and the public during the religious processions.

He instructed officers to stay vigilant and enhance patrolling in sensitive and vulnerable areas.

SSP Poswal also underscored the need for proactive engagement with local committees and volunteers to strengthen security measures and promote a peaceful atmosphere throughout the observance period.

MISSING PERSON ALERT



Name: IRFAN AHMAD DAR
S/o: KHAZER MOHAMMAD DAR
R/o: Salamat Dachina Tehsil: Boniyar
P/S: Bijhama District: Baramulla

MISSING SINCE: 31/05/2025

FIR Lodged On: 01/06/2025 at Police Station Bijhama

Our beloved brother IRFAN AHMAD DAR has been missing since 31st May 2025. A missing report has already been filed at Police Station Bijhama. If anyone has seen him or has any information, please come forward.

Contact Information: Family Contact: 9541603692
SHO Police Station Bijhama: 9596767720

Reward: A suitable reward will be given to the person who helps us find him or provides information that leads to tracing him.

PLEASE REPORT ANY DETAIL, EVEN THE SMALLEST ONE, TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION OR POLICE STATION BIJHAMA

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of
Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex,
Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdos Ali
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

Degrees Without Jobs

Each year, thousands of youth pass out from colleges and universities in Jammu & Kashmir. But far from marking a milestone of hope and opportunity, it turns out to be a moment of uncertainty and despair. The harsh reality is that a degree in Kashmir no longer guarantees employment. Instead, a degree without a value in the market only deepens a mental health crisis among the youth. The problem is multi-layered. One, our education system is still largely traditional with zero focus on skill development. Most graduates finish their formal education without any meaningful exposure to work environments. Internships, apprenticeships. Besides, collaboration with industries remains exception, not norm. Similarly, campus placements are rare, and structured career counselling is practically non-existent. This is why, young people, armed with degrees but no practical experience, are routinely turned away from jobs, being told they are too inexperienced for roles they were never trained for in the first place. The solution to this is reforming our education system, which hasn't changed in decades. There is a stark disconnect between what we teach and the new jobs. AI and automation are quietly taking over routine roles that once provided steady paychecks and a sense of security. Meanwhile, in Kashmir's classrooms, students are still learning from textbooks that haven't changed in years, memorising facts rather than solving real problems. Imagine a fresh graduate, notebook in hand, who's studied economics or computer applications for four years, only to find that the skills she's perfected don't match the few tech-driven openings on offer. These stories aren't hypothetical; they're the daily reality for not just Kashmiri youth but youth anywhere. The new data has put Jammu and Kashmir's unemployment figures at over 3.70 lakh young people, many of them graduates and postgraduates. There are thousands of others who have not registered with the government and so aren't visible. While schemes like Mumkin, Tejaswini, and Parvaaz under Mission Youth have been introduced, they have made little redeeming difference. And one can understand why: ad-hoc schemes can hardly address as gigantic a problem as unemployment. We need a structured, long-term plan that goes beyond quick fixes.

The private sector in J&K, especially in Kashmir Valley, remains underdeveloped. And for another, rise of technology is also threatening to take over a substantial portion of jobs reserved for humans. In its Future of Jobs Report 2025, the World Economic Forum (WEF) has predicted that the new technology will displace 92 million human jobs by 2030. On a positive note, 170 million new jobs will be created, resulting in 78 million net new jobs. The need is for a multi-pronged strategy with a particular thrust on upskilling to increase the opportunities and the prospect for employment for an ever growing number of the educated youth and the uneducated too.

FINANCIAL FIX

Why Kashmiri Industries Are Stuck

Without skilled workers and a shift in mindset, Kashmir's industrial growth will stay limited.

Irshad Mushtaq

Kashmir's industries are not growing the way they should. The problem isn't just money or policy, it's people. Businesses struggle to find workers who are skilled, reliable, and willing to stick with tough jobs. Across Kashmir, many young people still see government jobs as the safest path. They want stability and steady pay, especially in a region that has seen years of conflict and uncertainty. But this preference leaves industries short of motivated workers. Factory owners say absenteeism is high, and it's hard to keep production on track. The skill gap is another big challenge. Official estimates suggest that Kashmir faces a shortage of at least 40% in trained technical workers. Even basic soft skills like teamwork, punctuality, and problem-solving are often missing. Meanwhile, industries in other parts of India are moving faster, working smarter, and pulling ahead. This is why Kashmir's private sector is struggling. It's not just competing for resources, it's competing for people who see value in hard work and private jobs. Kashmir needs to build a new work culture. It has to start with skill-building programs that are practical and easy to access. It has to include schools, entrepreneurs, and families who encourage young people to think beyond government jobs. Industries can only grow if people show up, learn, and push forward together. Kashmir's economic future depends on this shift. Without skilled, committed workers, the region's industries will remain stuck, and the next generation will miss out on the chance to build something lasting. The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

The Street Spectacle of Jammu

Public shaming of the accused is not justice, it's the slow undoing of constitutional order.

Dr Ajaz Afzal Lone | Dr Ashwani Kumar

In a constitutional democracy like India, the legitimacy of the justice system rests not only on statutes and structures but on the shared belief that the law exists to uphold dignity, equality, and reason over impulse, vengeance, or spectacle. At the heart of this democratic vision is public trust, an invisible but powerful thread that binds citizens to institutions like the police and judiciary. But when these institutions begin to mimic the very anarchy they are meant to contain, the fabric of trust starts to fray. Policing, when carried out beyond constitutional limits, ceases to be a shield of justice and instead becomes a symbol of the state's slide into performative authoritarianism. What we recently witnessed on the streets of Jammu was not law enforcement, it was public theatre that humiliated a citizen and mocked both legal procedure and human dignity. Socially, these acts are not isolated aberrations, they reveal a deeper decay. They show how the protectors of the law are normalizing public punishments that feel closer to feudal cruelty than to a modern democratic ethos. When police officers parade an accused person with a garland of footwear, when they turn an arrest into a public spectacle with loudspeaker announcements, they are not just violating the Constitution, they are staging lawlessness. The message this performance sends is dangerous: that justice need not follow procedure, evidence, or courts. In doing so, they erode the very legitimacy of the judiciary, reducing the law to a tool of shame rather than a pathway to justice. On a recent Tuesday in Jammu, an individual accused of theft was subjected to degrading treatment by police officers outside a hospital. He was paraded through the streets wearing a garland of footwear, made to sit on the bonnet of a moving police vehicle, while his alleged crime was announced over a loudspeaker. This wasn't an isolated case. Just weeks earlier in Gangyal Chowk, three individuals were publicly beaten for allegedly being involved in a shooting. These are not simple lapses in discipline, they signal a growing institutional culture of extrajudicial exhibitionism where punishment comes before trial, and police officers act as performers of public justice. This descent into spectacle signals a troubling sociological trend, the attempt to normal-

ize public humiliation as punishment. Michel Foucault, in Discipline and Punish, described how modern justice evolved from public executions to invisible surveillance. What we are witnessing today is a reversal of that journey, a return to medieval-style punishments now disguised in enforcement. The police, especially Station House Officers (SHOs), have a strictly investigative role. The moment they step into punitive action, they breach the constitutional boundary between state power and individual rights. The Indian Constitution offers strong safeguards against such degrading acts. Article 21 guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, which includes protection from humiliation. Article 14 ensures equality before the law and prohibits arbitrary actions by the state. Article 22(1) mandates that an arrested person must be informed of the reasons for arrest and granted access to legal counsel. These are not technical details, they are moral cornerstones affirming that justice must not bow to prejudice or public spectacle. The Indian Penal Code, 1860, directly criminalizes such conduct. Section 166 penalizes public servants who knowingly disobey the law to cause harm. Section 342 prohibits wrongful confinement, and Section 355 punishes the use of criminal force intended to dishonour. Sections 500 to 505 address defamation, provocation, and the creation of public fear through unverified public statements—all relevant to this incident. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, makes it clear that arrests must be dignified, non-coercive, and free from public shaming, as outlined in Sections 35, 37(4), and 39. Landmark Supreme Court rulings like DK Basu v. State of West Bengal (1997) and Joginder Kumar v. State of UP (1994) firmly state that custodial dignity and procedural fairness are non-negotiable. The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, further empowers the National and State Human Rights Commissions to intervene in cases of custodial misconduct. This incident, where law enforcement officials and civilians acted in concert, is a grave departure from the constitutional and legal framework that governs policing in India. Such actions are nothing less than vigilantism under the cover of official power and are incompatible with the principles of due process and the rule of law. This is not lawful enforcement, it is a direct assault on justice and institutional integrity. When state actors, who alone are permitted

A Woman's Right to End a Story

The ruling makes it clear: a Muslim woman does not need her husband's permission to walk away.

Sanjeev Sirohi

accused her husband of assault, and after one particularly violent incident in 2017, she was hospitalized and later moved to her parents' home. She demanded a khula divorce, but her husband refused. She turned to the Sharai Council for help. The council sent her husband three notices and invited him to a reconciliation meeting. He refused to attend. He questioned the council's authority but did not engage with the process. When no resolution was possible, the council issued a divorce certificate in 2020. The husband rejected the divorce and filed a case in the Family Court, arguing that the certificate had no legal standing. He wanted the court to declare that his marriage was still valid. The Family Court dismissed his petition. The wife had followed the proper process. She had asked for khula, reconciliation had been attempted, and the council had issued the divorce certificate. The court saw no reason to interfere. But the husband pushed forward with an appeal to the High Court. This time, he got a definitive answer. The High Court carefully reviewed Islamic law and the Quran's guidance on khula. The judges found that a woman's right to khula is absolute. The husband's consent is not a condition. His refusal cannot lock her into a marriage she no longer wants. The court explained that khula is not a fault-based divorce. It is a woman's decision to step away from the marriage, and that choice

does not need her husband's approval. What matters is that there has been an honest effort to reconcile. If those efforts fail, the woman's request for divorce is enough to bring the marriage to an end. The court also clarified that while religious councils and scholars can advise and help guide the process, their opinions are not binding. Only courts have the legal authority to formally settle the matter. The judges addressed the silent suffering that many women endure when their husbands refuse to accept a khula demand. The court firmly rejected the idea that a woman should wait endlessly for permission that is not legally required. The husband's appeal was dismissed. His challenge was unnecessary. His belief that his consent was essential was wrong. The ruling makes it clear: a Muslim woman's right to leave her marriage does not depend on her husband's willingness to let her go. Her freedom is her own. In this case, she chose to walk away, and the law walked with her.

The author is a Meerut based advocate.

Letter to Editor

We Are Trashing Kashmir Faster Than We Can Save It

Kashmir is often described as heaven on earth, yet we are steadily turning it into a wasteyard. From the crowded streets of Srinagar to the untouched valleys of Gurez, garbage is creeping into every corner. We are living in a fool's paradise, tossing plastic bottles into streams, leaving food wrappers on hiking trails, and pretending the filth will somehow manage itself. But it won't. According to the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee's 2022 report, Kashmir generates over 500 metric tonnes of solid waste daily, with Srinagar alone producing nearly 450 metric tonnes. Much of this waste is left untreated, openly dumped on

roadsides, riverbanks, or set on fire, poisoning the very air we breathe. The Dal Lake, once a symbol of Kashmir's beauty, now carries floating plastic and weeds, choking under our collective neglect. The problem is not just urban. In fact, rural Kashmir is silently sinking under the weight of plastic. Remote villages that once relied on biodegradable materials are now drowning in single-use polythene, wrappers, and non-degradable packaging. With no formal waste collection system in place, most of this garbage ends up in local streams, open plots, or is burned in backyards, releasing toxic fumes. It is painful to see pristine meadows and apple orchards slowly filling

with plastic bags fluttering like tattered flags of apathy. A study published by the Department of Environmental Science at the University of Kashmir highlights how microplastics have already begun contaminating water bodies across the valley. The fish we eat, the water we drink, the air we inhale are quietly absorbing our carelessness. There's a strange silence around this crisis. We speak loudly about development, tourism, and progress but keep ignoring the filth growing right under our noses. Every tourist season, we celebrate the crowds pouring in, but forget to ask where the waste they leave behind actually goes. This is not just a government

Sincerely,
Ilyas Fayaz
Srinagar

The Tailor of Shivpora

Born deaf and mute, Parvaiz Naikoo stitched his way from silence to community leadership, training dozens and reshaping what it means to live with dignity in Kashmir.

Gowher Bhat

In the busy lanes of Srinagar's Shivpora area, a modest tailoring shop hums with activity. The soft scrape of scissors, the steady thrum of a sewing machine, and the flick of measuring tape fill the air. Behind the counter, Parvaiz Naikoo works in complete silence.

Born deaf and mute, Naikoo has built his life not with words, but with the language of his hands.

His story is not widely known outside his neighbourhood, but those who have met him understand why he is regarded as a remarkable figure in Srinagar.

"People say disability is a weakness," said Firdous Ahmad, one of his long-time clients. "But when you see Parvaiz bhai work, you realize strength has nothing to do with what we can or cannot hear."

Naikoo, now in his early forties, grew up facing layers of silence. In his childhood home, conversations floated past him. School was nearly impossible. Without the ability to hear teachers or speak to classmates, he was often left out, sitting at the back, observing. His world became one of watching and absorbing.

"My father used to worry," said his younger brother, Bilal Naikoo. "He would wonder what Parvaiz would do, how he would survive."

Survive he did. And more.

Naikoo first discovered his passion for tailoring as a teenager. He would stand for hours outside neighbourhood tailoring shops, his eyes following every cut, every stitch, every fold of fabric. Shopkeepers didn't take him seriously. Some shooed him away. But he kept returning, watching and quietly memorizing every step.

"He never asked anyone to teach him," said Shakeel, a tailor who later became his friend. "He learned by watching us. Every detail. Every mistake. And then, he went home and



tried it himself."

Without formal training, Naikoo gradually taught himself to sew. His precision caught the attention of customers. Word spread that there was a tailor who spoke with his work, who didn't need to explain anything but always delivered exactly what people wanted.

His small shop eventually became a gathering place, not just for clients but for young men looking for work and direction. Many came to him unemployed, unsure of their next step. Naikoo took them in. He didn't speak, but he taught. He would guide their

hands, demonstrate patiently, and correct them with a simple nod or shake of the head.

Shabir, one of his first students, remembers the early days vividly. "I had nothing," he said. "No job, no skills. Parvaiz bhai didn't care about that. He just looked at me, smiled, and pointed to the machine. That's how we started."

Shabir now runs his own small tailoring shop. "He didn't just teach me tailoring," he said. "He taught me how to live without excuses."

Naikoo's influence reaches beyond the workshop. His commitment to physical fitness surprised many in the local gym, where

he became a respected bodybuilder. Without hearing instructions, music, or gym chatter, he followed routines by closely watching others. His focus became an unspoken lesson in discipline.

"People would lift weights while listening to music or talking," said Ishfaq, a trainer at the gym. "But Parvaiz bhai was in his own world. Silent, but unstoppable."

At home, Naikoo built something even more meaningful. He married and became the father of three children. His family is his strongest bond, connected not by words but by presence and gestures.

"People asked me how he would manage," said his wife, Rukhsana. "But I knew. He shows his love in a hundred ways. He helps with everything, he never gets tired. He understands me even before I speak."

Naikoo communicates with his children through signs, expressions, and touch. They understand him perfectly. His daughter, Amina, beamed when asked about her father. "He's the best tailor in the world," she said.

Over time, Naikoo's tailoring students have grown in number. Some are differently-abled. Some are simply young men who had nowhere else to go. Many now support their families with the skills he taught them. "He gave me a future," said one former student. "Before him, I didn't believe I could earn my own living."

What sets Naikoo apart is his refusal to be defined by what he lacks. He never waited for government support or charity. He built his shop, trained his students, supported his family, and created his own path. His success has made him a respected figure in his community.

Local residents often share stories about him. The way he works through power cuts without complaint, how he helps struggling neighbours with free repairs, and how he insists his students never undercharge poor clients.

"There's dignity in his silence," said Firdous. "You just feel it when you meet him."

Despite the respect he commands, Naikoo avoids the spotlight. He does not seek recognition. He only lets his actions speak louder than words.

As the sound of his sewing machine continues in Shivpora, his brother Bilal concludes: "Parvaiz doesn't need to speak. His life says everything."

The author is a Pulwama-based author and educator.

When Village Lands Vanish

Across Jammu & Kashmir, village commons known as Shamilat lands are being slowly stolen and sold, leaving communities without grazing grounds, footpaths, and burial spaces. The loss is reshaping rural life.

Mohammad Amin Mir

In the villages of Jammu & Kashmir, land has always been more than property. It is where people walk, graze their cattle, bury their dead, and gather as a community.

These shared spaces, known as Shamilat lands, have long connected village life. They are not privately owned but are meant for everyone.

Today, many of these lands are disappearing.

From the hills of Kupwara to the plains of Kathua, and from Pulwama to Poonch, people are quietly fencing, selling, and building on these village commons. Often, no one stops them. Officials look away. Neighbours accept the change. Bit by bit, the spaces that once belonged to all now belong to a few.

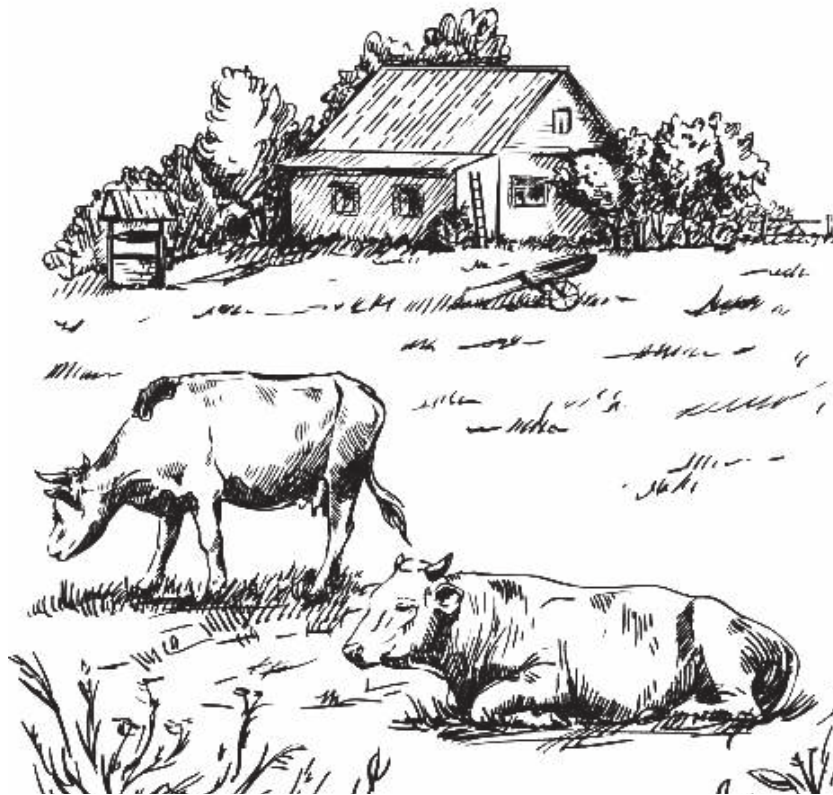
Shamilat lands, also called Shamilat deh, were once protected by village officials, recorded as government property but used by the community. These included footpaths, grazing grounds, riverbanks, burial grounds, and playgrounds. The system was simple: the government held the title, but the land served the people.

But as old village roles faded and record-keeping weakened, these lands became easy targets. A neighbour might quietly extend his courtyard. A shopkeeper might fence a nearby plot. Soon, entire pieces of Shamilat land are gone.

Worse, many encroachers are now selling these lands to others. They forge revenue records, manipulate land maps, and create false ownership papers. Through these tricks, they build homes, hotels, and markets on public land. Once these structures rise, courts are often asked to stop officials from taking action. Legal cases drag on. By the time judgments arrive, the illegal buildings have become permanent parts of the village.

This is not just happening in one place. It is happening everywhere. In Anantnag, land near the Bringi Nallah has turned into private lawns and parking areas. In Kupwara, grazing lands are now private compounds. In Pulwama, people have even occupied parts of burial grounds, sparking local anger. Some religious and charitable groups have taken common land in the name of public good but kept it for themselves. Around Jammu city, grazing lands have been converted into commercial plots.

What ties all these cases together is the silence of the system. The Revenue Department is supposed to protect these lands, but its officers often face serious chal-



lenges. Some cases get stuck in courts with forged documents. Some officers face pressure from powerful people.

In many places, the basic land records are outdated, and proper land surveys are rarely done. Field inspections, once a routine task, are now almost forgotten.

Even courts, though meant to serve justice, sometimes end up protecting illegal occupation. Encroachers quickly secure temporary orders from lower courts, stopping any action against them. When cases finally end, the damage is often impossible to undo. No one wants to demolish a house where a family now lives, or a shop that feeds several workers. The theft is slowly accepted.

But this is not just about land. When commons are lost, the village itself begins to break apart. Children have no place to play. Farmers must find expensive fodder for their cattle. Burial grounds shrink, causing bitter disputes. Footpaths close, forcing people to find other ways to their fields. Streams and ponds disappear. These daily losses are not just physical. They wear down the social fabric.

Some solutions are possible. Drone surveys and GPS mapping can help record Shamilat lands clearly. Each Panchayat

should keep a public register showing the exact size and location of these lands. Illegal sales should be treated as serious crimes, not simple land disputes. The old village guards and reporters, Chowkidars and Lumberdars, should be brought back and given the job of watching over commons. Special tribunals could help resolve Shamilat disputes quickly.

But more than that, this is about awareness. Encroaching on commons is not simply gaining land, it is taking from your own community.

Some states like Punjab and Haryana have shown that reclaiming commons is possible when the government is serious. Jammu & Kashmir must find the same resolve.

Saving Shamilat land is not just about protecting property. It is about protecting the idea of the village itself, a place where people share space, trust each other, and build a future together. If we let these commons vanish, we may lose something much bigger than land.

The author is a columnist and land policy analyst based in South Kashmir. He writes about rural governance, land rights, and administrative reforms in Jammu & Kashmir.

Kashmir's Campus Joy

College is more than classrooms in Kashmir. It is a space where young people taste freedom, build friendships, and search for who they are.



Nusrat Hassan

For many students in Kashmir, college feels like stepping into sunlight after years of living in the shade.

It is often described as the best phase of life, not because it is perfect, but because it carries something young people rarely find elsewhere: freedom.

School life in Kashmir is usually marked by a strict routine, heavy expectations, and limited space to make choices. Uniforms, assembly lines, tight schedules. But college opens a door.

Here, students pick their subjects. They move through their own timetables. They choose where to sit, whom to spend time with, which activities to join.

This freedom, though simple, feels precious. It gives students a sense of control in a place where much else feels out of their hands.

Friendship finds a natural home in this space. For many young Kashmiris, college is where they meet the people who will stay with them for life. Friendships here are built on more than just study sessions. They are stitched together in canteen corners, in the back seats of classrooms, during walks along campus roads. These are not just passing connections. They often grow into the kind of deep friendships that become a second family.

There is also something important that happens in these years — self-discovery.

College life, with all its freedom and its loose structure, asks students to figure out who they are. In Kashmir, where political uncertainty and social pressures often shape young minds from an early age, this time to explore

feels like a rare chance.

Some students begin to see their talents clearly for the first time. Others learn what they can stand up for. Many discover how to carry their own weight, whether it is managing small decisions or facing larger life questions.

Of course, college life is not without its share of pressure. The weight of assignments, exams, and career worries does not leave students untouched.

But for most, these troubles do not overshadow the feeling that this is still a golden period. It is a time when memories stick: the last-minute exam preparations, the festivals that light up campuses, the inside jokes that last for years.

For Kashmiri students, this slice of life feels even more meaningful because it comes after years of disrupted schooling, curfews, and internet shutdowns. The freedom found in college is not just personal, it is political.

It is the freedom to gather, to speak, to choose, even if only within the four walls of a campus.

Ask a student sitting in the canteen of Amar Singh College in Srinagar, or walking past the gardens of Islamia College, and chances are they will say the same thing: college life is not perfect, but it is the best they have known.

It is not about big things. It is about feeling alive in small, ordinary ways. About having the space to laugh, to grow, to dream, even if the world outside is not always easy.

In the end, college is not just a place to study. For many young people in Kashmir, it is where they finally begin to live.

The author is a student at the GDC Ganderbal.

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR

STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

CERTIFICATES-KD, NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR

ATTENTION PLEASE

I have passed /appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th,11th,12th) under Roll No.12111266, 217012207,317009081 Session Year 2020, 2021, 2023. Through the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the School records against my name as SAHIL HUSSAIN instead of SAHIL HUSSAIN MIR AND mothers name HASEENA instead of HASEENA BANO.

Now i have applied for correction / rectification of error in the Jammu & Kashmir board of School Education, New campus Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, afterthe expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public. The Correct particulars be recorded as under:

Name: SAHIL HUSSAIN MIR,

Fathers Name: BASHIR AHMAD MIR,

Mothers Name, HASEENA BANO

Date of Birth: 14-03-2006,

Residence:- BUDINA BUDGAM.

CELL:6005818088.

mcb

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE

BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

CERTIFICATES-KD, NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR

ATTENTION PLEASE

I have passed /appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th,11th,) under Roll No.117041044, 217014039 Through the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the School records against my mothers name as ZAINAB BANO instead of ZAINA BANO.

Now i have applied for correction / rectification of error in the Jammu & Kashmir board of School Education, New campus Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, afterthe expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public. The Correct particulars be recorded as under:

Name: PARVEENA MAJEED,

Fathers Name: ABDUL MAJEED DINDA,

Mothers Name, ZAINA BANO

Date of Birth: 07-03-2008,

Residence:- RAIYAR ICH BUDGAM. CELL:9906919215.

mcb

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE

BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

CERTIFICATES-KD, NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR

ATTENTION PLEASE

I have passed /appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th,11th,) under Roll No. 117041069, 217019080 Through the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the School records against my name as MUSHAHID ALI instead of MUSHAHID ALI KHAN.

Now i have applied for correction / rectification of error in the Jammu & Kashmir board of School Education, New campus Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, afterthe expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public. The Correct particulars be recorded as under:

Name: MUSHAHID ALI KHAN,

Fathers Name: ALTAF HUSSAIN KHAN,

Mothers Name, AANISA ZULAL

Date of Birth: 22-11-2008,,

Residence:- ICHIGAM BUDGAM. CELL:778087605.

mcb

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0120110035630 issued in favour of MOHAMMAD TAZEEM SHAH Parentage GHULAM MOHAMMAD SHAH

Whereas an application has been recieved by one MOHAMMAD TAZEEM SHAH Parentage GHULAM MOHAMMAD SHAH wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as DR. MOHAMMAD TAZEEM Parentage GHULAM MOHAMMAD Which needs to be changed as MOHAMMAD TAZEEM SHAH Parentage GHULAM MOHAMMAD SHAH

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shal reach in written in the office of the Regional Transport office Kashmir Sringar within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

mcb

Regional Transport officer Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of 8th Discharge Certificate . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Govt Boys Middle School Bun Sheran within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Kulsooma Bano

D/o Ali Mohmmad Bhat

R/o Bun Sharan Teh: Kawharma

bmg

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER REW DIVISION PULWAMA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e- NIT No. 15/2025-26 Dated 26-06-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Of Union Territory Of J&K, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works: -

Call 1st

S. No.	Name of the Work	Block	Estim ated /Adv. Cost(In n lacs)	Cost of tender docum ents (In Rupees)	EMD (in %)	Class of Contracto r	Time of completi on	Major head
1.	Const. of Community Composit pit near UPS bonpora / Panchayat land Chersoo-I	Awantipora	2.204	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
2.	Const. of Community Composit pit at Health Centre	Awantipora	2.204	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
3.	Const. of Community Composit pit at Abu Turab School Hari	Awantipora	2.204	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
4.	Const. of Community Composit pit at TIAP School Hari	Awantipora	2.204	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
5.	Const. of Community Composit pit near playfield Karew Kaigam	Awantipora	2.204	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
6.	Const. of Community Composit pit at Panchayat Halqa Padgampora	Awantipora	2.204	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
7.	Const. of Community Composit pit at Panchayat Ghar.	Awantipora	2.204	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
8.	Const. of Community Composit pit near I/o John Mohd & others at Kanjinag Rajpora	Awantipora	2.204	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
9.	Const. of Community Composit pit at Panchayat land.	Awantipora	2.204	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
10.	Const. of Community Composit pit at Sonrigund	Awantipora	2.204	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
11.	C/O Community Compost Pit at Halqa Lelhar.	Kakapora	2.272	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
12.	C/O Community Compost Pit near Govt School at Galbugh	Kakapora	2.272	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
13.	C/O Community Compost Pit at Halqa Pahoo.	Kakapora	2.272	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
14.	C/O Community Compost Pit at Halqa Kisrigam.	Kakapora	2.272	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
15.	C/O Community Compost Pit at Halqa Naroo.	Kakapora	2.272	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II

16.	C/O Community compost pit NLO Bilal Ahmad Naik & others at Pinglena.	Kakapora	2.272	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
17.	C/O Community Compost Pit at Halqa Lajoora.	Kakapora	2.272	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
18.	C/O Community Compost Pit at Village Kandizal Halqa Marwal.	Kakapora	2.272	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
19.	C/O Community compost pit at Halqa Gundipora.	Kakapora	2.272	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
20.	C/O Community compost pit at Halqa Hanjipora.	Kakapora	2.272	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
21.	C/O Community compost pit at Halqa Puchal.	Kakapora	2.272	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
22.	C/O Community compost pit at Halqa Trich	Kakapora	2.272	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II

Position of A/A:- Accorded

Position of T/S:- Accorded

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.iktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26-06-2025
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	26-06-2025 from 06:55 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	09-07-2025 up to 06:55 PM
4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	10-07-2025 at 10:00 AM or any convenient day In the office of the Executive Engineer REW Pulwama
5.	Note: - Fee Receipt and EMD shall be deposited after the financial bids opened. Incase The original Tender Document Fee Receipt and EMD is not Deposited within 5 days after the Financial Bids Opened for all responsive bidders Who have participated online, the Department shall take action as per Rules.	

Special Condition 01:

Only the eligible contractors of respective Panchayat Halqa shall take part in the tendering process for works under District Capex with Advertised Cost 3.0 Lacs or below for District Capex works only. Bidders must upload any document viz residential certificate/ Adhar Card/ Ration Card/Electricity Bill showing panchayat name, as residence proof that he/she is residing the respective Panchayat Halqa (Applicable for DEE Class contractors in call 1st only).

SC02:- Contractors Strictly not eligible

The Bidders who had participated in 2023-24 and has not completed the works within stipulated time frame/who had left the work midway/ who had not started/taken up the works are strictly not eligible. Any such participation may lead to cancellation of their bid and No claim shall be entertained in this regard.

Xen/REW/Pul/843-50

DIPK-2979/25

Dated:-26/06/2025

Sd/=

Executive Engineer

REW Division Pulwama

KO®

NEWS & UPDATES

YouTube

The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

Kashmir Observer, with 28 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TV's across the world

Kashmir Observer is a one stop information bank for you. Watch live debates, talk shows and documentaries on critical issues facing Kashmir on KO youtube channel.

28th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

VISIT

<https://www.youtube.com/c/kobserver>

OR SCAN

OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE

INKISHAF

VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR



Under CSR, J&K Bank Provides A Vehicle And Physiotherapy Equipment For Specially-Abled

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Reaffirming its commitment to inclusive social development, J&K Bank has extended financial support to Life Help Centre for Child Care (LHCCC) under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program. Today, the Bank donated a dedicated transport vehicle along with physiotherapy equipment to the Srinagar-based NGO working for specially-abled children.

The Bank's Deputy General Manager (CSR) Anup Bhat formally handed over the keys of the dedicated vehicle to the Secretary (LHCCC) Dr Aaliya during a brief function held at their centre in Nowgam, which was attended by other bank officials, office bearers, staff and the special children of the organisation.

Speaking about the support on the occasion, the Bank's Deputy General Manager (CSR) said, "At J&K Bank, we believe that meaningful CSR is about creating real impact in the lives of those who need it the most. Our association with Life Help

Centre for Child Care is a reflection of our deepening commitment to support critical social needs of Jammu and Kashmir - especially in sectors like child welfare, healthcare and education for the specially-abled."

"And I really believe that the organizations, like LHCCC, that work with dedication for these specially-abled children are pursuing no less than a divine mission", he added.

Expressing gratitude, the Secretary Dr Aaliya said, "We sincerely thank J&K Bank for this generous and timely support. For children with developmental and neurological conditions, accessibility is often the biggest challenge. This initiative will directly benefit deserving children in our society, helping them lead more empowered and dignified lives.

Meanwhile, the support will enhance LHCCC's transport facilities, enabling better access for children from distant and underprivileged backgrounds. It will also augment the centre's therapy infrastructure through the provision of physiotherapy equipment.

LMD Penalizes E-Commerce Entities, Manufacturers For Non-Disclosure Of Statutory Information

Recovers Rs 2.25 lakh as fine

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Legal Metrology department (LMD), under the supervision of Controller Legal Metrology J&K, Rajinder Singh Tara, has taken stringent action against violations of packaging regulations to safeguard consumer rights.

In a series of actions against the erring manufacturers and sellers, a penalty was imposed on the manufacturers of the pre-packaged items after they were found distributing their items without the mandatory declarations as prescribed under the Legal Metrology Packaged Commodities Rules 2011.

In one such case, a well-known detergent manufacturer was booked by Legal Metrology Officer Baramulla, which was found indulging in gross violation of the law. In yet another violation, a case was registered against an e-commerce entity by Legal Metrology Officer Kulgam, which was found selling its products without displaying the mandatory declarations, as required under rules.

It was observed that such omissions on the e-commerce selling platforms mislead the consumers and violate the provisions of the Legal Metrology Rules. Besides, the absence of this information on pre-packaged goods or e-commerce listings directly affects the consumer's ability to make informed choices.

The department has during recent times booked numerous e-commerce platforms and proceedings as warranted under rules

LMD reiterates its commitment to ensuring fair trade practices and protecting consumer interests across Jammu & Kashmir

have been taken against them. All these manufacturers and sellers readily acknowledged such lapse and pleaded before the department for compounding their offence in terms of the Legal Metrology Act 2009 resulting in the recovery of Rs: 2.25 lacs as fine.

It is pertinent to mention that all the e-Commerce sellers are required to display every detail regarding their products on their websites and in case of failure, the department is mandated to take required action against them which includes the fine as well as withdrawal of such unlawful products from such websites.

LMD reiterates its commitment to ensuring fair trade practices and protecting consumer interests across Jammu & Kashmir and is advising every consumer by way of the consumer awareness camps to check all statutory declarations before making purchases, both in physical markets and on digital platforms and any consumer grievances or complaints can be reported to the department's toll-free helpline at 1800-180-7114.

Mission Yuva Transforming Lives In J&K: Chief Secretary

Chairs session for SBDU, BHD members in Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Chief Secretary, Atul Dulloo, Thursday said that Mission Yuva is a transformative movement aimed at changing mindsets and empowering the youth across Jammu and Kashmir economically.

He made these remarks while chairing a one-day session held for members of the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) and Business Help Desk (BHD) under Mission Yuva at Srinagar.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Secretary emphasized that Mission Yuva seeks to shift the youth's mindset away from viewing government jobs as the only career path. "It is an effort to bring about psychological and mental transformation among our youth. Once this happens, institutional support will enable them to realize their dreams and aspirations," he said.

Atul Dulloo underscored the programme's focus on sustainable economic opportunities, entrepreneurship and self-employment, stressing that vast employment potential lies across industries, agriculture,

allied activities and the MSME sector in J&K. He called for creation of a strong economic ecosystem to facilitate the business development and community upliftment. "This is not merely a policy initiative; it is a people's movement towards empowerment, social upliftment and economic self-reliance," he added.

Highlighting the need for wider outreach, the Chief Secretary directed the officials to launch door-to-door awareness campaigns on employment opportunities under Mission Yuva besides proper handholding of aspiring entrepreneurs.

He urged all stakeholders including government agencies, private institutions and banks to work in close coordination to make J&K a model of successful youth entrepreneurship.

The Chief Secretary also instructed the banks to ensure hassle-free loan disbursement. "Treat every loan seeker as a business opportunity. Support them until their units are successful. Let J&K become a model for youth-led enterprise," he said.

Atul Dulloo spoke on various self employment schemes and cited the success of the NRLM, where nearly two lakh

"Lakhpati Didis" have become symbols of economic empowerment in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO of J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee, said that Mission Yuva presents a significant business opportunity for the banks to expand their loan portfolios while contributing to J&K's socio-economic development. He highlighted the bank's active role in shaping the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and reiterated its commitment towards empowering the youth and boosting entrepreneurship in the region.

Earlier, Administrative Secretary, Labour & Employment Department, Kr. Rajeev Ranjan, presented an overview of the progress under Mission Yuva, focusing on awareness, documentation and timely loan disbursement.

The event was attended by Shahzad Alam, Director Employment/Mission Director, Mission Yuva; Aushosh, General Manager Corporate Banking (Agriculture & MSME); Rakesh Magotra, Deputy General Manager, J&K Bank besides officers from NABARD, JKEDI, SIDBI and members of SBDU and BHD.

TREAT EVERY LOAN SEEKER AS A BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY.
Support them until their units are successful. Let J&K become a model for youth-led enterprise"

Indian Team In Washington For Next Round Of Trade Talks

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Indian team, headed by chief negotiator Rajesh Agarwal, has reached Washington for the next round of trade talks with his US counterparts, an official said on Thursday.

The visit is important as both the countries are engaged in negotiations for an interim trade deal and are trying to finalise the pact before July 9, though there are challenges in areas like agriculture and dairy.

"The Indian team is in Washington for two-day trade talks," the official said. Agrawal is special secretary in the department of commerce.

The high tariffs, announced by the US on April 2, were suspended by the Trump administration till July 9.

On April 2, the US imposed an additional 26 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods but suspended it for 90 days. However, the 10 per cent baseline tariff imposed by America remains in place. India is seeking



ing full exemption from the additional 26 per cent tariff.

Agriculture and dairy sectors are difficult and challenging areas for India to give duty concessions to the US. India has not opened up dairy in any of its free trade pacts signed so far.

The US wants duty concessions on certain industrial goods, automobiles - especially electric vehicles, wines, petrochemical products, dairy, and agricultural items like apples, tree nuts, and genetically modified crops.

India is seeking duty concessions for labour-intensive sectors like textiles, gems and jewellery, leather goods, garments,

plastics, chemicals, shrimp, oil seeds, grapes, and bananas in the proposed trade pact.

When asked if the July 9 deadline is not extended, a source said that the tariffs would come to the April 2 level (26 per cent in the case of India).

The two countries are looking to conclude talks for the first tranche of the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA) by fall (September-October) this year. The pact is aimed at more than doubling bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030 from the current USD 191 billion.

Before the first tranche, they are trying for an interim trade pact.

The US team was here from June 5 to June 11 for the talks. The negotiations will continue both virtually and physically in the days to come.

India's merchandise exports to the US rose by 21.78 per cent to USD 17.25 billion in April-May this fiscal, while imports rose by 25.8 per cent to USD 8.87 billion.



Railways Introduces Key Reforms For Train Controllers

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- In a significant move to ensure safety of train operations, the Railway ministry on Wednesday announced some key reforms for enhancing the functioning and working conditions of train controllers.

"Train controllers must serve a minimum of three years in the control office to build domain knowledge and operate at optimal levels. Only experienced and meritorious traffic inspectors and station masters with good service records will be selected as train controllers," a senior railway official said, simplifying the terms of the reforms.

He added, "Controllers must undergo mandatory refresher courses every five years, with simulator-based and scenario-driven learning modules incorporated into the curriculum. A performance monitoring mechanism will be institutionalised to review controllers' performance based on punctuality indices, emergency handling, communication skills and command over working rules."

Ministry officials stated that a proper succession and rotation plan will be maintained for all posts in control offices to prevent over-reliance on individual controllers. The ministry has also decided to introduce

measures like yoga sessions, counselling and periodic health check-ups to address the high-stress nature of the job.

On August 27, 2024, the Railway ministry constituted a six-member committee - three Additional Members of Staff, Revenue and Traffic; one Principal Executive Director of Infra, and two Executive Directors of Transformation and Traffic Transportation - to examine and recommend ways to improve the working conditions of train controllers.

The said committee came into being after the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) flagged several concerning issues such as pay scale, vacancies, recruitment process and basic amenities.

PTI, on August 25, 2024, had published a detailed report on the study by RDSO, which functions under the Railway ministry, according to which the train controllers face multiple challenges at work including "unattractive" pay scale, huge stress due to vacancy leading to health concerns and a lack of basic amenities.

The June 25, 2025 circular, addressed to all the zones, said that the key initiatives have been taken after the committee's recommendations and to make "Railway Traffic Control Organisation at par with the global best".

UK's Global Trade Outlook Sees India As Asia's 'Standout Growth Engine'

Press Trust Of India

LONDON- As the "standout growth engine" in Asia, India is projected to be the third largest economy in the world by 2028, and the recent Free Trade Agreement (FTA) offer British businesses a "major advantage" over their international competitors, the UK's new trade strategy and outlook have said.

The 'UK's Trade Strategy' and an accompanying 'Global Trade Outlook 2025' released by the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) on Wednesday spotlights the trade deal with India, concluded early last month, as the centrepiece of the Labour government's approach to utilising FTAs as an important tool to meet its economic growth agenda.

"Asia is expected to benefit from standout growth from India and a new generation of fast-growing emerging markets," reads the outlook.

"Asia's centre of growth is expected to shift from China to India and other emerging markets, while Africa's demographic boom could drive high growth if job creation can keep pace with population growth," it notes.

About the FTA, the trade strategy points out that the "comprehensive agreement" with India is reflective of the "transformative" impact that Free Trade Agreements can make.

It reads: "For example, the UK-India FTA is a landmark trade deal that will drive growth and boost trade with one of the fastest-



growing economies in the world. As soon as the deal comes into force, UK products will benefit from a saving of up to an estimated GBP 400 million a year, from India cutting its tariffs on existing trade alone, which could increase to around GBP 900 million a year after staging over 10 years.

"And that's before factoring in the savings from speedier and easier trade from improved customs and digital commitments. This immediate relief represents a major advantage our businesses will enjoy over their international competitors."

The trade strategy, which complements an Industrial Strategy released earlier this week, is aimed at setting a clear direction for the government's growth and job creation goals.

"What works for business, works for Britain. It means more jobs, more opportunities, and more money in people's pockets. That's why I've backed British industry through global headwinds - securing major trade deals with the US, India and the EU that protect jobs and drive growth right across the country," said British Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

KVK Budgam Convenes 12th Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting

Observer News Service

BUDGAM- Under the aegis of SKUAST-K, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Budgam, convened its 12th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting today at KVK Budgam campus.

SAC meeting serves as a vital platform for reviewing the progress of KVK activities and aligning the upcoming action plan with the real-time needs of the farming community in the district.

The 12th SAC meeting was presided over by Prof. (Dr.) Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K.

In her address, she lauded the efforts of KVK Budgam in building the capacity of farmers and empowering rural youth. She emphasized the importance of close coordination of KVK with line departments, promoting FPOs and cooperative

models for sustainable agricultural development.

She said, KVK Budgam is playing a transformational role in farmer empowerment, innovation transfer, and rural development. Initiatives like FPOs need to be scaled up as sustainable models for self-reliant agriculture and stressed the need to enhance market linkages, adopt climate-resilient practices, and ensure that scientific advisories reach the grassroots level in real time.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Budgam, Afrooza Bano representing district administration praised the efforts of KVK Budgam in reaching farmer communities in far flung areas of district.

Prof. Lyaqat Ali I/C KVK Coordination Cell Directorate of Extension SKUAST-K interacted with officials of line department and progressive farmers for feedback.

DC Bandipora Inspects Work On Kashmir Valley's First Goat Farm

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Thursday inspected the ongoing construction work of Kashmir Valley's maiden goat farm, a first-of-its-kind project aimed at promoting dairy goat farming in the district.

The ambitious project is being developed with financial support from NABARD, with an allocated cost of Rs.8.36 crore, and an allocation of Rs.3.5 crore under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). The farm is being established exclusively for the promotion of dairy goat farming, and is expected to play a key role in introducing and expanding this sector in Kashmir.

On the occasion, it was informed that the farm will house 450 Swiss Alpine goats, known for their high milk yield and adaptability. The facility is designed to serve as a breeding centre besides to supply quality breeds to

private sector entrepreneurs, enabling them to launch goat farming ventures with significant returns and government-backed support.

During the visit, DC expressed satisfaction over the progress of the work and appreciated the efforts of the concerned departments in bringing this pioneering project to life. He urged the executing agencies to expedite the remaining work to ensure timely completion.

On the occasion, DC said that the establishment of the goat farm is expected to boost local employment, support entrepreneurship in the dairy sector, and contribute to the larger vision of sustainable and diversified rural livelihood in the district.

DC was accompanied by DDC Member for Arin, Ghulam Mohiddin Rather; District Sheep Husbandry Officer Bandipora; ExEn R&B Bandipora; AEE R&B Bandipora; SDO Bandipora and other senior officials of the district administration during the inspection.

Women Artisans Acquainted With Modern Branding & Packaging Techniques

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir successfully conducted a one-day capacity-building workshop on Branding and Packaging under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative.

The workshop was held to enhance the marketing potential of traditional Kashmiri crafts and support local women artisans in reaching wider markets.

Around 100 women artisans, including those associated with Meeras Carpet Weavers Industrial Co-operative Limited, the registered proprietor of Carpet GI and other craft clusters from Srinagar district, participated with great enthusiasm.

Faculty members from the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Srinagar including Dr. Yasir, Syed Azhar, and Shashi Ranjan led engag-

ing sessions that focused on practical aspects of modern branding, design innovation, and sustainable packaging.

These sessions equipped the artisans with valuable tools and knowledge to enhance the visual appeal and marketability of their products, especially those covered under the GI, ODOF, and DEH schemes.

NOTICE

I Adil Nazir R/o Sheesh Bagh Ellahi Bagh have lost my passport somewhere, Bearing **Passport No.1711727**. Now I want to its duplicate, Regard this if anybody is having any kind of objection, he/she may file to the **PASSPORT OFFICE SRINAGAR** within a week at the most.

Media Line Advt

SC Issues Guidelines For Retention, Disposal Of Records

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi:The Supreme Court on Thursday issued guidelines for retention and disposal of documents to create accountability and efficiency across all registry wings.

The top court highlighted a lacuna over the management of administrative records.

In a message, Chief Justice of India B R Gavai said over the years, the registry of the Supreme Court has witnessed a significant increase in the volume and diversity of administrative records generated across multiple branches.

"While judicial records pertaining to case proceedings are governed by explicit provisions contained in Order LVI of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013, and further elaborated in Chapter XXI of the Handbook on Practice and Office Procedure of the Supreme Court of India, 2017, a lacuna has persisted with respect to the management of administrative records," he said.

The CJI continued, "This disparity leads to inconsistent practices across branches, affecting archival clarity and efficiency. The 'Guidelines for Retention and Destruction of Records 2025' aim to remedy this by promoting coherence, accountability, and efficiency in managing administrative records, including institutional decisions, policy implementations, inter-departmental correspondences, audits, and engagements with external stakeholders."

CJI Gavai underscored the importance of properly managing these records for transparency and accountability and guidelines to establish a rational framework.

"Operational efficiency is enhanced by the systematic elimination of obsolete documents, easing storage burdens and improving record retrieval speed. The Guidelines ensure compliance with audit and statutory obligations by defining appropriate retention periods based on fiscal, legal, an administrative



relevance. They are aligned with national public record management standards."

The guidelines were stated to have borne out of detailed

consultations among registrars and officials of the registry.

"I place on record my sincere appreciation for the efforts of Pradip Y. Ladekar, Registrar

at the Supreme Court, who played the instrumental role in drafting these Guidelines. He was ably supported by his staff members throughout the

process. I also appreciate Bharat Parashar, Secretary General, and S C Munghate, Officer on Special Duty (in the rank of Secretary General), for their leadership and guidance in steering the Registry through this important initiative," he said.

According to the issued guidelines, original submission notes or paper books bearing signatures of the chief justice of India and judges of the Supreme Court to be preserved permanently.

Further, policy files, office orders and circular files were to be preserved permanently.

"The retention period of the records shall start after the final action or disposal of arbitration, litigation, enquiry or audit as the case may be. All the branches concerned, before destroying files/cases/records will ensure that no court case is pending in respect of the subject matter of the files/cases/records being destroyed/weeded out," it said.

In case the records of one branch or wing were co-related with those a different branch

or records relating to the confidential branch, an intimation on "the pendency of court case is to be sent to them as soon as the court case is received in the section".

Destruction and retention of records by the relevant branches should be carried out after due approval from the registrar concerned, it added.

"The exercise of destruction of record normally be carried out during summer vacation/partial court working days. In case a scanned copy of documents/records is to be preserved beyond the retention period for the reasons to be recorded in writing decision may be taken by the concerned Registrar at the time of destruction of the record(s)," the guidelines said.

It added, "Financial and budget-related documents and files should be maintained separately for each financial year with effect from April 1 to March 31. All other records, registers may be maintained separately for each calendar year, i.e., January 1 to December 31."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

'Not Too Late

the spirit, not just the surface."

He added that the rapid, insensitive pace of modernization has done more damage than gradual evolution ever would have. The solution, he suggested, lies in integrating traditional craftsmanship into modern practice – not by imposing knowledge from elsewhere but by learning to adapt it to the Kashmiri context.

"I may be trained in Delhi or someone else in America – but we can't come back and impose our ideas here. We have to first understand local aspirations, work with artisans, and let a natural architectural evolution take place," Qamar said.

The professor acknowledged the positive signs of revival in recent years – from the reappearance of papier-mâché in hotel interiors to renewed interest in intricate woodwork – but warned against turning these crafts into mere decorative tools in spaces that no longer resemble their cultural origins.

"What's the point of putting Khatamband in a three-storey lobby? The essence is gone. These crafts were once integrated with the way people lived – that's what made them meaningful."

Qamar also addressed a common concern – whether Kashmiri architecture is being taught at all in local institutions. He assured that the IUST School of Architecture does integrate local context into its curriculum through construction studios, design studies, and historical references.

On job prospects for architecture graduates, Qamar offered a pragmatic yet optimistic view. While acknowledging that many government departments have yet to fill vacant architect posts, he emphasized that the future lies in entrepreneurship.

"Architecture has tremendous scope for self-employment. Jobs exist, yes, but we must move beyond dependency. Be job creators, not just job seekers. That's how you'll contribute to both your future and Kashmir's."

Robust Security

this year's pilgrimage, Sinha responded that the attack had affected not just the Yatra but the entire region, especially the valley.

The LG emphasized that robust security arrangements are in place for the 40-day pilgrimage, which is scheduled to begin on July 3 and conclude on August 9. "Three-tier security has been established at the base camps. Area domination exercises and mock drills are underway, and additional police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel have been deployed," he said.

Sinha further mentioned that verification of all service providers has been completed, and he assured both pilgrims and local residents that adequate safety measures are in place.

While pilgrims are permitted to travel in private vehicles, Sinha urged them to move along with the official yatra convoy from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu for security reasons.

Highlighting infrastructure improvements, the LG said the pilgrimage track has been widened from four feet to twelve feet over the past three years. Vulnerable sections have been secured with barriers, and the track is now motorable up to the holy cave, though it will only be used for emergencies.

"Pilgrimage will continue in the same manner as in previous years," Sinha noted, adding that feedback from pilgrims has been largely positive.

Regarding the suspension of helicopter services during this year's yatra,

the LG said the decision was based on safety and security concerns, as well as recent aviation mishaps in other states. "Only eight per cent of the pilgrims were using helicopters," he said.

'SASB Achievements'

Listing the significant achievements of the SASB in the last two years in creating pilgrims-centric facilities, LG said, "Previously narrow and steep Yatra tracks along both the routes have been widened to around 12 feet in most of the stretches. Kalimata stretch, which was previously very narrow and with steep gradient, has been widened to almost 12 feet, with much gentler slope. Safer Yatra tracks with stronger safety handrails all along whole of Baltal track and 20+ km on vulnerable stretches on Pahalgam track," he said.

Asked whether these are motorable tracks, LG Sinha said, "Yatra will be held as it was conducted earlier and pilgrims will reach the holy cave as they used to in earlier days. Ant vehicles will ply only in case of emergency."

The Lieutenant Governor said that grid power connectivity along whole of Baltal track till holy cave and from holy cave to Panjarni has been achieved. "The grid connectivity on remaining stretch of Pahalgam track is being started," he said, adding that enhanced accommodation for pilgrims has been created at SASB's Yatri Niwas complexes at Baltal (800), Nunwan (900) and Pantha chowk (1000)."

"Digital pre-paid system for hiring of various services like pony, pithu, palki would be available for pilgrims. At the holy cave, the wooden darshan platform has been replaced with stainless steel platform of appropriate alignment and height with wood flooring and additional row. Now, pilgrims would be able to have darshans simultaneously in four rows. This shall facilitate better and hassle free darshans," he added.

"Installation of Canopy over the stairs at the Holy Cave for the comfort and protection of yatriis from rain/snowfall/ scorching sun," LG said.

He said that the clinical bed capacity of health care facilities at Panjarni and upper camps has been expanded substantially this year. "Integrated Command and Control Centres have been established and deployment of J&K Police and CAPFs Personnel have been increased. Vulnerable spots were identified and dedicated measures have been taken to ensure the safety of the pilgrims," he said, adding, "100-bedded hospitals are functional at both the axis. Yatri Niwas at Baltal and Pahalgam axis are being developed for the convenience of the devotees. Special focus has been laid on cleanliness and making the yatra more sustainable. Prasad counters have been established at holy cave. Foot over bridge at Nunwan base camp, Cloak rooms, e-rickshaw and other such facilities have been extended for the pilgrims and service providers," LG Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the role of media persons and the local residents of J&K in the smooth and successful conduct of the yatra.

180 Companies Of

Pahalgam route in the Anantnag district and the 14-km shorter but steeper Baltal route in the Ganderbal district -- on July 3.

The first batch of pilgrims will leave for Kashmir from Jammu's Bhagwati Nagar base camp a day before the start of the annual yatra.

"Police are alert to ensure the security of every (Amarnath) pilgrim. Five districts (Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur and Ramban) form a circuit through which the yatra passes (in Jammu region). The CAPF personnel

have reached here and their total deployment is 180 companies which is 30 more than the last year," the IGP said.

Talking to reporters after flagging off an anti-drug awareness tableau from district police lines on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking here, he said they have increased the deployment from Lakhnampur in Kathua – the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir border Punjab to Jammu.

"We have also introduced Road Opening Patrols and also covered the area which used to have skeleton deployment in the past," Tuti said.

The Jammu police chief said Jammu and Kashmir is a sensitive region and the deployment has been made keeping the requirement in mind.

"My appeal to Amarnath pilgrims intending to plan their yatra from Jammu to join the official convoy rather than travelling independently to the valley," the IGP said.

Two convoys traditionally leave Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu for Pahalgam and Baltal under tight security arrangements on a daily basis during the yatra period.

On the efforts to curb drug menace in the region, he said Jammu and Kashmir is a border state. (PTI)

Muharram Observances

coordinating logistics for religious processions that will be held over the first ten days of the month.

"Muharram is not just about grief. It teaches us courage and standing up for the truth," said Kifiyat, a mourner from Srinagar's Bemina area. In Budgam, Tahir, another youth, echoed the sentiment, saying, "This month brings pain but also strength. Through Imam Hussain's sacrifice, we teach our children the value of resistance and righteousness."

Religious scholars are expected to deliver special sermons over the coming days, emphasizing themes of justice, unity, and sacrifice. Traditional mourning processions are likely to be held in Srinagar's Zadibal, Hassanabad, Shalimar, Lal Bazar, Dal interiors, Bemina and other Shia-populated areas across Kashmir.

Meanwhile, district administrations have been holding review meetings to ensure smooth observance. Officials said arrangements related to traffic diversions, medical services, and sanitation have been put in place, with close coordination between local authorities and religious bodies.

The days ahead are expected to witness large congregations, as the Valley's Shia community commemorates one of the most profound events in Islamic history.

Patwari Penalised

and requisite approvals for prosecution, the charges of corruption were confirmed.

Based on the inquiry report, the Financial Commissioner ordered that three annual increments of the official be withheld, a penalty that will directly impact his future promotions. In addition, Bhat has been barred from holding any sensitive postings for a period of five years.

'Amarnath Yatra:

facilities and services, this year's pilgrimage promises to be memorable and spiritually enriching for devotees. It will also mark the beginning of a new chapter for Jammu and Kashmir," Sinha said.

He welcomed the suggestions and inputs received from the political leaders and sought their cooperation to make the yatra more convenient and hassle-free for the devotees.

"The leaders of all political parties are members of the Jammu and Kashmir family, and I believe the pilgrimage to Amarnath Ji is the socio-cultural responsibility of this family. We must walk shoulder to shoulder with a resolve to welcome all devotees and make the yatra a huge success," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The chief minister and all the senior leaders reiterated their commitment and assured all support to the holy pilgrimage, an official spokesperson said.

The Amarnath Yatra is woven into Jammu and Kashmir's composite culture and is also crucial for the region's economy. The smooth and successful conduct of this sacred pilgrimage is our shared responsibility, the leaders said.

They also urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to warmly welcome the devotees.

Condemning the Pahalgam attack, the leaders said the way the people of the Valley, irrespective of their political ideologies, came out on the streets against terrorism sent a strong message to the adversary that violence has no place in the Kashmiri society, according to the spokesperson.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari said the Amarnath yatra is part of Kashmiri tradition, and it has to be made successful.

"However, there is a need to ensure that the locals do not face any problems and the local stakeholders do not feel left out," Bukhari said.

A Year On, Grazing

(Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. Locals say the order has not been followed on the ground.

Several residents from Branwar and Jabbad, including Abdul Rashid Gorsi, Gulam Mohammad Thekrey, Shabir Jahara, and Ali Mohammad Jahara, said that the authorities seem to be siding with a few influential families. These families, they allege, have leased out large parts of the meadows to grazers from Rajouri and Poonch, while the locals are left waiting.

A copy of the court order shows that the villagers led by Gulam Qadir Thekrey were asked to use other meadows until the gram sabha was held. But Thekrey said these other pastures are already occupied by many shepherds and cover only about 30 percent of the total grazing area. He said Chaskaninaad makes up the remaining 70 percent and is vital for their animals.

"We don't understand why three or four families are allowed to use the entire Chaskaninaad meadow, which is about 1,000 acres (8,000 kanals), while more than 100 families like ours are asked to go to smaller, already occupied areas," said Ali Mohammad Jahara from Jabbad, Branwar. "The shepherds in lower areas like Ayud, Korag, Diskhal, Bodangan, and Zandkabar are not letting us graze our sheep there. Where are we supposed to go? Chaskaninaad is a vast valley, more than 50,000 kanals if you include its hillocks, but we are not being allowed to use it."

The villagers recently met with the Deputy Commissioner of Budgam, who instructed the SDM Chadoora to hold the gram sabha. The SDM has passed directions to the BDO Surasyar, but the villagers say the process is moving very slowly.

"Shepherds hired by people from Branwar, Neegu, and Jabbad have already taken about 2,000 sheep to Chaskaninaad," Jahara said. "There are only a few Bakewell families there now, and most of the land is open. Still, the authorities are telling us to leave."

Jahara said the government often talks about giving rights to tribal communities, but their experience has

been different.

"They say the Forest Rights Act is for our protection, but the way we are being treated is unfair. I request the DGP and IGP to step in," he said. "We want the gram sabha to be held soon, as the court ordered. If we lose, we will not return to Chaskaninaad. But if we win, we should not be harassed anymore."

Centre Revives

for people who currently face road closures during harsh winters. The Sudhmahadev-Dranga Tunnel would connect Chenani with Khilani, improving road access to the remote Doda region, where landslides often block existing roads.

People living in the Chenab Valley and parts of south Kashmir have been asking for these tunnels for years. Seasonal isolation and poor road infrastructure have made travel difficult, cutting communities off from each other and from essential services.

If the PIB gives its financial nod, both projects could finally move from the drawing board to the ground, bringing much-needed development and easing travel across some of Jammu and Kashmir's most difficult terrains.

Let Talks Conclude

demand for a tunnel on the Mughal Road to ensure year-round connectivity. Similarly, the Sadhna Pass tunnel for Tangdhar, which was pending for years, has also been approved," he said, noting that several other projects have also received the green light.

"₹10,600 crore is a significant amount. However, we must now push for other essential projects like a tunnel for Gurez, which is still pending," Omar added.

Addressing NCC cadets from across the country, Omar praised the values inculcated through the corps, calling it a platform for discipline, self-confidence, and lifelong bonds.

"The NCC instills patriotism and builds relationships that help shape young lives. Ten cadets recently scaled Mount Everest – two of them from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. That's a remarkable achievement," he said.

He encouraged more young people from the Union Territory to join the NCC and act as ambassadors for the region. "When you return home, tell your friends, neighbours, and families about the real Kashmir – its hospitality, its culture, and its beauty beyond headlines," he said.

Reflecting on the recent Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, Omar acknowledged the pain felt across the region. "This year has brought us grief we hoped never to face again. But even in our darkest hours, hope remains. There is light at the end of every tunnel," he said.

Calling the presence of young cadets from across the country a "morale booster" for the people of the valley, Omar urged the NCC to continue holding such camps and even include train journeys to help cadets witness the engineering feats connecting Kashmir with the rest of India.

"These camps are more than training or cultural exchange. They represent the living spirit of India – unity in diversity. As long as we nurture this spirit, no challenge can break us," he said.

Terrorist Killed

and we have been tracking (this group) for the last one year," he told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

He said a search operation was going on despite foggy conditions, and the real picture would emerge once the weather improves.

Officials added that the trapped terrorists are members of the Pakistan-based JeM and were found hiding near

Karoor nullah by the joint search party led by the army's para commandos.

Earlier in the day, Jammu-based White Knight Corps of the Army said on X, "Based on specific intelligence, a joint operation was launched by Indian Army and J&K Police in the Bihali area of Basantgarh. Contact has been established with terrorists. The operation is currently in progress."

Besides, security forces conducted a search operation in the Purmandal area of Samba district late on Wednesday following reports of suspicious activity. However, the operation concluded peacefully after nothing was found on the ground, officials said.

1.3 Million Drug

numbers are reported to be using cocaine, amphetamine stimulants, and hallucinogens.

The adult population is also heavily affected. Among the 11.8 lakh adults aged between 18 and 75 who are substance users in J&K, 4.47 lakh are addicted to opioids, 3.54 lakh consume alcohol, 1.51 lakh use sedatives, and 1.36 lakh rely on cannabis. There are also increasing reports of use of more dangerous synthetic drugs including cocaine, hallucinogens, and stimulants.

Widespread Impact and Urgent Concerns

The numbers have rattled activists and social workers, who say the impact is being felt in every corner of society.

"Addiction is touching every household now – directly or indirectly," said Firdous Ahmad, a Srinagar-based activist. "We're seeing children as young as 12 being brought in for counselling."

Others point to overburdened rehab centres, understaffed facilities, and widespread social stigma, which often delays treatment and worsens outcomes.

A de-addiction counsellor from south Kashmir said:

"Stigma prevents families from seeking help. By the time they act, the addiction has often become severe. We need school-level interventions and trained counsellors in every institution."

Policy Gap and Implementation Lapses

The National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), launched by the central government in 2018, was designed to support awareness, prevention, and rehabilitation efforts across the country. While it includes skill development and livelihood support for recovering addicts, experts on the ground in J&K say the scheme's implementation remains uneven and lacks urgency.

Experts and activists are now urging the Jammu and Kashmir administration to urgently formulate a dedicated Drug De-addiction and Youth Rehabilitation Policy. They are calling for an expansion of mental health and rehabilitation infrastructure, integration of addiction-related education and intervention in schools and colleges, strict regulation of pharmaceutical drug misuse, and community-level programmes aimed at prevention and early detection.

Despite the grim figures, professionals say the battle is still winnable – but only if the issue is treated as an immediate public health emergency. "The stigma must go. Families need to be supported, not blamed. And above all, the government must move fast. If we delay, we are not just risking lives, we are risking the future of Kashmir itself," said one counsellor.

With nearly 14 lakh people affected – including a growing number of minors – the numbers reflect not just a crisis, but a generational catastrophe in the making. (inputs from KNO)

ICC Introduces Stop Clock In New WTC Cycle

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: The ICC has introduced stop clock in Test cricket to deal with slow over rates while allowing fielding teams to decide which batter should be on strike in case of a 'deliberate' short-run as part of the playing conditions for 2025-27 World Test Championship cycle.

The new rules have been implemented from the 2025-2027 World Test Championship which got underway with the first of the two Tests between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in Galle.

According to the ICC Test Match Playing Conditions on the governing body's website, the use of the stop clock — like in limited-overs cricket — has been implemented to eradicate the issue of slow over-rate.

"The fielding side shall be ready to start each over within 60 seconds of the previous over being completed. An electronic clock will be displayed at the ground that counts up seconds from zero to 60," the ICC said.

The fielding side will thus be given two warnings and in case of a third infraction, the batting side will be awarded with five penalty runs.

These warnings will be reset to zero after the completion of

80 overs, the ICC said.

Meanwhile, ESPNcricinfo reported that the ICC no longer mandates the umpires to change the ball once they discover saliva on it. The ban on the use of saliva remains in force.

The website said fielding teams may deliberately apply saliva on the ball to force a ball-change but the current document available on playing



carried out in a chronological order, effectively as per the order of their occurrence.

The ICC instructed that in case of a second review of a decision adjudged 'out' by an on-field umpire, the default decision for the subsequent mode of dismissal will remain 'out'.

For example, if a batter challenges an on-field call for caught-

behind and is adjudged not out with the replays showing the ball hit the pads, the TV umpire would subsequently turn to see if the batter was out leg-before.

In such a scenario, the default decision for this mode of dismissal will be 'out' and if the ball-tracking shows 'umpire's call', the batter will be given 'out'.

The ICC said the TV umpire will now review the fairness of

a catch taken off a no-ball. In case if a fair catch, the batting side will get an extra run for the no-ball and in case the catch is not cleanly taken, the batting side would get the runs the batters would have taken.

In previous edition of the playing conditions, the TV umpire was not needed to look into the fairness of a catch off a no ball.

England Add Jofra Archer To Squad For 2nd Test v India



England on Thursday added fast bowler Jofra Archer to their squad for the second Test against India, starting here from July 2.

Archer has struggled with elbow-related injury to his bowling arm over the last several years. He last played in a Test more than four years ago against India in Ahmedabad.

"The 30-year-old right-arm quick returns to the England Test set-up for the first time since February 2021 and will be looking to add to his 13 Test caps at Edgbaston next week," the ECB said in a statement. England lead five-match series 1-0 after defeating India in the opening Test by five wickets at Leeds.

England squad: Ben Stokes (c), Ollie Pope (vc), Harry Brook, Joe Root, Ben Duckett, Zak Crawley, Jamie Smith (wk), Sam Cook, Jacob Bethell, Jofra Archer, Shoaib Bashir, Brydon Carse, Jamie Overton, Josh Tongue, Chris Woakes. (PTI)

Suryakumar Undergoes Sports Hernia Surgery

India's T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav has undergone a successful surgery for a sports hernia in his lower right abdomen in Munich, Germany.

PTI had reported last week that Suryakumar was suffering from sports hernia in his right lower abdomen and will go under the knife if required.

"Life Update: Underwent surgery for a sports hernia in the lower right abdomen. Grateful to share that after a smooth surgery, I'm already on the road to recovery. Can't wait to be back," the 34-year-old batter wrote on his social media handle on Wednesday.

A sports hernia is a soft tissue injury in the groin or lower abdomen, often involving muscles, tendons, or ligaments.

Following the surgery in Germany, he is expected to begin rehabilitation at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru in about two weeks.

India's next white-ball assignment is a tour of Bangladesh in August, which will have three ODIs and three T20Is.

Suryakumar, who hasn't featured in the 50-over format since the 2023 World Cup final, is expected to return to lead the T20I side in Chattogram on August 26.

IGU Gets Ministry Backing For Indian Golf Premier League

The Sports Ministry has given the Indian Golf Union (IGU) the go ahead to organise the inaugural edition of the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) in January next year.

The League will be organised in partnership with Bharat Golf Private Limited.

The ministry nod came after IGU Director Major General (Retd) Bibhuti Bhushan, along with members of the IGPL Board and Women's Golf Association of India (WGAI) secretary general Champika Sayal, met Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of Tourism and Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat here on Wednesday.

"The IGPL will be organised in January 2026. Through IGPL we will scout and nurture world-class golf talent who will proudly represent Bharat on the global stage," Bhushan said.

IGPL will be a city-based franchise league which will have both amateurs and professionals playing in a team format.

"The IGPL envisions providing international standard training facilities and coaching to over 10 lakh school and college students in the next three years."

Mandaviya had recently spoken about promoting a league culture in Indian sports and had promised ministry's assistance for this.

Mbappé Files Harassment Complaint Against PSG

Kylian Mbappé has accused Paris Saint-Germain of moral harassment in a legal filing, the Paris prosecutor's office confirmed on Thursday.

The Real Madrid star is at odds with his former club, arguing PSG owes him 55 million euros (\$61 million) in unpaid wages.

Mbappé is also unhappy with the way he was treated by the Ligue 1 club when the France captain was sidelined before the 2023-24 season, following his decision not to extend his club contract.

The prosecutor's office said Mbappé is "denouncing the lifting" he claimed to have been subjected to at Paris Saint-Germain. "The word lifting is used in France to describe a practice that involves isolating a player from the main squad for sporting, administrative, or disciplinary reasons."

Mbappé joined Real Madrid last summer on a free transfer after scoring a club-record 256 goals in seven years at PSG, which won the Champions League without him this year.

After telling the club he would not extend, Mbappé was left off a preseason tour to Japan and South Korea and forced to train with fringe players.

Tickets For Sydney ODI, Canberra T20I Of India Tour Sold Out

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: India's white-ball tour of Australia is still four months away but Cricket Australia (CA) has already sold more than 90,000 tickets for eight matches with third ODI in Sydney and first Twenty20 in Canberra completely sold out.

India will travel Down Under in October-November to compete in three ODIs -- starting October 19 in Perth -- and five T20 Internationals -- the last one in Brisbane on November 8.

"The Australia vs India white ball series in October/November has generated immense excitement among cricket fans, particularly from the Indian diaspora," the CA said in a statement.

"The public ticket allocation for the SCG ODI and Manuka Oval (Canberra) T20I were exhausted four months prior to the match highlighting the huge demand for these matches, while the MCG T20I and Gabba T20I are also proving popular."

"Following record ticket sales for the Ashes, the white ball matches are also in high demand, with over 90,000 tickets sold to the eight matches after just two

weeks of public sales."

According to CA, more than 16 per cent of the tickets sold so far have been purchased by Indian fan clubs. "Bharat Army has been one of the most active fan clubs, purchasing over 2,400 tickets. Fans India has also shown significant enthusiasm, buying more than 1,400 tickets," it said.

"Additionally, Amit Goyal from Brissy Baniyas, an Aggarwal community has acquired 880 tickets for the Gabba T20I, becoming the highest individual buyer for a single match, while Indian Community of Gold Coast and Pakka Local has purchased over 500 tickets for the Gold Coast and MCG T20Is each."

Joel Morrison, Executive General Manager Events & Operations Cricket Australia, said there has been "extreme interest" among the fans "in what promises to be the biggest ever summer of cricket".

"We are thrilled to see continued strong engagement amongst Indian diaspora off the back of a record-breaking Border-Gavaskar series last summer. The forecast strong turnout of Australian and Indian fans means we'll again have a fantastic atmosphere at each match."



Taekwondo Cup Concludes; Bareena Bags Boxing Silver At Nationals



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Taekwondo Association Cup 2025 concluded on Thursday with a closing ceremony at Sher-e-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex here.

The closing ceremony was graced by Nusrat Gazala, Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir (J&K Sports Council), Ramesh Chander Sharma, General Secretary, JKTA, extended his heartfelt gratitude to Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council.

Meanwhile, young boxing sensation Bareena brought laurels to J&K by winning silver at the 6th Junior National Boxing Championship held in Rohtak, Haryana. She was also awarded the prestigious title of Best Promising Boxer of the Tournament.

Organised by the J&K Taekwondo Association under the aegis of the J&K Sports Council, the two-day Taekwondo Cup witnessed participation of around

700 players from all districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Congratulating Bareena and all participants of the Taekwondo Cup, Sarmad Hafeez (IAS), Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, J&K, said:

"Our athletes continue to shine at the national stage, and this reflects the growing strength of the sports ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. We believe that sports bring health, confidence, and peace to society, and the administration remains committed to empowering youth through sports."

Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, added:

"It is heartening to witness the rising graph of participation and performance of our young athletes. We are committed to providing them with world-class opportunities, and more such national and domestic competitions will be organized across J&K in the coming months to foster sporting excellence."

Ronaldo Extends Contract With Al-Nassr For 2 More Years

Associated Press

RIYADH: Cristiano Ronaldo signed a two-year contract extension with Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr on Thursday.

The Portugal great's deal lets him continue playing until at least the age of 42 and will give him the chance to add to his record-breaking career.

"A new chapter begins. Same passion, same dream. Let's make history together," Ronaldo said in a social media post.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner moved to Saudi Arabia at the end of 2022 in one of the most shocking transfers in soccer his-

tory after leaving Manchester United. The spectacular deal was reportedly worth up to \$200 million a year and led to a slew of top players leaving Europe for the oil-rich kingdom, including Neymar and Karim Benzema.

Ronaldo sparked uncertainty about his future at the end of the Saudi season last month when announcing the "chapter is over." But the announcement on Thursday put an end to speculation about his next move. "Al-Nassr forever," he said in a video accompanying the announcement.

The deal is evidence the 40-year-old former Real Madrid forward wants to achieve more

in what has been one of the finest soccer careers of all time.

The five-time Champions League winner has just added another trophy to his collection after helping Portugal lift the UEFA Nations League — and it is likely he will still be representing his country at next year's World Cup.

In all, Ronaldo has won 28 major trophies with club and country. He is the all-time leading scorer in the Champions League with 141 goals.

But trophies have been harder to come by in Saudi Arabia where he has had only limited success.

His one trophy so far was the Arab Club Champions Cup in

2023 and Al-Nassr is still to win the Saudi Pro League in three attempts with Ronaldo in the team.

Still, his latest deal was hailed by the club, which posted a video of him walking on a beach with the caption "The Story continues..." along with emojis of a goat and a gold heart.

Ronaldo is considered by many to be soccer's greatest of all time, a term often abbreviated as GOAT.

He and Lionel Messi have had a years-long rivalry as the two finest players of their generation, with the duel reaching its peak when they played for Madrid and Barcelona respectively.



Space travel alters world view... planet Earth belongs to everyone: Rakesh Sharma

Press Trust of India

Astronaut Rakesh Sharma, the first Indian to journey into space in 1984, said space travel alters the mindset of humans and makes them see the world from a perspective that "this planet belongs to everyone" and is not the sole preserve of anyone.

He shared his thoughts in a recorded podcast shared by the Ministry of Defence on the day India returned to space after 41 years, as Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla from India and three other astronauts set forth on a landmark space odyssey on Wednesday.

Sharma had spent eight days in orbit in the erstwhile Soviet Union's Salyut-7 space station in 1984.

Shukla scripted history by embarking on space travel, along with three others from the US, Poland and Hungary, to the International Space Station as part of a commercial mission by Axiom Space.

In the podcast released Wednesday night, Sharma, who had famously said, 'Sare Jehan Se Acha...' during his time in the orbit, said he was a test pilot in the Indian Air Force when the selection happened.

He later retired as wing commander from the IAF.

"Because I was a test pilot when the selection happened... that time, I was young, I was fit, and I had the qualification, so I was lucky enough to have been chosen. Then, after selection, we moved to Star City, just outside Moscow, for our training.

"The training went on for 18 months, which culminated in the Indo-Soviet spaceflight in 1984. It was an eight-day mission, and we carried out experiments which were designed by Indian scientists," he said.

Sharma recalled that the entire training, and communication with crew members and mission control while they were in orbit, was in Russian.

"We had to learn the language before we started training, and that was not easy because of the paucity of time. So, we took about two months to learn the language," he said.

While the Indo-Soviet space-flight took place in an analogue

era when very few owned a television, the Axiom-4 mission lift-off was watched by people on TV screens and mobile phones live across the globe.

After multiple delays, Elon Musk's SpaceX launch vehicle with Crew Dragon spacecraft atop a Falcon-9 rocket blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 12:01 pm (IST) carrying mission pilot Shukla, former NASA astronaut Commander Peggy Whitson and mission specialists Tibor Kapu of Hungary and Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland.

"Kamaal ki ride thi (It was an amazing ride)," Shukla said 10 minutes after the Dragon spacecraft was placed in orbit around the Earth at an altitude of 200 km as part of the Axiom Mission 4(Ax-4).

In the podcast, Sharma, when asked how he felt watching the world and India from space, exclaimed, "Oh dear! Beautiful." "In our country, we got everything: we got a long coastline, we got the ghats section, we got plains, we got tropical forests, we got mountains, Himalayas. It's a beautiful sight, different colours, different textures," he said.

Sharma said in space, days and nights are very unusual, as sunrises and sunsets happen at an interval of just 45 minutes.

He said while space travel technology has changed, "as humans, we haven't changed much".

"The mental impact will always be there because humans will be able to get a different perspective. It does kind of alter the world view... (shows) the vast place in universe," the veteran astronaut said.

It changes the mindset, he emphasised.

The IAF, in a post on X, said Shukla has set forth on a landmark space mission, carrying the pride of the nation beyond Earth.

It also said, "This is a déjà-vu moment for India, 41 years after the mission of Sqn Ldr Rakesh Sharma, who first carried our Tricolour beyond Earth. Being more than a mission - it is a reaffirmation of India's ever-expanding horizon." Asked about the future of Indian space travel, Sharma said, "We will be going farther and farther from planet Earth."

Who Is the Woman Behind Zohran Mamdani's Rise?



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: As New York City's political world reels from the unexpected primary victory of Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani over former Governor Andrew Cuomo, attention is turning not only to the 33-year-old democratic socialist but also to his wife — the low-profile yet increasingly influential artist Rama Duwaji.

Duwaji, 27, is a Syrian American animator and illustrator whose evocative, politically charged work has graced the pages and platforms of major global outlets including The New Yorker, The Washington Post, BBC, Apple, Spotify, and the Tate Modern. On Election Night, she stood quietly beside Mamdani as he delivered his victory speech, her presence a rare but poignant moment in a campaign where she has largely remained out of the spotlight.

She later posted just four words on Instagram: "couldn't possibly be prouder," alongside a black-and-white photo booth strip with Mamdani and a voting selfie. For her nearly 92,000 followers, the post was quintessential Duwaji — intimate, artistic, and deeply personal.

A Creative Voice with Political Roots

Born in Texas and raised with

strong ties to Damascus, Syria, Duwaji's art bridges her bicultural identity. Though her Instagram once listed her location as Damascus, the campaign clarifies she is "ethnically Syrian." Her creative focus spans sisterhood, Arab identity, and political resistance — particularly through a pro-Palestinian lens.

Her illustrations often critique U.S. complicity in Israeli actions and highlight issues of ethnic cleansing and violence in Gaza. One animation, shared by Mamdani, questions the financial ties between New York-based charities and alleged Israeli war crimes. In interviews, she has cited Nina Simone as an influence, echoing the belief that "an artist's duty is to reflect the times."

In addition to her digital work, Duwaji handcrafts ceramics — especially blue-and-white illustrated plates — offering a tactile, introspective contrast to her politically charged animation.

Love, Art, and Politics

The couple met on the dating app Hinge several years ago — a detail Mamdani playfully recounted in a recent podcast appearance: "I met my wife on Hinge so there is still hope in those dating apps," he laughed.

Their relationship evolved quietly but with depth. They

held a private engagement and Islamic Nikkah ceremony in Dubai in December 2024, followed by a civil wedding at the New York City Clerk's office earlier this year. One of Mamdani's social media posts shows the couple dressed elegantly on a Manhattan subway platform at Union Square, bouquet in hand, the moment as authentically New York as it was tender.

From Studio to Gracie Mansion?

If Mamdani wins the general election this November, Duwaji may soon find herself a resident of Gracie Mansion — though it's unclear how visible she'll choose to be in an official capacity. Her public appearances have been sparse throughout the campaign, but her artistic influence and political voice are undeniable.

As the couple navigates the spotlight of one of America's most-watched mayoral contests, Duwaji seems poised to bring not only her support but also her own vision to the unfolding narrative — one grounded in resistance, reflection, and art.

Whether she's wielding a stylus or a ceramic brush, Rama Duwaji remains a compelling presence behind New York City's potential next First Family — one that, if the votes hold, will look and sound unlike any before it.

Row Over "Silver Plates" At Mumbai Conclave And A "Bankruptcy" Jibe

Press Trust of India

Nagpur: Congress Legislature Party leader in Maharashtra Vijay Wadettiwar claimed on Wednesday estimate committee members were served meal in silver plates at a conclave and called it "extravagant spending" by the Mahayuti government when the state's finances were under strain.

The former state minister also targeted the BJP-led government over "deteriorating" law and order situation in Maharashtra, and what he called "internal contradictions" within the ruling coalition which consists of the BJP, NCP and Shiv Sena.

Speaking to reporters in Nagpur, Mr Wadettiwar questioned the government's priorities, stating, "When the state is virtually on the brink of bankruptcy, what was the need to serve meals in silver plates to members of the Estimates Committees in Mumbai?" He claimed each meal cost Rs 5,000 and so much money was spent by the government at a time when farmers are being denied loan waivers, bonuses are not being paid, and large sections of tribal, social welfare, and Anganwadi schemes are allegedly facing budget cuts.

Mumbai hosted a two-day conference of the Estimates Committees of Parliament and states from June 23. The event, held at Vidhan Bhavan (legislative complex) in south Mumbai, saw participation of chairpersons and members of such panels of Parliament, states and Union Territory legislatures.

These financial committees, at the central and state/UT level, examine the expenditure estimates for each administrative department in respective budgets and also utilisation of funds.

"A majority of farmers in Vidarbha have been denied fresh crop loans. Anganwadi workers (who look after child care centres) aren't paid honorarium on time, and funds for schemes like the Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana remain pending. Yet, the government chooses to serve meals to estimates committee members in silver plates," Mr Wadettiwar said.

The opposition legislator

maintained this act was nothing, but an insult to the poor.

His party colleague and Maharashtra Congress president Harshwardhan Sapkal also hit out at the Mahayuti government over the issue of "meal in silver plates".

"They (estimates committee delegation members) feasted on Rs 5,000 meal served in Rs 550 worth of silver plate each. Was the fund spent linked to the money found in the Dhule government guest house when the state estimates committee was touring?" the MPCC chief asked in Mumbai.

Last month, a huge amount of cash was recovered from a room in the government guest house in Dhule district ahead of the visit of state estimates committee members.

"They have no money for farmers' loan waivers or even Rs 2,100 for a poor sister, but they have no shortage of funds for lavish banquets," Mr Sapkal remarked.

Citing an incident in Pune, where a BJP office-bearer allegedly molested a policewoman, CLP leader Wadettiwar questioned the Mahayuti government's moral authority to uphold law and order.

"If even women police personnel are not safe, what does that say about law and order? The Chief Minister (who also holds the home portfolio) is from the BJP. Will women get justice when BJP men are accused of such acts?" he asked.

Raising concerns over the recently approved Maharashtra Shaktipeeth Expressway, Wadettiwar pointed to growing opposition among farmers, whose lands are likely to be acquired for the mega project.

"Some ministers in the Cabinet opposed the project, but that's not enough. If Hasan Mushrif and Prakash Aitkar (both ministers) truly object to it, they should quit the government. Mere token dissent while clinging to power is hypocrisy," the former minister emphasised.

The 802-km-long expressway will link Pavnar in Wardha district (in Vidarbha) with Patradevi in Sindhudurg district on the Maharashtra-Goa border.

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

Achieve financial freedom

Set up Systematic Investment Plans in Exchange Traded Funds (Shariah Based ETF)

Contact: M I Securities – 9906518342 / 9906684475
1, 10 Samad Complex, Ma Link Road, Srinagar, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar – 190001