

No More **Slitted!**

After 3 Decades, Lotus Returns To Wular Lake



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: After nearly three decades, the lotus has returned to Wular Lake in north Kashmir, marking a significant milestone in ecological restoration efforts following the devastating floods of 1992. Once buried under layers of silt, the aquatic plant has now begun

to bloom again, covering parts of the lake in a sea of pink and offering renewed hope for local livelihoods.

Wular Lake is the second largest freshwater lake in Asia that stretches across 200 square kilometres from the foothills of the Haramukh mountain range in Bandipora district to Sopore town in Baramulla. **| More On P6**

Women-Led Growth Vital To Fight Terror, Drugs: LG

Says J&K Witnessing New Dawn Of Empowerment

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that empowering women is central to overcoming the challenges of terrorism, drug addiction, and other social evils in Jammu and Kashmir. He was speaking at the valedictory function of a women's vocational training course held at the Army Goodwill School in Balapur, Shopian.

Addressing the gathering, Sinha emphasised the growing role of women in the region's social and economic landscape, crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for transforming women's empowerment into a mass movement in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The social and economic



upliftment of women has been our top priority. I strongly believe that women-led development will lead us to overcoming challenges like terrorism, drug addiction, and to build a peaceful and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir," the LG said.

He felicitated the women who completed vocational and life skills training at the Balapur centre and five other Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Enhancement Centres located in Pulwama, Kulgam, Budgam, Anantnag, and Pampore. **| More On P6**

'Goodwill Schools Shaping Responsible Citizens'

Describing Army Goodwill Schools as symbols of hope and opportunity for many in remote and far-flung areas, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed remarkable transformation during the past five years.

Addressing the valedictory function of women vocational training course at Army Goodwill School Balapur here in South Kashmir, LG Sinha said, "There was a time when **| More On P6**

School Timings Revised Across Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) has announced a change in school timings across the Kashmir Division, citing improvement in weather conditions and the academic interest of students. The revised schedule will come into effect from Monday, July 14, 2025, and applies to all Government and recognized Private Schools.

As per Order No. 182-DSEK of 2025, issued on July 12, 2025, the new school timings are divided based on geographical location:

Schools within Srinagar Municipal limits: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Schools outside the Municipal limits of Srinagar and in other areas of the Kashmir Province: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The order further emphasizes that "The classes shall be conducted in offline mode only."

The Director of School Education Kashmir has directed all institutions to comply strictly with the new timing guidelines. **| More On P6**

NC Denied Permission to Observe Martyrs' Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Srinagar district administration on Saturday rejected a request by the National Conference (NC) seeking permission to visit the Martyrs' Graveyard at Naqshband Sahib in Nowhatta to pay homage on July 13, observed by the party in remembrance of the 1931 killings.

In its application to the district magistrate, the party had stated that NC president Farooq Abdullah and other senior leaders intended to visit the graveyard to offer tributes to the 22 people who were killed during protests against the rule of the Dogra Maharaja, Hari Singh, on July 13, 1931.

However, the district

administration turned down the request. Srinagar Police confirmed the development through a public advisory posted on social media platform X, stating, "The District Administration Srinagar has denied permission to all applicants intending to proceed towards Khawaja Bazar, Nowhatta on 13th July 2025 (Sunday)."

The advisory further cautioned the public to comply with the directions. "Any violation of these orders shall invite strict legal action under relevant provisions of law," it added.

July 13 was previously a public holiday in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, with official functions held to commemorate the 1931 events. The day was removed **| More On P6**



Kashmiri women weed around maize plants in Budgam.

KO PHOTO / FAISAL BASHIR

Amarnath Yatra Pilgrim Count Nears 2 Lakh Mark

Agencies

Srinagar: As the annual Amarnath Yatra continues smoothly amid tight security and favourable weather, a total of 19,020 pilgrims performed the holy darshan at the sacred cave shrine on Saturday, taking the cumulative figure to 1,82,746, officials said.

According to the figures, Saturday's darshan count included 13,980 males, 4,272 females, 225 children, 103

sadhus, 20 sadhvis, and 420 personnel from security forces.

The pilgrimage entered its tenth day on Saturday and continues to witness a huge influx of devotees from across the country. Officials said the yatra is progressing smoothly, with all necessary arrangements in place to ensure the safety and comfort of the pilgrims.

"Given the current trend, the cumulative pilgrim count is expected to cross the two lakh mark by Sunday. **| More On P6**

Yatri Missing, Rescue Op Launched

A pilgrim from Punjab's Ludhiana City went missing under tragic circumstances during a night trek near Z-Morh along the Baltal route of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra. **| More On P6**

Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Mela

237 Handed Over Job Letters In Jammu

Observer News Service

Jammu: As many as 237 candidates in Jammu and Kashmir were handed appointment letters during the 16th edition of the 'Rozgar Mela' held on Saturday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the event via video conferencing as part of a nationwide employment drive.

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, and Electronics and Information Technology, Jitin Prasada, presided over the Jammu function, organised by the Northern Railway's Jammu division. He handed over the appointment letters to the newly recruited candidates for various government departments and organisations.

Speaking to reporters,

Prasada said the Prime Minister attaches special importance to Jammu and Kashmir. "I am here as part of the prime minister's Rozgar Mela... I am witnessing more focus of the Modi government on J&K which is his top priority," he said.

The minister said he also reviewed the functioning of the industries and IT departments, with a focus on employment generation and boosting local exports. He added that the government is working to organise dedicated buyer-seller meets to facilitate trade in locally manufactured goods, support startups through the Software Technology Park, and create new opportunities for unemployed youth.

As part of the Rozgar Mela initiative, over 51,000 appointment letters were **| More On P6**

Administrative Reshuffle: 7 IAS Officers Transferred

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Lieutenant Governor has ordered the transfer and posting of seven IAS officers, aiming to streamline governance and enhance efficiency across key departments in Jammu and Kashmir. The reshuffle, announced on Saturday, involves senior bureaucrats being assigned new roles with immediate effect.

According to the official order issued by the General Administration Department, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, who was awaiting posting, has been appointed as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Tourism Department. **| More On P6**

J&K Hajj Pilgrims Protest Short Stay, Demand Compensation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Several Hajj pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir have expressed deep disappointment over the unexpected curtailment of their stay in Saudi Arabia, calling it a disruption to their spiritual journey and a cause of financial loss.

In a formal representation submitted to the Executive Officer of the J&K Haj Committee, the affected pilgrims stated that they were initially scheduled for a 40-day stay in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. However, their return was advanced by several days without prior notice.

"Only the batch that departed on May 30 was affected," the representation said, adding that all other pilgrims were allowed to complete their full scheduled stay. "This sudden change resulted in irreparable spiritual loss, as the final days in the holy

city are considered highly significant for prayers, especially at Masjid Al-Haram."

The pilgrims also pointed out that despite paying higher charges compared to pilgrims from other Indian states or countries, they were offered fewer facilities and a shortened Hajj experience.

"For many of us, this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Iftikhar Qadri, one of the pilgrims. "The final few days in Makkah hold immense religious value, and we were deprived of that spiritual fulfilment."

In addition to seeking a formal inquiry into the decision, the pilgrims have demanded financial compensation and accountability from those responsible. They also urged authorities to compensate pilgrims who were housed in accommodations outside the central Markazia area, which is considered **| More On P6**

'Illegal Drug Trade In J&K'

License Of 4 Pharma Firms Cancelled

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have cancelled the licenses of four pharmaceutical firms allegedly involved in the illegal purchase and sale of habit-forming drugs, officials said on Saturday.

The action was initiated by State Drugs Controllercum-Licensing Authority Lotika Khajuria, following inspections of multiple wholesale establishments across the Union Territory.

According to an official spokesperson, enforcement action was taken against Healthways Pharma (Rajouri), Nuegene Pharmaceutical Distributors and N T Traders (Baramulla), and Essence Pharmaceutical Distributors (Srinagar) after they were found to be indulging in "clandestine purchase and sale" of narcotic pharmaceutical preparations, particularly Tapentadol and Pregabalin.

The firms were allegedly sourcing these drugs from neighbouring states without maintaining the mandatory purchase or sale records, violating regulatory protocols designed to prevent the misuse of such substances.

"These drugs are highly addictive and fall under strict regulatory control," the spokesperson said. "The absence of proper documentation and **| More On P6**

Fuel Cutoff, Pilot Confusion Led To Deadly Air India Crash: Report

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Seconds before Air India flight 171 crashed while ascending from Ahmedabad, the fuel control switches of both its engines were cut off, a preliminary investigation report said on Saturday, suggesting a catastrophic pilot error in the cockpit of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

The Airlines Pilots Association of India disagreed with the report, saying the investigation is "shrouded in secrecy," appears to be biased against the pilot and has come to a



AIR INDIA DID NOT CARRY OUT INSPECTIONS recommended in the 2018 FAA advisory on fuel control switch safety

conclusion hastily.

A 15-page preliminary investigation report into the disaster revealed fuel-control switches of the two engines moved from the "run" to the "cutoff" position, within the space of one second, leading to immediate loss of altitude.

In the cockpit voice recording, one pilot is heard asking the other why he cut off the fuel. The other denied having done so.

The report by Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AIB), released early on Saturday, neither concluded any reason for

the switches moving nor apportioned explicit blame for the crash.

It also did not identify the pilots in the voice recording. But it also said no fault was found in the aircraft, leaving only the possibility of pilot error as the cause.

At the controls was First Officer Clive Kunder, 32, while Sumeet Sabharwal, a veteran with 30 years of experience at Air India, was the senior cockpit occupant in command monitoring the flight.

The report, however, referenced a 2018 airworthiness **| More On P6**

Sole Survivor Seeks Psychiatric Help

KO Web Desk

To the world, he may be seen as extraordinarily lucky. But to 40-year-old Vishwas Kumar Ramesh, the lone survivor of the Air India crash on June 12, survival has come at an unbearable cost.

Vishwas, an Indian-origin British national, was the only person to walk away alive after Flight AI171, a London-bound Boeing 787 Dreamliner, crashed seconds after taking off from

Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport. The crash claimed the lives of 241 passengers and crew members on board and 19 people on the ground. Among the dead was his younger brother, Ajay.

Vishwas was seated on 11A, near the emergency door on the left side of the aircraft. That detail, seemingly insignificant at the time of boarding, likely saved his life.

"Luckily, the portion of the plane where I was seated fell on the ground floor of **| More On P6**



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KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Sunday | 13-07-2025

2

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer id no: 0204040004177 from Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh to Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh S/o Late Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Electric Sub Divisioni Hawal Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh S/o Late Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh R/o Lalbazar Srinagar inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer id no: 0203010010023 from Ghulam Mohammad Ganaie to Tanveer Ahamd Dar S/O Ab Rahim Dar . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Electric Sub Divisioni Watal Kadal Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Tanveer Ahamd Dar S/O Ab Rahim Dar R/o Housing Colony B inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer id no: 0203010006008 from Ghulam Nabi Wani to Fayaz Ahamd S/o Ghulam Mohammad R/o Iqbal Abad Bemina . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Electric Sub Divisioni Watal Kadal Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Fayaz Ahamd S/o Ghulam Mohammad R/o Iqbal Abad Bemina inf

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Sajad Ul Nabi s/o Gh Nabi Bhat R/o Buran pattan with verified date of birth 04/04/1985 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD

fko

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

PUBLIC NOTICE..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Zakeer Ali Malla s/o Mohammad Maqbool Malla R/o Kripalpora Payeen with verified date of birth 13/06/2024 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD

fko

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Mohammad Zaid Yatoo s/o Hilal Ahmad Yatoo R/o Yadipora palhallan with verified date of birth 25/05/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD

fko

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

Public Notice.

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Fajr Muddasir S/o Muddasir Ahmad Yatoo R/o Raipora palhallan with verified date of birth 27/04/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD

fko

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Aisha Sajad D/o Sajad Mohammad Lone R/o Gund Mulraj watergam with verified date of birth 02/06/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD

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Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Muhammad Ayaan Najar S/o Sadiq Ahmad Najar R/o Taruzuea sopore with verified date of birth 06/07/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

SD

fko

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Al Razak Tour and Travels Situated at Sanoora Kalipora Magam Budgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I, Bilal Ahmad Najar S/o Ab Razak Najar R/o Sanoora Kalipora KASHMIR intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S Al Razak Tour and Travels Situated at Sanoora Kalipora Magam Budgam under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate , Qualification Certificate, pan card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 5 years), Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Latter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

/ Adventure Tour Operator Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011(12) before my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id: dtdregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

bmng..

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has inadvertently recorded as Muzamil Maqbool in Adhaar card bearing No: - 4658-5559-3488 while my actual and correct name is Bilal Ahmad Tantary. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Bilal Ahmad Tantary
S/o Mohammad Maqbool Tantary
R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramula fko

Office of the Principal Hanfia Model School

Lalpura Kunzer

(Recognized by Jammu & Kashmir Govt.)

Sub: Resolution

It is hereby certified that the parents meeting of the said school was held on 05/04/2025 at 2pm in meeting hall of the said school regarding the election of managing body.

S. No.	Name	Parentage	Residence	Qual.	Occupation	Status
1.	Gh. Rasool Wani	Ab. Gani Wani	Lalpura	B.A, B.ED	Retd. Master	Chairman
2.	Mohd Akbar Wani	Assadullah Wani	Lalpura	HSC	Business man	Secretary
3.	Gh. Mohd Rather	Khawaja Reshi	Lalpura	elective Matric	Business man	Member
4.	Javid Ahmad Wani	Mohd Ismail Wani	Dhoibwan	MA, M.ED	Principal	Member
5.	Haroon Rashid Wani	Ab. Rashid	Dhoibwan	10+2	Staff Representative / Treasurer	Member
6.	Haji Ab. Gani Bhat	Gh. Ahmad Bhat	Dhoibwan	8th	Retd. Head Parent	Member
7.	Ghulam Mustafa Rather	Habibullah Rather	Lalpura	B.A. B. Ed	Retd. Head Master / Teacher	Member
8.	Nazir Ahmad Rather	Ab. Ahad Rather	Dhoibwan	M.SC, M.ED	Pvt. Teacher	Member

Further it is certified that the above mentioned managing committee is not involving in any political or criminal activities to that best of my knowledge and not involving in any Anti Govt. activities.

bmng

Chairman

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA, SRINAGAR PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in SSE/HSE-I/ HSE-II (Class 10th/11th/12th) under Roll No:139056032 Session: 2024 Year:- Ann/Reg through the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by Institution/Parents against my Mother's name as Mushadiq Farooq Hakak instead of Mushadiq Farooq

Now I have applied for correction 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 Assistant Secretary, Certificates Kashmir Division within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after their expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public.

The correct particulars are recorded as under:

Name:- Usamam Ishiyay Gupkari
Father's Name:- Ishiyay Tabasum Gupkari
Mother's Name:- Mushadiq Farooq
Date of Birth:- 24-7-2007
Residence:- Naseem Bagh Hazratbal
Mobile No:- 9897948939



Media Line

Public Notice

I, Mushaq Ahmed Wani, S/o Mohammad Shafi Wani, R/o M.K Chowk, Srinagar, wish to inform that I am applying for a name change in the electricity connection bearing Consumer ID: 0204040004940, which is currently in the name of Mohammad Shafi Wani. I request that the said connection be transferred to my name, Mushaq Ahmed Wani. If anyone has any objection to this change, they may submit the same in writing to the Sub Division Hawal, within seven days from the date of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained.

Media Line

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Office of the Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE, Mechanical Rural Division, Sgr.

GIST of Short-term e-Tender.

Short Term E-N.I.T. No: -PHE/MRD/TS/28of07/2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Short term e-tenders are invited in two cover system from approved and eligible Contractors having GST registration/registered with J&K Govt., Railways and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work:-

Sr.	Nature of Work	Location	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc.	Time of Completion	Programme
A	Repairs, Replacements, Dragger Modification to the Suc-Sharief tion/Delivery System		0.32	50/=	05 days	M&R

Critical Dates/Information.

1.	Publishing Date	10-07-2025 (5:00 PM)	
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	10-07-2025 (5:00 PM) to 16-07-2025 (11:00 AM)	
3.	Period of Submission of bids	10-07-2025 (5:00 PM) to 16-07-2025 (11:00 AM)	
4.	Date of opening of Tender/Timing	16-07-2025 at (12:00 P.M)	
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar		
6.	Document Cost: Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt shall be deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar		
7.	Bid Validity Period: 90Days		
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www. Jktenders.gov.in		
9.	Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration", format of the declaration is enclosed in the Bid Document		

Note:- The tenderer who is declared as L1 after opening of price bid will deposit 5% of the Estimated cost of the work in shape of CDR/FDR before allotment is issued in his favour.

No: -PHE/MRD/TS/1269-73

DIPK-3618/25

DT: - 12-07-2025

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural
Division Srinagar.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION TANGDAR

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E- NIT No.19 –R&B Div./TDR /of 2025-26 e-tendering Endtt. No:112-22 DATED:11.07.2025.

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders are being invited on an percentage basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contracts registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
01	Constt of ACR Middle School Mandian (UDISE Code 1010200107),	10.09	600	20180	3 months	DEE/CEE/ BEE	PAB

Position of AAA/TS=Accorded.

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:-

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	11/07/2025
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11/07/2025
03.	Bid submission start date	11/07/2025
04.	Bid submission end date	17/07/2025 upto 4:00 PM
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	18/07/2025, at 10.00 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar

Terms and Conditions:-

The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading soft-copy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape Treasury Challan (Under Account Head 0059) (Treasury Challan) must be written boldly the Name of Work, Name of Contract along with Cell No, NIT No. & Sr. No of NIT) in favour Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Div. Tangdar. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

All other terms and conditions as laid down in the CPWD shall also remain in force.

DIPK-3625/25
dated: 12-07-2025

Camp Clark

DM.

AAO

T.O

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Tangdar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER REW DIVISION PULWAMA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e- NIT No. 29/2025-26 Dated 09-07-2025

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 2nd

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.	Constt. Of Community Composite Pit Near Land of Showkat Ahmad Mir at Drabgam A	Shadimarg	2.27	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
2.	Constt. Of Community Composiute pit Near Land of Mushtaq Ahmad Wani Watel pat Drabgam Payeen	Shadimarg	2.27	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
3.	Construction of community composite pit at Mirgund Thokerpora	Shadimarg	2.27	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
4.	constt. Of community Composite pit Near L/O Ab Gani Mir At New Colony Nikas	Shadimarg	2.27	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
5.	Constt. Of Community Composite pit Near L/O Hilal Ahmad Dar at Gund Wadan Rahmoo B	Shadimarg	2.27	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
6.	Construction of community composite pit at Bellow	Shadimarg	2.27	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
7.	Construction of community composite pit at Qasbayar B	Shadimarg	2.27	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
8.	Construction of community composite pit at Hawal	Shadimarg	2.27	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
9.	Constt. Of Community Composite Pit at Banjaran Abhama	Achgoze	2.27	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
10.	Construction of community composite pit at Kadipora	Achgoze	2.27	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
11.	constt. Of community Composite pit Near H/O Iqbal Bhat at Wassaimarg Khaigam	Achgoze	2.27	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
12.	Constt. Of Community Composite pit at Poswal Mohalla Near H/O Irshad Poswa , Bashir Poswal , Majeed and Others	Achgoze	2.27	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
13.	Construction of community composite pit Hajam Mohalla Nichandajan Sangerwani B	Achgoze	2.27	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
14.	Construction of community composite pit Near H/O Fazil Doey at Kaniwali Road at Chowtal Sonabanjer	Achgoze	2.27	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.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09-07-2025
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	09-07-2025 from 06:55 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	22-07-2025 up to 06:55 PM
4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	23-07-2025 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. In case 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/1105-11
DIPK-3600/25 Dated:-12/07/2025

Executive Engineer
REW Division Pulwama



VC KU Inaugurates SOCACON-2025 At GMC Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar today witnessed the grand inauguration of the 13th International Conference of the Society of Clinical Anatomists (SOCACON 2025).

The conference, being held in hybrid mode from July 10-12, 2025, has attracted over 300 delegates from across India and abroad.

The inaugural session was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, who in her inaugural address, said that today, we gather to celebrate the confluence of visionary leadership, innovation, and global collaboration in clinical anatomy.

The 13th International Conference of the SOCACON 2025 is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our medical fraternity towards excellence in anatomical sciences. "I commend the organizing team led by Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal of GMC Srinagar, for orchestrating an event of such national and international

significance. I wish the conference all success and hope it will provide a platform for meaningful dialogue and collaboration among participants," added the Vice Chancellor.

Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah, Patron of SOCACON-2025 and Principal/Dean Government Medical College Srinagar, delivered the welcome address, stating "It is my privilege to welcome all to SOCACON 2025. This conference is a celebration of anatomical excellence, collaborative spirit, and the rich academic tradition of Kashmir. I praise the department's efforts in hosting a global academic platform in Srinagar and look forward to fruitful deliberations and outcomes."

Prof. (Dr.) Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, Head, Department of Anatomy, GMC Srinagar, stated that the department of Anatomy is committed to academic excellence and interdisciplinary research in anatomical sciences. "SOCACON-2025 is a significant milestone in our journey, and I am confident that it will foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration among participants," he added.

Fire Guts Cable Network Shop In Hassanabad

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A fire broke out in the early hours of Saturday at a shop belonging to Master Cable Network near ImamBara in Hassanabad area of Srinagar, causing extensive damage and resulting in an estimated loss running into lakhs of rupees.

According to locals, the blaze erupted suddenly, engulfing the shop which contained a significant stockpile of electronic equipment. The items destroyed in the inferno included cable network components, batteries, and spare parts for appliances like washing machines—critical inventory for the network and repair service provider.

Emergency responders were quickly alerted to the scene. Local residents also played a crucial role in containing the fire. Their swift and coordinated efforts were instrumental in preventing the flames from spreading to adjacent buildings in the densely built locality.

"The fire was intense due to the presence of batteries and electronic components, but thankfully, the timely intervention by locals and the fire brigade helped avoid a larger disaster," said one of the residents who assisted in the firefighting efforts.

Preliminary reports suggest it may have started due to an electrical short circuit. An investigation is underway.



Sakeena Addresses Triple Milestone Moment-2025 Of JLNH Hospital

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Saturday addressed the Triple Milestone Moment-2025 of Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Hospital (JLNH) Rainawari here, organised to celebrate knowledge, care and clinical advancement of the hospital.

MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq; Director Health Services Kashmir, Medical Superintendent JLNH, doctors, researchers and medical students were present on the occasion.

The milestones being celebrated included 'Allergy Alert-2025' a conference-cum-workshop, launch of JLNH Journal and PG Research presentation.

Addressing the gathering,

the Minister emphasized the importance of early diagnosis and community-based education on allergies, especially in light of environmental changes and lifestyle factors contributing to their surge. "Awareness and timely intervention are key to managing allergies effectively. Initiatives like 'Allergy Alert 2025' reflect our commitment towards equipping the healthcare providers and the public with essential tools to combat this growing health concern", she stated.

The Minister further said that medical science is evolving day by day and doctors need to keep themselves abreast with the growing advancements in medical care and research. She also spoke in length about the recent efforts of the government for amplifying the healthcare infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister also praised the

hospital staff for their tireless efforts and appreciated them for making JLNH a top-notch tertiary care setup in the valley. She also spoke about the hospital's historic significance and the ongoing efforts to equip it with the best facilities for patients.

On the occasion, the Minister released a JLNH Journal titled 'Asian Journal of Clinical Practice and Research'. She also distributed awards among the postgraduate researchers for outstanding work in the medical field.

The hospital administration expressed gratitude to the Minister and the government for reviving the hospital and establishing advanced healthcare facilities for patients.

Pertinently, the Allergy Alert 2025 conference aimed to explore new frontiers in allergy and immunology, bringing together experts and researchers in the field.

SKUAST-K, DARS Conduct Programme On 'Promotion of Potential Crops'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Dryland Agriculture Research Station (DARS), SKUAST-Kashmir under AICRP on potential crops organized a one day training programme on 'Promotion of Potential Crops' at DARS-SKUAST-Kashmir.

The programme, sponsored

by ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi, was attended by 50 officials from the Agriculture department belonging to different zones of the Valley.

Prof. (Dr.) Ajaz Ahmad Lone, DARS-Rangreth, SKUAST-K gave a brief insight about potential crop scenarios of the valley, their relevance under the current


changing climate era.

Prof. M. Ashraf Bhat, Associate Director Research, DARS-SKUAST Kashmir addressed the participants about the role of the Station in development of new and improved crop varieties for the overall benefit of the farming community for food and nutritional security.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer id no: 0203010022344 from Ab Rashid Mattoo To Zubairah Farooq R/o Nundreshi Colony Bemina . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Concerned PDD Office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Zubairah Farooq R/o Nundreshi Colony Bemina fko

SAD DEMISE



Ah! Syed Muhammad Hamdani

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of the noble elder of the Hamdani Sadat of Shamswari, Syed Muhammad Hamdani, who departed from this transient world to the eternal abode on the morning of 10th July 2025, after a brief illness.

Late Syed Muhammad Hamdani was the embodiment of sincerity, grace, and dignity—a true custodian of the grand legacy of the noble Sadat, who for centuries have illuminated the valley of Kashmir with the light of Wilayah (Divine Guardianship). His life was a reflection of honor, respect, and unwavering integrity.


May Almighty Allah elevate his soul to the highest station in His infinite mercy, and may his resting place be filled with the divine light of Muhammad (PBUH) and His Holy Progeny (A.S). Ameen.

The congregational Fateha Khwani shall be held on Sunday, 13th July 2025, at 6: A.M at his ancestral graveyard in Hasanabad. Following this, a day-long condolence service will continue at Aza Khana Shamswari, Khanqah-e-Moula.

BEREAVED:
Syed Zafar Hussain Hamdani, Syed Kifayat Hussain Hamdani & The entire Hamdani Sadat Family of Shamaswari, Sherilbhat & Baghwanpora.

آہ! مشتاق احمد حاک انتقال کر گئے

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ




یہ خیر انتہائی رنج و غم کے ساتھ دی جا رہی ہے کہ ہمارے شفیق والد صاحب مشتاق احمد حاک ولد غلام قادر حاک ساکن چھتہ بل سرینگر جمعہ المبارک 11 جولائی 2025 طویل علالت کے بعد داعی اجل کو لبیک کہہ گئے، اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس میں جگہ نصیب فرمائے اور ان کی قبر کو روشن اور پُر امن بنادے، مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی (رسم چہارم) سوموار 14 جولائی 2025 صبح 9.30 بجے ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع (سید حفیظ لدنی صاحب) نزدیکی حنفیہ جامع مسجد مغل محلہ چھتہ بل سرینگر میں منعقد ہوگی۔

سوگوار حاک خاندان

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+919419001858/ +919858084099

نوٹ: خواتین سے استدعا ہے کہ اپنے ساتھ کھانے پینے کی اشیاء نہ لائیں۔




- 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
- BIJBHERA: 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

17 Muharram
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 47
ZUHR	12:36
ASR	5: 35
Magrib	7:47
ISHA	9: 26

This Day In History

- 574- John III ends his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1174- William I of Scotland, key rebel in Revolt of 1173-1174, captured at Alnwick by forces loyal to Henry II of England
- 1522- Hunger appeal by women of Utrecht
- 1558- Battle of Gravelines: In France, Spanish forces led by Count Lamoral of Egmont defeat the French forces of Marshal Paul des Thernes at Gravelines
- 1573- Haarlem surrenders after 7 months to Spanish army
- 1643 - Battle at Roundway Down: Royalists beat parliamentary armies
- 1772- Captain James Cook begins his second voyage to the South Seas aboard HMS Resolution to search for Terra Australis (Southern continent)
- 1787- US Congress adopts Ordinance of 1787 (Northwest Ordinance), establishes first organized US territory, sets requirements for statehood - guaranteeing equal status with original 13 states, outlawing slavery, and protecting civil liberties
- 1794- Battle of the Vosges between French forces and those of Prussia and Austria
- 1835 - Swedish-American inventor John Ericsson files for a patent for his screw propeller design
- 1854 - In the Battle of Guaymas, Mexico, General Jose Maria Yanez stops the French invasion led by Count Gaston de Raousset Boulbon
- 1882 - 200 die as train derailed near Tcherny, Russia
- 1911 - Great Britain and Japan renew their alliance of 1902 for another four years; the reason Japan joins WWI on the Allies side
- 1935 - US-Russian commerce treaty takes effect
- 1943 - Greatest tank battle in history ends with Russia's defeat of Germany at Kursk, almost 6,000 tanks take part, 2,900 lost by Germany
- 1953 - Battle of the Kumsong River begins - last major battle of the Korean war.
- 1960 - US Democratic convention nominates JFK as presidential candidate
- 1962 - 500 Indonesian parachutist land on New-Guinea
- 1963 - Indian government announces it will cut last remaining links with South Africa by refusing landing facilities to South African aircraft
- 1969 - Russia launches unmanned Luna 15 to Moon
- 1978 - Albania drops diplomatic relations with People's Republic of China

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan.

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth. PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Imrat Sharif D.o.B 06/03/2013 .Momin Ahmad Matoo ss/o Sharif ud din Matoo R/o Zangam Pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

fko SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

From Office of the Advocate Muneer Ahmad Dar

In the case of
Abdul Ahad Malik Son of Late Qadir Malik R/o Singhpora
2. Masarat Bano D/O, Atta Mohammad Sheikh
R/o Kripalpora Singhpora

V/s
Public at large

(Caveator)

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 seed 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

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KO VIEW

Hope In A Hackathon

For many young Kashmiris, the future feels uncertain. Unemployment remains high, even among the most educated. School curriculums often lag behind the demands of a rapidly changing world. And opportunities to learn practical, modern skills, particularly in technology, are few and far between.

That’s what makes the launch of a 24-hour student hackathon in Srinagar so important. Open to school-children and first-year college students, the event offers hands-on training in coding, artificial intelligence, and collaborative software development. It is a window into a world most young Kashmiris rarely see.

The program is simple in form, yet ambitious in purpose. Beginners start with Scratch, a visual language that teaches the logic behind programming. Others move on to more advanced concepts, including large language models and version control systems.

But what matters most is not the syllabus. It is the invitation, to think differently, work in teams, and build something new.

In many parts of India, such programs have become common. But in Kashmir, they remain rare. And yet they are exactly what the region needs.

The jinx of joblessness in Kashmir is staggering. Young people, even those with degrees, struggle to find work. Government jobs are scarce and private industry is limited. In such a setting, the ability to code, even at a basic level, can open new paths, whether through remote work, freelancing, or further study.

There is no reason events like this one should be isolated. Schools, nonprofits, and local governments could organize similar programs in classrooms, community halls, or public libraries. Mentorship need not come from elite institutions. It can come from within the community, from young professionals willing to share what they know.

Technology alone will not solve Kashmir’s problems. But teaching young people how to use it, to solve problems, express ideas, and build things that matter, is a step in the right direction. It gives them tools not just for employment, but for agency.

Kashmiri youth have long been told to wait, for jobs and reforms. Programs like this suggest they need not wait any longer. They can begin to shape their future now.

Kashmir’s
Powerless Push

As Jammu and Kashmir digitizes land records, many patwaris still work without electricity, water, or internet. A digital revolution can’t run on dead batteries.

Mohammad Amin Mir

In Jammu and Kashmir, a revolution is being scripted, on paper, at least.

The government has launched WALHARUS, an ambitious project to digitize all land records in the Union Territory.

In theory, this is a leap forward: a system where landowners can finally access their records with a few clicks, corruption can be curbed, and disputes resolved with clarity and speed.

But here’s the catch: in vast stretches of rural Kashmir, the very people tasked with bringing this digital vision to life, patwaris, are working without electricity.

Yes, you read that right. The people asked to scan, verify, and upload generations of land records into a sleek new online system often don’t even have a plug point to charge a laptop.

This isn’t a minor logistical hiccup. It’s a fundamental contradiction. You cannot digitize in the dark.

Across districts like Kupwara, Doda, Poonch, Anantnag, and Kulgam, many Patwar Khanas, the modest offices that house land records, are barely functioning. Some are tucked away in rented private homes. Others are squatting in borrowed rooms of panchayat buildings.

Many don’t have working bathrooms. Some don’t have doors that lock. And most damningly, dozens still don’t have steady electricity or internet access.

And yet, these are the same spaces expected to anchor a digital revolution.

This isn’t just about inconvenience. It’s about the integrity of governance.

A system meant to bring transparency and efficiency is being built on foundations so fragile they can barely hold a file cabinet, let alone a server.

It gets worse.

The patwari of today is not the record-keeper of the past. He is expected to be a digitization officer, data entry clerk, public service agent, and village-level IT technician.

But the state has handed out these new roles without upgrading the tools or the training. In some cases, patwaris are using their own phones and paying electricity bills out of their pockets just to keep the system running. That’s not reform.

“Across districts like Kupwara, Doda, Poonch, Anantnag, and Kulgam, many Patwar Khanas, the modest offices that house land records, are barely functioning. Some are tucked away in rented private homes. Others are squatting in borrowed rooms of panchayat buildings.”

not enough.

If the Jammu & Kashmir Patwar Association wants to protect the credibility of this rollout, it must act now.

Begin with a basic audit: list Patwar Khanas still without electricity, those lacking water supply, and offices where the internet remains nonexistent. Map the gaps clearly, then move swiftly to close them.

Submit the data to the Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary (Revenue), and Commissioner/Secretary Revenue. Demand solar power units for off-grid halqas. Ask for generator support. Push for rental reimbursement in areas where patwaris are working out of their own homes.

And don’t stop there.

What Kashmir needs is a Patwar Khana Upgradation Mission - a focused, funded, time-bound campaign to give every patwari what they need: a two-room office, a functioning bathroom, electricity, internet, and a roof that doesn’t leak.

Call it basic or boring, but don’t call it optional. These are the things that will decide whether WALHARUS works or withers.

This matters, not just for bureaucrats or officials, but for ordinary people. Land is the single biggest source of conflict in rural Kashmir. A clean, accessible, digital land record system can reduce disputes, save lives, and unlock property rights. But only if it is built on real infrastructure, not wishful thinking.

Prime Minister Modi’s Digital India mission speaks of transformation and transparency. But both require electricity, desks, and internet. You cannot fight corruption or inefficiency with a dead laptop in a dark room.

We’re not asking for miracles. We’re asking for power sockets.

Let’s not waste a generational opportunity by pretending that broadband can be beamed into buildings with no roof. Let’s stop calling this digitization when the basics are still missing.

Reform begins not with a portal, but with a plug.

The author is a legal researcher and columnist who has covered land governance in Jammu & Kashmir for more than a decade. Views expressed in this article are author’s own and don’t necessarily reflect KO’s editorial policy.

Love Waits for Selection

In the fields and drawing rooms of Kashmir, love has stopped taking chances. Once rooted in risk and poetry, it now demands pay slips, property, and a pension plan.

Dr. Ashraf Zainabi

They say love is blind, but that’s hard to believe in a place where a boy’s heart is weighed by his job grade and a girl’s worth is measured in kanals.

Today, in Kashmir, love walks into living rooms not with flowers or poetry, but with a sealed envelope from the SSRB or a certificate from JKAS.

In a Budgam borough, where the breeze still smells of damp earth and sun-dried apples, I recently asked a mother about her son’s marriage plans. She smiled, almost apologetically, and said, “Woh abhi PSC ka intezaar kar raha hai. Pehle naukri lag jaye, tab baat aage badhegi.” He’s waiting for the Public Service Commission list. Only after that, she said, would they begin thinking about love.

This is no longer a personal worry. It’s the collective rhythm now.

In villages from Tral to Kupwara, in Srinagar’s well-lit drawing rooms and Budgam’s almond groves, the first question in any matrimonial conversation is not what kind of person, but what kind of job.

If it’s a government post, especially a permanent one, the rest follows easily.

Matchmakers across Kashmir are flooded with forms listing designations like “Junior Engineer (R&B)” “Veterinary Assistant” or “School Lecturer (Education Dept.).”

One matchmaker in Hyderpora told me, “Agar ladka govern-

ment job mein hai, uski demand teen guna zyada ho jaati hai. Baaki sab baad mein dekh lenge.” If the boy is in a government job, his demand triples. Everything else is secondary.

It wasn’t always like this.

In my own childhood, love arrived poetically, sometimes dangerously. It came as a poem folded into a book, or a smile exchanged near the bus stop.

Back then, even the idea of love had a sacred mischief to it. Families talked of kindness, simplicity, and the ability to share sorrow with dignity.

Today, that sorrow has been replaced by a fear far more pervasive: financial instability.

After decades of conflict, parents are haunted by their own youth. A father from Charar-e-Sharif told me, “Main chahta hoon meri beti ko woh sab na jhelna pade jo humne jhela. Agar dulha

permanent hai, toh zindagi thodi aasan ho jaati hai.” I want my daughter to avoid the hardships we endured. If the groom is permanent, life becomes a little easier.

You can’t fault that reasoning. After all, it comes from loss. But somewhere along the way, the lines blurred.

Stability became the only virtue. The boy with the private start-up, the girl with ambition to study abroad, or the artist who teaches local kids calligraphy began to vanish from the shortlist.

In downtown Srinagar, a young woman I met at a teacher training workshop said it plainly:

“Main MA, B.Ed hoon. Lekin har rishta yahi kehta hai — naukri hai? Apne ghar ki property kya hai?” I hold a Master’s and a teaching degree. But every proposal still asks the same thing: Do you have a job? What’s your family property?

Social media has only ampli-

fied the performance.

Relationships today are lived online as much as in real life. One boy from Pulwama told me, “Agar profile acchi hai, photos classy hain, aur car bhi dikh rahi hai, toh ladki ka rishta aasan ho jaata hai.” If your profile looks polished, good photos, a car in the background, then it’s easier to find a match. It’s no longer about truth. It’s about display.

What’s lost in this parade is something tender and unquantifiable: The love that survives in waiting, letters unsent, and gestures that never ask for witnesses.

Even then, some resistance, though meek, persists.

A girl from Handwara told me how she refused a “secure match” because he mocked her poetry. “Woh naukri toh thi uske paas, lekin dil nahi tha,” she said. He had a job, but no heart. She chose to wait, and write.

There are still stories, though rare, that defy the prevailing order.

A Kashmiri government officer married a jobless boy who met her at an academic conference. Their families opposed, but they now live together, running a learning centre for displaced youth.

In these stories, you see the last embers of a love that chooses presence over prestige, and sees value in voice, not volume.

What we must ask ourselves now is whether we are raising a generation that will marry for possibility or for protection. Are we teaching our children that love is a leap, or a ledger?

If we keep choosing résumés over romance, we may forget the beauty of being understood, and truly waited for.

Perhaps love need not be blind. But it must stop squinting so hard at salary slips that it forgets how to look someone in the eyes.

It’s time we close the files, fold the bio-data forms, and remember: the most enduring love stories in Kashmir were never the ones with kanals or cars.

They were the ones with chaos, courage, and an honest cup of noon chai.

The author is a Chadoora-based teacher-researcher. Views expressed in this article are author’s own and don’t necessarily reflect KO’s editorial policy.

A Valley
Reimagined

In a place shaped by conflict and contradictions, peace demands more than silence. It needs empathy, education, and the will to see each other as human beings first.

Nusrat Hassan

The idea of peace is both intimate and elusive in Kashmir. You hear it in prayers at dusk, feel it in the hush of snowfall, and see it vanish in the blink of a news headline.

We talk about peace often, but rarely do we ask: what does it take to build a peaceful society in a region like ours—torn between memory, politics, and survival?

There are no shortcuts. The foundations of peace aren’t laid with grand speeches or security deployments.

They begin, instead, with how we think, what we teach, and how we treat one another.

Let’s start with mindset. Too often, we wear labels before names: Shia, Sunni, Pandit, Gujjar, Bakarwal, rich, poor, English-medium, government-school. These categories don’t just define us, they divide us.

In a place where trauma runs deep, such divisions feed mistrust and distance.

But imagine if we drop those filters. If we see each other first as people trying to live, love, and provide. Perhaps the walls between us wouldn’t feel so high.

In Srinagar’s SMHS hospital not long ago, two patients were brought into the emergency ward. One was a man from Baramulla, the other a woman from Anantnag. Both needed urgent care. The woman’s son, seeing the older man struggle to breathe, told the nurse to treat him first. “He’s worse,” he said simply.

In that moment, there was no region, no religion, just instinctive compassion. That’s where peace begins, in the small human gestures that go unnoticed and uncelebrated.

But compassion needs cultivation, and that brings us to education.

Kashmir has a literacy rate of nearly 68%, according to government figures, but how much of that education nurtures values like empathy, cooperation, or mutual respect?

In schools across the valley, children are taught about resolution through history, but rarely about prevention through kindness.

The syllabus may include Newton’s laws and Mughal dynasties, but rarely addresses how to comfort a grieving friend or help a neighbour in distress.

What if schools taught these things too? What if moral education wasn’t reduced to a period before lunch, but woven into every subject, story, and playground quarrel?

It’s not about westernising or moralising. It’s about humanising.

Children in Pulwama and Kupwara, in Sopore and Kulgam, deserve an education that teaches them how to live with dignity in a fractured world.

That won’t just produce better students, it will shape better citizens.

And then comes respect that doesn’t depend on someone’s age, position, or power.

It’s a human act shown when a shopkeeper listens patiently to a distressed customer, when a child offers his seat to an elder in public bus, when we speak gently to those who disagree with us.

Respect is not a grand ideal. It’s a daily habit.

We must also learn gratitude that teaches us to value what we have, without waiting to lose it.

In Kashmir, where so many have lost so much, this isn’t just a virtue. It’s a necessity.

There’s no denying that peace in Kashmir is tangled with history and politics. But politics alone cannot rebuild the social fabric. That work begins in our homes, schools, hospitals, and mohallas.

It begins when we speak to our children not just about career choices, but about conscience. When we tell them: it’s good to succeed, but it’s better to be kind.

The author is an undergraduate student at GDC Ganderbal. Views expressed are author’s own.

When Kashmir's Roads Were Built to Last

A forgotten blueprint from 2019–2020 shows how science and discipline, not just funds, can make roads in Jammu and Kashmir endure. It's time we return to it.

Er. Danish Iqbal

Roads in Kashmir have a reputation for giving up long before their time.

Asphalt peels, potholes bloom, and once-smooth stretches crack into webs of frustration. It's a familiar cycle that repeats with every season.

While many point to budget constraints, weather, or hurried contractors, the real story lies somewhere deeper, in what happens before the first truck even arrives with hot mix.

I've seen firsthand what makes a road last. And more importantly, what makes it fail.

Back in 2019, we launched a focused quality control and assurance (QA/QC) drive in Srinagar under the technical leadership of Er. Aijaz Masood Bhat, a former research officer at the Road Research and Material Testing Lab.

This wasn't just another campaign. It was a three-season-long attempt to prove something long considered unachievable: that Jammu and Kashmir could build roads that actually stay built.

It was a difficult time. Article 370 had just been revoked. Then came the COVID-19 pandemic. But even with all that, we carried out one of the most rigorous road-building exercises this region had seen in years.

Together with Executive Engineers Er. Javaid Iqbal and Er. Ishtiaq Malik, and field engineers like myself and Er. Nufail Gowhar Indrabi, we set out to beat the odds. Our focus was to perfect the mix.

For roads, that means getting the right gradation of bituminous mix



as per MoRTH (Ministry of Road Transport & Highways) standards.

Sounds easy on paper, but in practice, most believed it couldn't be done.

Crushed aggregates are inconsistent. Plant feeding systems aren't always precise. Many engineers had simply accepted these limitations.

But Er. Aijaz refused to settle.

Starting at the source, we tested aggregate samples from Hot Mix Plants, did sieve analysis on-site,

and designed our own mixes using an Excel-based tool built around MoRTH gradation bands.

When we found that most plants were uncalibrated and feed rates were being adjusted manually (read: guessed), we introduced tachometers to measure and fix real-time flow rates.

This wasn't theoretical. It was dirty, hands-on work. But it paid off.

Today, if you walk or drive down the Northern Foreshore Road, Ra-

jbagh Bund Road, or Maulana Azad Road in Srinagar, you'll see surfaces laid in 2019–2020 that still hold strong. There aren't any major potholes, no early erosion. That's not magic, that's method.

Unfortunately, that momentum didn't last.

Excel tools are collecting dust. Plant calibration is skipped. QA/QC enforcement is sporadic. Bitumen-rich, dust-deficient mixes are being laid again. And roads are crumbling

all over again.

But bitumen is only one part of the story.

Overloading is crushing our roads. Trucks with excessive axle weights press down on roads not designed for such punishment, breaking down the subgrade and causing rutting.

This isn't just about enforcement. We need smarter, mechanistic subgrade designs that anticipate these loads.

Water is another enemy. Seepage from underground utilities, irrigation channels, or just high water tables weakens the base. It turns solid structure into mush. Without proper drainage, both surface and subsurface, no road can survive Kashmir's climate.

Drainage infrastructure is often missing or ignored. Blocked storm-water channels, misaligned slopes, and missing edge drains let water pool where it shouldn't. That water then chips away at the road from below.

And then there's the overlooked issue of overlays.

Many times, when a damaged road is overlaid without milling the surface first, the camber (or road slope) is ruined. Drainage suffers. Water gets trapped. The road lifts too high and the side drains get buried. Milling before overlaying is mandatory.

Another blind spot is how we monitor construction.

Often, the same person is expected to supervise both the Hot Mix Plant and the field execution site. It's impossible to do both effectively. We need a dedicated QA/QC team for each site. That's how consistency is maintained.

We also need to shift to weigh batching Hot Mix Plants. These machines measure materials with precision, reducing guesswork. They make feed control and quality enforcement easier and more transparent.

The solution doesn't need reinvention, it only needs implementation.

Every Hot Mix Plant must be calibrated using load-cell checks, with dry gradation analysis made mandatory before work begins.

Real-time feed rates should be tracked using tachometers and Excel-based tools to ensure mix accuracy.

Engineers in the field need both technical equipment and administrative support to enforce standards.

These practices must be institutionalized across all R&B divisions, with drainage planning and surface milling treated as essential steps in every project.

Finally, weigh batching plants should be prioritized, and staff trained to operate them effectively.

The roads we laid five years ago still stand. Not because we had extra money, but because we refused to compromise. We measured, analyzed, corrected, and treated engineering as a science, not a gamble.

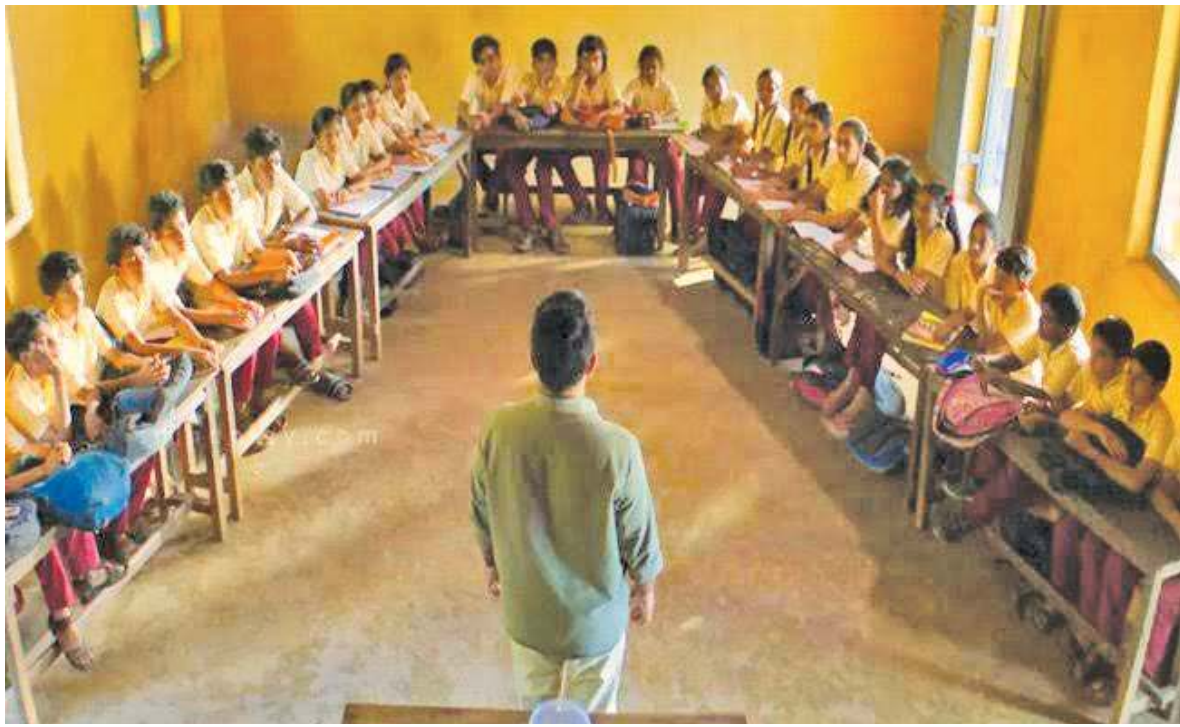
If we return to that standard, we won't just save roads. We'll save public money, improve safety, and give the people of J&K the infrastructure they deserve.

It's not rocket science. It's just good engineering.

The author is an Assistant Executive Engineer in the Roads & Buildings Department of J&K.

No More Backbenchers

When schools stop ranking kids by where they sit, real learning begins. Kerala shows how.



Rayees Yaseen

In a classroom somewhere in Kerala, children now sit in a U-shape. There are no front or back rows, just a circle of students looking at each other, and at the teacher, as equals.

It's a small change, born from a Malayalam film, Shanthaaari Sreekutty. But the impact is turning heads in India's education circles.

Kashmir should be watching, too.

In most schools here, the backbench is a place of hiding. Whether in a government school in Kupwara or a private school in Srinagar, it's the same pattern: the bold students occupy the front rows, the hesitant ones recede to the back.

Over time, this seating becomes a symbol of status, confidence, and, unfortunately, invisibility.

Teachers, often unknowingly, focus on those in front. The rest become spectators.

Kerala's idea is simple: rearrange the desks in a U or circle. Suddenly, everyone is part of the conversation. Everyone is seen.

This new approach is being adopted across the southern state. The aim is to break the rigid classroom hierarchy and move toward a model where discussion matters as much as instruction.

Experts say it helps dissolve the idea of "backbenchers" entirely. More importantly, it invites every student

into the learning process.

The need for such a change is urgent in Kashmir.

While schools here have made strides in enrollment and infrastructure, the classrooms often remain stuck in the past: rows of wooden benches, a blackboard, a teacher who talks, and students who memorize. Interaction is limited, curiosity rarely rewarded.

This is not a criticism of teachers. Many of them are trying their best in difficult conditions. But the structure of the classroom itself discourages engagement.

Teachers have to work twice as hard to include students at the back. Many give up. The result is predictable: students tune out.

A U-shaped layout can do what no amount of scolding or seat reshuffling can: make learning feel equal.

It allows eye contact, creates a space where students are responding and thinking.

It also fits well with the New Education Policy 2020, which calls for more student-centered classrooms.

According to the policy, learning should be active, not passive. But this vision can't be achieved if our classrooms still resemble 19th-century lecture halls.

Of course, this seating model works best in classrooms with around 20 to 30 students and enough room to move desks. That may not be possible everywhere in Kashmir right away.

But it's worth starting somewhere. Pilot programs could begin in a few schools in each district. Teachers could receive basic orientation. Headmasters could lead the effort by reimagining their spaces.

And this isn't just about furniture.

In Kerala, the change came with a mindset shift. Teachers were encouraged not just to question students, but to let students question them.

This reversal can be powerful. It tells children that their voice matters. That the classroom isn't a one-way street.

Kashmir, too, needs that shift. Our students don't just need better textbooks or digital boards. They need to feel that their presence counts. That they're not just filling seats. That they are participants.

This change won't solve all our educational problems. But it's a step toward a better learning environment, where curiosity is nurtured, where the shy student has a chance to speak, and where the word "backbencher" belongs in the past.

If a film can inspire a state to change how its children sit and learn, why can't we be inspired by the state itself?

No Kashmiri child should feel left behind, just because of where s/he sits.

Let's begin by changing the shape of the classroom. The shape of learning will follow.

The author can be reached at rayeesshah157@gmail.com

Sindh Waits for the Switch

Two mountain towns in Ganderbal are asking for policy attention. Their rivers have long powered homes, and could now drive Jammu & Kashmir's green future, if the Hydropower Policy 2025 keeps pace with the terrain.

Zain ul Abidin Raina

The Nallah Sindh doesn't roar as it runs. It winds down from the glaciers of Sonamarg, cutting through steep ridges, feeding forests, villages, and hopes along its way.

Every bend of this icy river has a story. And in Gund and Kangan, two towns tucked in District Ganderbal, many of those stories begin with power.

Decades ago, the Upper Sindh Hydel Projects I and II changed life here.

USHP-I, built in the late 1960s in Tehsil Gund, became a source of steady jobs and economic growth. Shops sprung up. Roads got better. Families who once relied only on farming found themselves working at power stations, selling produce to a growing workforce, or simply benefiting from more predictable electricity.

Then came USHP-II in the early 1980s, built further downstream.

Together, the two hydropower stations stood as rare examples of how local natural resources could be used without destroying the land or displacing people.

They're still operational, still part of the valley's electric grid, and still remembered in local conversations not just as projects, but as turning points.

But the flow of investment has slowed. A few micro-hydel units have come up, but their contribution remains small.

Researchers and energy analysts believe the untapped potential of the area's river systems could exceed 150 to 200 megawatts.

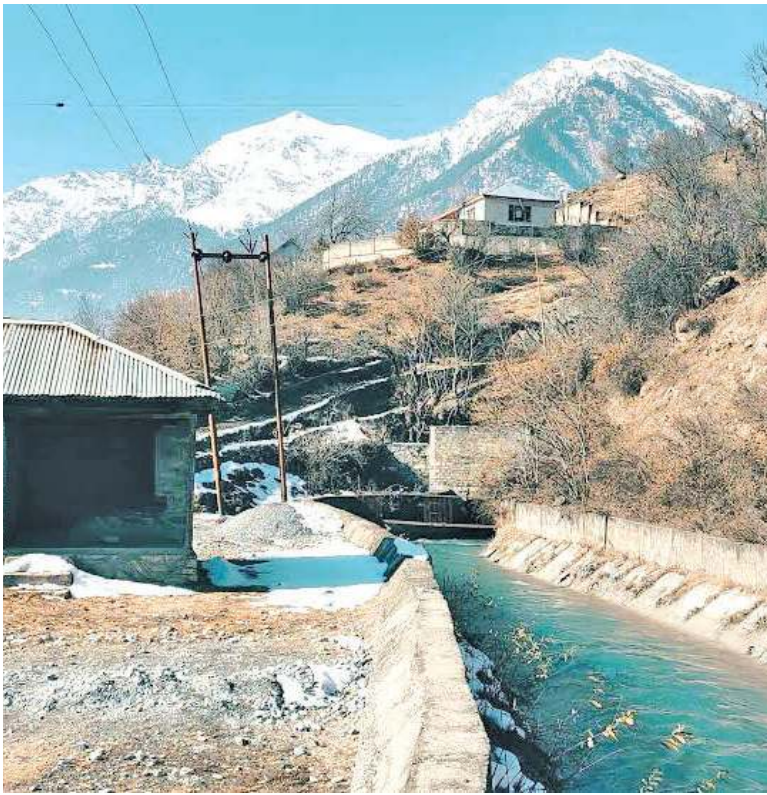
That's enough to power several towns — cleanly, efficiently, and locally.

The Hydropower Policy 2025, announced by the J&K government, offers a roadmap to revive such efforts. It favours small and medium projects, public-private partnerships, and promises streamlined clearances. It also talks about creating local jobs and using natural resources sustainably.

On paper, it reads like a plan designed with Gund and Kangan in mind. But on the ground, little has moved.

Every year, thousands of liters of glacier-fed water rush through this region. The streams don't dry up in summer. The slopes are perfect for run-of-river and gravity-based systems.

Unlike large dams, these setups don't need massive submergence



Ganderbal rarely makes it to the top of development priority lists, even though it sits at the crossroads of energy, tourism, and agriculture.

or human displacement. Grid infrastructure is nearby. And the local workforce, shaped by past experience, is more than ready to work again.

What's missing is urgency, and recognition.

Ganderbal rarely makes it to the top of development priority lists, even though it sits at the crossroads of energy, tourism, and agriculture.

Using this region's potential isn't just about meeting Jammu & Kashmir's power needs. It ties directly to

India's Sustainable Development Goals and its Net Zero 2070 commitment.

Clean energy is a necessity for climate reasons, energy independence, and regional growth.

Gund and Kangan offer something rare in infrastructure planning: natural feasibility.

Water flows year-round. There's minimal ecological cost. And there's an emotional, social legacy that still connects people to these projects.

When residents talk about USHP-I, they speak of it the way people elsewhere speak of old schools or ancestral lands, with memory and pride.

If the policy catches up with this reality, these twin towns could become Kashmir's model energy corridor.

If it doesn't, the region will continue exporting electricity without truly empowering itself.

The water is still flowing. The blueprints have been drawn. The history is on our side. The question is, will action follow?

Or will we, once again, let the river run on, and do nothing?

The author is a tourism professional from Gund, Sonamarg

BIS Organises 3-Day Exhibition For Students At SKICC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Jammu and Kashmir Branch Office (JKBO), organised a three-day exhibition at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), which witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 1,000 students representing 28 standards club schools from

across the region.

The event was inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, who was the chief guest on the occasion. LG Sinha visited various stalls, including the BIS stall, where officials briefed him about the bureau's initiatives in ensuring product quality, consumer safety, and the importance of

standardisation. The visit reflected the administration's support for promoting awareness about quality assurance among the youth.

During the course of the exhibition, Member of Parliament Ghulam Ali Khatana also visited the BIS stall. He was received by Tilak Raj, Director BIS JKBO, who briefed him about BIS's

functioning, standard-setting processes, and the bureau's role in safeguarding public interest through certification and testing mechanisms. Khatana appreciated the educational approach of BIS and its outreach to school students.

The BIS stall remained one of the highlights of the exhibition, attracting significant

attention from both students and educators. The initiative aimed at familiarising young participants with the role of standards in everyday life, including sectors like food safety, electronics, construction, and consumer goods.

Director BIS JKBO, Tilak Raj, said, "This exhibition provided students with a unique

opportunity to gain first-hand experience and understand how standardisation ensures quality, safety, and efficiency in the products and services we use."

Ashish Kumar Dwivedi, Standard Promotion Officer at BIS JKBO, interacted with students during the exhibition, responding to their queries and explaining the

certification process and BIS's efforts to promote a culture of quality among the younger generation.

The three-day event concluded today and is part of BIS's broader campaign to instill a sense of quality consciousness in society, particularly among students who will be the future stakeholders of the nation's development.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

After 3 Decades

The return of lotus vegetation is being viewed by residents and officials as a major ecological and cultural comeback.

"This is nothing short of a miracle," Abdul Hameed, a local resident told PTI.

"We used to disperse seeds ourselves, but it never worked because of the silt. The lake had lost its capacity to support lotus growth."

The 1992 floods had choked Wular Lake with silt, severely degrading its ecosystem. Over time, the thick sediment buried the root structures of lotus plants, affecting the lake's ecology and the seasonal 'nadru' (lotus stem) economy that once supported hundreds of families.

Thanks to conservation efforts by the Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA) — including a large-scale desilting project using Cutter Suction Dredgers — the lake has begun to show signs of revival. Last year, preliminary signs of lotus regrowth were observed. This year, a targeted seed dispersal programme by WUCMA led to successful blooming across nearly three square kilometres of the lake.

"This revival was possible due to the removal of nearly 80 lakh cubic metres of silt from the lake," said Mudasir Ahmad, Zonal Officer at WUCMA. "We've managed to restore approximately five square kilometres of lake area and significantly increased its water-holding capacity."

According to Irfan Rasool, Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir Division, the return of lotus beds is a strong indicator of ecological recovery. "It's not just about the visual appeal — it signifies a functional shift in the lake's health. Sunlight now reaches the lakebed, allowing dormant root structures to grow again."

The comeback of the lotus also rekindles the hope of a return to nadru harvesting — a key seasonal livelihood in the region. The edible stems, considered a delicacy in Kashmiri cuisine, require workers to wade deep into the water to extract them.

"Nadru was non-existent in the lake for all these years," Ahmad added. "With the lotus back, people can now think of harvesting again. This will give a much-needed boost to the local economy."

According to PTI, beyond lotus restoration, WUCMA's work has also improved the overall aquatic environment. Better water depth and flow have contributed to greater biodiversity. According to Rasool, rare migratory birds have begun to return to the lake over the last two years. Sightings now include species such as the Great Bittern, Falcated Duck, Pacific Golden Plover, Horned Grebe, and Marbled Teal, among others.

Residents like Abdul Hameed have urged the public to respect and protect the lake's biodiversity. "We must learn from the past. If we don't change our ways, it could be taken away from us again," he said.

The ecological turnaround of Wular Lake stands as a testament to sustained environmental restoration efforts and their impact on both nature and people.

Women-Led Growth

Highlighting the success of the initiative, Sinha said that over 1,400 women, including 125 from the latest batch, have received vocational training through the project jointly run by Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Vikas evam Sewa Sansthan, Project Toha Social, and the Indian Army.

"Nari Shakti" has brought a tremendous change to the rural economy. Our multi-pronged approach and women-centric initiatives have provided women with skills and financial support, ensuring they are not just beneficiaries but equal partners in Jammu and Kashmir's growth journey," he noted.

The Lieutenant Governor called for regular follow-ups with women trainees after course completion, to help them scale up their ventures. He also stressed the need to close the gender gap in entrepreneurship, particularly in rural areas, and encouraged greater recognition of women's leadership across sectors.

Sinha lauded the Indian Army's role in facilitating community-based development alongside maintaining national security. He also paid tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, describing him as a pioneer of women's rights and a guiding force for equality and social justice.

"The Indian Army is not only safeguarding our unity and integrity but also actively working to transform society through such inclusive initiatives," he added.

Goodwill Schools

people were told not to send their children to Army Goodwill Schools. Narratives were created to instill fear and mistrust. But I ask you—if our brave soldiers can protect our borders, then why can't they help educate our children?"

He said Army Goodwill Schools have become symbols of hope and opportunity for many in remote areas. "Today, students from these schools are not just learning subjects—they're becoming responsible citizens, and many are excelling in competitive fields."

LG Sinha said that people now recognise the

value and quality of education being provided in these institutions.

He praised the role of Army Goodwill Schools and various army-backed initiatives in transforming the ground situation in J&K. "These institutions have not only nurtured talent but also instilled a sense of security and purpose among the youth," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the Army's community engagements and development programme.

"The Indian Army is not only ensuring the unity and integrity of India with full alertness, but also continuously performing virtuous work of transforming the society," he said.

He also lauded the Army's community engagements and development programme. He said the Indian Army is not only ensuring the unity and integrity of India with full alertness, but also continuously performing virtuous work of transforming the society.

General Officer Commanding (GOC) 15 Corps, Lieutenant General Prashant Srivastava; GOC Victor Force Major General Dhananjay Joshi; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; DIG SKR Javid Iqbal Matoo, Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta; senior officials of Police, Civil Administration and Army; members of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Vikas evam Sewa Sansthan, and youth in large number were present on the occasion. (KNO)

School Timings

Any deviation from the order will be viewed seriously.

This adjustment comes as a welcome move for students and parents following the recent shift in weather, which now allows for extended school hours without discomfort.

NC Denied

from the list of gazetted holidays following the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory in 2019.

In past years, mainstream leaders and political workers would visit the Nowhatta graveyard to pay homage. In recent years, however, similar requests have been denied, and movement around the site has been restricted.

Last year, several political leaders were reportedly placed under house detention to prevent gatherings at the site. This year's denial marks a continuation of the post-2019 administrative approach toward the observance of July 13.

Amarnath Yatra

This year, the yatra has not been halted due to rains or any other reason," an official told KNO.

Authorities have also deployed additional teams for medical aid, sanitation, and route clearance, especially in light of recent weather fluctuations along the Pahalgam and Baltal routes.

Ambika Soni, a devotee from Jaipur, expressed her deep satisfaction with the ongoing arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra.

"The government has made very good arrangements this year. Everything from security to basic facilities like food and medical support is well-managed. It feels safe and spiritually uplifting to be part of this sacred journey. I will offer prayers at the holy cave for peace, prosperity, and happiness for everyone," she said.

Another devotee, Nilesch Upadhyay, who is undertaking the pilgrimage, said that he had come for the 13th time.

"I have come here for the 13th time, and I must say the arrangements have continuously improved over the years. There is a sense of peace and divine energy all around. The yatrīs are being taken care of at every step of the way. The environment is calm, the people are co-operative, and the security forces are doing a commendable job," he said.

Meanwhile, the 11th batch of 6,639 pilgrims set out from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu on Saturday morning to undertake the sacred journey to the Amarnath cave shrine in south Kashmir.

The group included 1,462 women, 41 children, and 181 sadhus and sadhvis. As per officials, the pilgrims left in two separate convoys amid tight security arrangements, heading towards the twin base camps of Nunwan in Pahalgam and Baltal in Ganderbal district.

Out of the total, 4,302 pilgrims opted for the traditional Pahalgam route, travelling in 159 vehicles, while 2,337 pilgrims preferred the Baltal route and were accommodated in 116 vehicles.

The 32-day yatra, which commenced on July 3, is scheduled to conclude on August 9. (KNO)

Yatri Missing

prompting a massive multi-agency rescue operation in the glacier-laden terrain of central Kashmir.

The missing pilgrim has been identified as Surinder Pal Arora, son of Gain Chand Arora, a resident of Ludhiana. According to officials, Arora was part of a group of seven

yatrīs descending from Burimarg to Railpathri around 12:30 AM when he suddenly began to show signs of high-altitude sickness, including confusion and erratic behaviour. "He reportedly began running aimlessly, took multiple cold-water showers, and ultimately jumped over a railing near Z-Morh," said a senior police officer, adding that the pilgrim is suspected to have fallen into a glacier-fed stream (nallah) in the area.

Upon receiving the alert, a joint rescue operation was launched involving Mountain Rescue Teams (MRTs) of JKAP, SDRF, ITBP, CRPF, NDRF, Village Guards, and the local police. Drone surveillance has also been deployed to assist in the search amid the challenging terrain and icy conditions.

As of Saturday evening, the search was still underway, with authorities hopeful of retrieving the body or finding any trace of the missing yatri. "We suspect he may have been disoriented due to altitude sickness," said an officer involved in the operation. "The rescue teams are doing everything possible to locate him."

237 Handed Over Job

distributed across 47 locations in the country on the same day.

The new recruits will join various ministries and departments including the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Posts, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Financial Services, and Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Divisional Railway Manager, Jammu, Vivek Kumar, said this was the first job fair organised by the Jammu division and described it as a step towards the Prime Minister's goal of ensuring employment for all.

"The Rozgar Mela aims to empower youth and motivate them to contribute meaningfully to nation building," Kumar said. He added that all newly appointed personnel will undergo online orientation training through the "Karmayogi Prarambhi" programme to familiarise them with government service protocols and responsibilities.

Administrative Reshuffle

He will also hold additional charge of the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department.

Anil Kumar Singh, currently Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department, and also handling the Mining Department, has been transferred as Principal Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department. He retains his additional charge of the Mining Department.

Yasha Mudgal, Commissioner/Secretary, Tourism Department, has been shifted to the Youth Services and Sports Department in the same capacity, while Sarmad Hafeez, currently in Youth Services and Sports, moves to the Social Welfare Department.

Talat Parvez Rohella, Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring, has been appointed Chairman of the Bureau of Public Enterprises, J&K.

Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department, and holding several additional charges, is now posted as Resident Commissioner, J&K Government, New Delhi. He will continue with his additional responsibilities including Hospitality and Protocol and Census Operations.

Additionally, Ananth Dwivedi, CEO of the State Health Agency and Mission Director of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission, will also serve as Additional Secretary, Revenue Department.

The reshuffle comes as part of the administration's ongoing efforts to optimize bureaucratic performance and ensure better service delivery across the Union Territory, an official spokesman said.

J&K Hajj Pilgrims

more desirable due to its proximity to holy sites.

Responding to the concerns, Dr. Shujhat Qureshi, Executive Officer of the J&K Haj Committee, confirmed that the matter has been taken up with the Haj Committee of India.

"We have already sent a formal letter and a follow-up reminder to the central Haj Committee. We are hopeful that affected pilgrims will receive a refund," Dr. Qureshi said.

The issue has stirred concern among the Hajj community in J&K, with many urging better transparency and accountability in pilgrimage planning going forward. (inputs from KNO)

License Of 4 Pharma

illegal trade channels pose a serious threat to public health, especially among vulnerable populations."

Officials said the crackdown reflects the department's strong commitment to curbing drug abuse and ensuring the safe distribution of pharmaceuticals across the region.

"Any act that contributes to drug misuse or circumvents the law will be met with the

strongest possible action," the spokesperson added.

Authorities have urged the public to remain vigilant and report any unethical practices involving prescription drug misuse to the department's dedicated helpline.

Fuel Cutoff, Pilot

bulletin by the US Federal Aviation Administration that said fuel switches had been installed on Boeing 737s, a smaller model, "with the locking feature disengaged". The locking mechanism was similar on various Boeing aeroplane models, including certain 787s, it said.

Air India did not carry out inspections recommended in the 2018 FAA advisory on fuel control switch safety, as the bulletin was classified as "non-mandatory", the report said.

It wasn't immediately clear if this had any link to the accident. The report provided the first detailed account of the fateful 32 seconds between takeoff in Ahmedabad and the crash into a medical college hostel just outside the airport perimeter, killing all but one of the 242 onboard and another 19 on the ground in the deadliest aviation accident in a decade.

The report did not provide any clues to why and by whom the two fuel switches were moved to a cut-off position as the plane nosed into the air, starving the two engines of the thrust needed for the lift. It ruled out any bird hit or fuel contamination.

According to a chronology laid out in the report, both fuel cutoff switches moved from RUN to CUTOFF, one second apart, almost immediately after takeoff. Ram Air Turbine (RAT) pump was deployed to supply hydraulic power as both engines fell below the minimum idle rate.

About 10 seconds later, Engine 1 fuel cutoff switch moved to its so-called RUN position, followed by Engine 2 four seconds later.

The pilots managed to relight both engines, but only Engine 1 recovered while Engine 2 failed to build up enough power again to reverse deceleration. One of the pilots issued a "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday" distress call, but before air traffic controllers could get a response about what had gone wrong, the plane crashed just outside the Ahmedabad airport boundary having grazed some trees before plunging into a hostel packed with students.

The time between the takeoff and the crash was only 32 seconds. The preliminary report recommended no action for now for the operators of Boeing 787-8 planes. In a statement, Air India said that it "stands in solidarity with the families and those affected" and "[continues] to mourn the loss" of those killed in the accident.

Air India said it was "working closely with stakeholders, including regulators" and "continue to fully cooperate with the AAIB and other authorities as their investigation progresses." On its part, Boeing said: "Our thoughts remain with the loved ones of the passengers and crew on board Air India Flight 171, as well as everyone affected on the ground in Ahmedabad. We continue to support the investigation and our customers."

The US National Transportation Safety Board noted that there were no recommended actions in the report aimed at operators of Boeing 787 jets or the GE engines.

The ill-fated flight was commanded by Sumeet Sabharwal, 56, a veteran with 30 years of experience at Air India. He had logged 15,638 flying hours, including 8,596 on the Boeing 787. He was also an Air India instructor. His co-pilot was Clive Kunder, 32, who had 3,403 hours of total experience, with 1,128 hours on the Dreamliner.

Kunder was the pilot flying, while Sabharwal was the pilot monitoring.

The crew had passed pre-flight breathalyser tests and were seen at the gate on CCTV before they took off, the report adds.

The June 12 accident was India's worst aviation disaster in almost three decades and the industry's deadliest in 11 years, as well as the first fatal accident involving a Boeing Dreamliner.

The investigation was conducted with assistance from the UK's Air Accident Investigation Branch and the US National Transportation Safety Board.

Aviation experts have said it is difficult for pilots to inadvertently move the fuel switches, as there is a little mechanical gate built into the switch. Switches need to be lifted up over this little gate to shut off supply. They also asked why the report made no reference to cockpit camera footage.

Fuel switches are devices that regulate the flow of fuel into the engine of an aeroplane. Pilots use them to start or shut down engines on the ground or during a flight in case of an engine failure. They are spring-loaded to remain in position. To change fuel supply, a pilot has to first pull the switch up and then move it from RUN to CUTOFF or vice versa.

"The aircraft achieved the maximum recorded airspeed of 180 Knots IAS at about 08:08:42 UTC (13:38 IST) and immediately thereafter, the Engine 1 and Engine 2 fuel cutoff switches transitioned from RUN to CUTOFF position one after another with a time gap of 01 sec," the report said.

As per the report, the engine N1 and N2 began to decrease from their take-off values as the fuel supply to the engines was cut off.

"In the cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots is heard asking the other why did he cutoff. The other pilot responded that he did not do so," it said.

Almost immediately after the plane lifted off the ground, CCTV footage shows a backup energy source called a ram air turbine had deployed, indicating a loss of power from the engines.

The report provided only a limited picture of the interaction between the two pilots in the flight deck.

The report said both fuel switches were found in the run position at the crash site and that there had been indications of both engines relighting before the low-altitude crash.

It said the aircraft took off at 08:08:39 UTC (13:38:39 IST) and at about 08:09:05 UTC (13:39:05 IST) one of the pilots transmitted 'MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY'.

"The ATCO (Air Traffic Controller) enquired about the call sign. ATCO did not get any response but observed the aircraft crashing outside the airport boundary and activated the emergency response," the report said.

AAIB also said fuel samples taken from bowsers and tanks used to refuel the aircraft were tested at the DCGA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) Lab and were found satisfactory.

The preliminary report was widely anticipated to throw more light on what could have led to the crash, which was one of the worst in India in decades, and also it was the first accident involving a Boeing 787 aircraft that resulted in hull loss.

The AAIB said the wreckage site activities, including drone photography/ videography have been completed and the wreckage has been moved to a secure area near the airport.

"Both engines were retrieved from the wreckage site and quarantined at a hangar in the airport. Components of interest for further examinations have been identified and quarantined," it said.

The AAIB is gathering additional details based on initial leads and data downloaded from the forward Enhanced Airborne Flight Recorder (EAFR) is being analysed.

"At this stage of investigation, there are no recommended actions to B787-8 and/or GE GENx-1B engine operators and manufacturers," the report said.

The plane that crashed was powered by GENx-1B engines.

Statements of the witnesses and the surviving passenger have been obtained by the Investigators.

The complete analysis of post-mortem reports of the crew and the passengers is being undertaken to corroborate aeromedical findings with the engineering appreciation, the AAIB said.

The probe is continuing and the investigation team will review and examine additional evidence, records and information that is being sought from the stakeholders.

There were 230 passengers on board -- 15 in the business class and 215, including two infants, in economy class.

Sole Survivor

the medical college hostel premises after the crash-landing," he recalled in an interview to Doodarshan. "When I saw that the door was broken, I told myself that I can try and get out. Eventually, I came out."

Moments later, a dazed Vishwas was walking barefoot and bloodied toward an ambulance, away from the burning wreckage. But escaping the debris was only the beginning.

Back in Diu, where the brothers had travelled to visit family before returning to London, grief settled like a permanent guest. On June 17, Vishwas was discharged from Ahmedabad Civil Hospital. That same day, his brother's remains, identified through DNA matching, were handed over to the family. The next morning, a viral video showed Vishwas carrying Ajay's body on his shoulders to the cremation ground. Since then, life has stood still.

"He does not speak to anyone. He doesn't even take calls from our relatives abroad," said Sunny, his cousin. "He wakes up in the middle of the night and can't go back to sleep. He's still haunted by the crash and Ajay's death."

With no immediate plans to return to the UK, Vishwas remains in India and has begun psychiatric treatment. "We took him to a psychiatrist two days ago. His therapy has just started," Sunny said.

The trauma is all-consuming. For a man who emerged from mangled metal and flames, the invisible wounds have proven much harder to escape.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Vishwas in the hospital a day after the crash and enquired about his condition. But while the nation's attention may soon shift elsewhere, Vishwas's life remains suspended between memory and mourning.

He survived what few ever do. But healing — if it comes — will take far longer than the fall from the sky.

CS Reviews Implementation Of Welfare Schemes

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Saturday chaired a meeting to review the implementation of various welfare schemes meant for marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department (SWD), Anil Kumar Singh; Secretary in SWD; Mission Director, ICDS/ICPS/Mission Vatsalya; Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Board (JJB); Director, Social Welfare, Jammu/Kashmir; District Social Welfare Officers (DSWOs) and other senior officials of the department.

The Chief Secretary underscored the urgent need to upgrade all the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) with basic facilities such as electricity, drinking water, toilets and other utilities. He directed for priority to those centres housed in government-owned buildings through convergence with departments like Rural Development. He also asked for shifting of centres operating from private premises

lacking such infrastructure.

Reviewing the outreach and impact of various flagship programmes, Dulloo laid emphasis on monitoring the outcomes of nutrition-based interventions targeting the children, adolescent girls and lactating mothers under the Poshan Scheme. He stressed that tracking measurable outcomes is critical for ensuring real progress at the grassroots level.

The Chief Secretary also called upon the Programme Officers and DSWOs to frequently conduct field visits to assess on-ground realities and align their actions with actual needs. He remarked that all decisions should stem from field-level insights and reflect the actual realities of our people.

In a forward-looking suggestion, Dulloo asked the department to explore the concept of Composite Homes in districts to house the orphaned children, elderly citizens and the destitute women together, providing them with a sense of community and shared care, reducing isolation.

‘Bharat Sanrachna 2025’ Exhibition Concludes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The three-day national-level exhibition “Bharat Sanrachna Jammu & Kashmir 2025” concluded here at Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) on Saturday, drawing enthusiastic crowds and widespread participation from students, professionals and local families.

Organised by Tarmeh Events under the guidance of Rajya Sabha MP Ghulam Ali Khatana, the event brought together over 60 premier national institutions, including DRDO, ISRO, ICMR, CSIR, NHPC, ICAR and the Geological Survey of India under one roof, to showcase India’s de-

velopmental journey and vision for Viksit Bharat @2047.

According to the details collected by KNO, over the past three days, visitors engaged with interactive exhibits, live demonstrations, workshops, youth zones and cultural stalls.

“The event focused on a wide spectrum of sectors including science, healthcare, defence, space, agriculture, water innovation, tourism, digital technology and local crafts,” the officials said.

They said, on the final day, special career guidance booths, student interaction zones and skill-building workshops saw large participation from school and college students across the Valley.



WORLD EXPO 2025 Vande Bharat & Chenab Bridge Take Spotlight In Osaka

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Vande Bharat and Chenab Bridge have emerged as a star attraction at the ongoing World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan, drawing enthusiastic crowds and high praise from Japanese visitors for its remarkable journey of modernisation and technological innovation.

Held at Yumeshima, an artificial island on Osaka’s waterfront, the World Expo 2025 opened its doors on April 13 and will continue till October 13, welcoming millions of visitors from across the globe. Amid the vibrant international exhibits, the Indian Pavilion, particularly the section dedicated to Indian Railways, has become a focal point of admiration.

In the showcase, the magnificent Chenab Bridge, the world’s highest Railway bridge soaring across the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir; the iconic Anji Khad Bridge, India’s first cable-stayed rail bridge in

“**Japanese visitors gathered around the Indian Railways exhibit, keenly listening to presentations about the genesis of one of the world’s largest Rail networks and its incredible transformation over the decades.”**

the challenging Himalayan terrain; the state-of-the-art Vande Bharat Express trains, known for their speed and passenger comfort; and many more latest advancements in electric locomotives underscore India’s commitment to sustainable mobility.

Several Japanese visitors gathered around the

Indian Railways exhibit, keenly listening to presentations about the genesis of one of the world’s largest Rail networks and its incredible transformation over the decades. The blend of engineering marvels and sustainable technology left many in awe. Visitors have praised not only the scale of the projects but also India’s vision of integrating modern infrastructure with environmental consciousness.

The theme for the Expo 2025 is “Designing Future Society for Our Lives”, with three sub-themes, namely - Saving Lives,

Empowering Lives and Connecting Lives, beautifully aligns with Indian Railways’ vision of delivering safe, inclusive and sustainable transportation. Through interactive sessions and immersive digital displays, Indian Railways is actively engaging global audiences, reinforcing its image as a modern, innovative and eco-conscious mobility leader.

Toilets Polluting Village Water Supply Demolished In Kashmir

Residents call the move overdue. Officials say more action is planned.

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: More than half a dozen dry latrines built near freshwater streams were demolished Saturday in Raithan village of central Kashmir’s Budgam district.

The action, ordered by Assistant Commissioner Development Hilal Ahmad Mir, aimed to stop human waste from leaking into drinking water sources.

The structures, made of tin and mud, lacked proper containment systems and posed a serious health risk, officials said.

The demolition was carried out by the Rural Development Department under the district’s rural waste management program.

“These toilets were contaminating the stream locals depend on,” said a field officer. “Removing them was necessary.”

Though Jammu and Kashmir was declared open defecation free under the Swachh Bharat Mission, dry latrines and unsafe toilet practices

persist in many villages. Their proximity to streams has led to rising concerns over water-borne diseases and pollution.

The Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement, which has highlighted the issue in the ongoing Doodhganga river case before the National Green Tribunal, welcomed the step.

“This is a long-overdue intervention,” said RTI Movement chairman Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat. “Human waste was entering the water supply. Raithan must be the beginning, not the exception.”

Villagers also voiced support. “The stream is our only water source,” said Abdul Rashid, a resident. “We’ve been asking for this for years.”

Officials said similar drives are being prepared in other parts of Budgam, where toilets continue to pose environmental threats.

Activists stress the need for more than demolition, calling for safe toilet design, soak pits, and waste treatment systems.

Cop Among Three Booked For Securing Jobs On Fake Documents

Observer News Service

Jammu: Three people have been booked, including a sub-inspector and a teacher, for allegedly securing government jobs by using forged documents, said a senior crime branch officer on Saturday.

The three accused have been identified as Sub-Inspector Mohinder Paul, teacher Govind Kumar and Anganwadi Worker (AWW) Shakeela Bano, all from different areas of Jammu region.

Three separate FIRs have been registered at the crime branch (Economic Offences Wing) police station, said Senior Superintendent of Police Benam Tosh of Jammu crime branch.

Paul, presently posted in

the fourth battalion of Indian Reserve Police, is a resident of Upper Nonial in Nowshera tehsil of Rajouri, and is accused of securing a job in the Police Department J&K Armed Police in 1995 by using fake educational qualification documents.

The departmental enquiry report and preliminary verification report prima facie revealed commission of a cognisable offence, officials said.

On the written complaint of Bachan Lal of Suchetgarh, a case against Kumar of village Khamb, R S Pura was registered for getting a job in J&K School Education Department as Rahber-e-Taleem (ReT) teacher in 2004 by using a forged permanent residence certificate (PRC), officials said.

Ittija Offers Floral Tributes At 'Martyrs Graveyard'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) leader Ittija Mufti on Saturday paid floral tributes to the people who fell to the bullets of the Dogra army on July 13, 1931.

July 13 was observed as 'Martyrs' Day' in Jammu and Kashmir before the reorganisation of the erstwhile state into two Union territories in August 2019. However, the administration dropped the day from the list of gazetted holidays in 2020 after the reorganisation of J-K.

On the day, mainstream political leaders also used to visit the "martyrs' graveyard" to pay homage to the 22 Kashmiris who fell to the bullets of the Dogra army while protesting the rule of the Maharaja.

Sanat Nagar Flyover 'Likely To Open By August 2025'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The much-delayed Sanat Nagar flyover—considered the final critical bridge along the Srinagar Bypass, is now expected to be completed and opened for the traffic by the end of August, senior officials in the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department here said.

Officials in the R&B department said that the construction had earlier slowed down due to a 132 KV high-tension electricity line that passed directly above the under-construction structure.

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA

Tele/fax: 01933/295537; Email Id: xenphemechsouthawp@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: Electrical/ Electro-Mechanical and Civil Works at Water Supply Scheme AIIMS AWANTI-PORA (Phase 2nd) Under UT Capex.

Reference: 1. This Office ENIT No.: 13 of 2025-26 Dated: 25-06-2025 issued vide No.: MDSA/1547-62 Dated: 25-06-2025.

2. Assistant Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Sub Division Pampore's office letter No.: JS/PHE/SDP/210 Dated: 09/07/2025.

Due to typographical error, kindly read the dia of the pipe as “400 mm ND” instead of “450 mm ND” for item No. 92 of the BOQ and as well as in the technical specifications of Electrical/Electro-Mechanical and Civil Works at Water Supply Scheme AIIMS AWANTI-PORA (Phase 2nd) Under UT Capex.

Other terms and conditions of the ENIT’s remain same.

No.: MDSA/1878-87
DIPK-3604/25 Dated: 12/07/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti
(PHE) Mech. Division
South Awantipora

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

Convocation Notice -2025
(Revised Provisional Merit List)

In continuation to the earlier notification vide No: IUST/Exam-Unit/Convocation/25/1312 Dated: 01-07-2025 and in view of the various queries received, the revised provisional list of the students eligible for the conferment of Gold Medal, Certificate of Merit and award of Ph.D degrees has been made available for the attention of all the concerned. Accordingly, all the concerned are as such requested to check the said list on the University Website. www.iust.ac.in and report any clarification(s) /objection(s) by personally visiting the office of the undersigned or through email on examinations@islamicuniversity.edu.in by or before **14-07-2025**.

Any claim made by the student(s) beyond the stipulated time shall not be considered.

No. IUST/Exam-Unit/Convocation/25/1370
Dated: 11-07-2025

Sd/
I/C Controller of Examinations
DIPK-NB-1132/25 dated: 12-07-2025

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9070806160

Lord's Test Hangs In Balance After India Match England's 1st Innings Score

Press Trust of India

LONDON: KL Rahul racked up his second hundred at the iconic Lord's before India matched England's first innings total of 387 on an attritional day three of the third Test to leave the game on even keel on a deteriorating pitch. Besides Rahul's high quality effort (100 off 177), Ravindra Jadeja (72 off 131) and Rishabh Pant (74 off 112) propped up India's first innings total.

It would be a challenge for India to bat last on a surface where the odd ball is taking off after pitching besides offering some turn.

When England batted, Zak Crawley wasted precious time to ensure that he faced only solitary hostile over from Jasprit Bumrah as hosts went into fourth day with a slender two-run lead.

But in the final five minutes on third day, there was enough dra-



India's KL Rahul (left) is out by a short ball from England's Jofra Archer (right) during the first innings of the third Test match between India and England at Lord's Cricket Ground in London on Sunday.

see Jofra Archer go about his business and consistently breaching 90 mph mark. Ben Stokes too got the ball to rise sharply from back of length and one of them crashed into Nitish Reddy's helmet grille.

Like the case in England innings, India chose to play waiting game on a two-paced track, scoring at less than 3.5 runs per over.

Indian lower-order consumed a lot of balls but was not able to push the scoring rate. After scoring his third fifty in a row, Jadeja got a faint edge down the leg side off Chris Woakes.

Akash Deep got two on field lbw decision was overturned via DRS but perished after hitting a six.

Realising he was running out of partners, Washington Sundar went for a wild swing off Archer but caught by Harry Brook at a straightish fine leg to bring an end to India's innings.

In the afternoon, Rahul got out to a loose drive after completing his 10th Test hundred.

Rahul reached his hundred shortly after the lunch break with a single off Archer. He became second Indian batter after Dilip Vengsarkar (3 hundreds) to score multiple ton at the Lord's.

However, he had a lapse in concentration in the very next over when he went for a drive off a flighted delivery from Shoaib Bashir but ended up edging it to Harry Brook at first slip.

Runs were hard to come by in the session with India accumulating only 68 runs.

Bashir was forced off the field soon after getting into the wickets column as he took a blow on his left finger while fielding off his own bowling. The poor running between the wickets between Reddy and Jadeja also stood out in the session. Either of them could have been run out thrice.

Bilquis Mir Nominated As CD For 1st Khelo India Water Sports Games

Kashmir's Bilquis Mir, a trailblazer in Indian water sports and the country's first woman Olympic jury member (Paris 2024), has been nominated as the Competition Director for the First Khelo India Water Sports Games, slated to be held in Srinagar from August 21 to 23.

The nomination was formally conveyed by the Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association. In a letter addressed to the Director General, Youth Services and Sports Department, J&K, the IKCA has requested that Mir's services be made available to oversee this prestigious national-level event.

The three-day championship will feature kayaking, canoeing, and rowing events across Dal Lake and other selected venues, placing Srinagar firmly on the national map for water-based adventure and sporting excellence.

A venue recce is being conducted by senior competition officials, including Bilquis Mir (Canoeing and Kayaking) and Saji Thomas (Rowing). Their visit is focused on evaluating infrastructure readiness and fine-tuning logistical arrangements to ensure the event runs seamlessly. (Observer News Service)

Chopra, Nadeem To Meet In Silesia DL In Poland

Double Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra will be up against reigning champion Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan in a much-anticipated clash in Diamond League in Silesia, Poland on August 16, in their first face-off after their Paris Games showdown in 2024.

Chopra and Nadeem will be facing each other one year after the mouth-watering men's javelin competition in Paris on August 8, 2024, when the Pakistani had beaten the Indian for the gold with a stunning 92.97m throw.

The 27-year-old Chopra, who had won gold in Tokyo Olympics in 2021, had to settle for a silver in Paris with a best throw of 89.45m.

A World Athletics statement said that Chopra and Nadeem will be competing in the men's javelin event in Silesia DL. (PTI)

Iga Swiatek Wins Her First Wimbledon Championship

Iga Swiatek won her first Wimbledon championship with a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Amanda Anisimova on Saturday in the first women's final at the tournament in 114 years in which one player failed to claim a single game.

Swiatek's victory on a sunny, breezy afternoon at Centre Court took just 57 minutes and gave Swiatek her sixth Grand Slam title overall. She is now 6-0 in major title matches. The 24-year-old from Poland finished with a 55-24 edge in total points and accumulated that despite needing to produce merely 10 winners. Anisimova was shaky from the start and made 28 unforced errors. (AP)

KASHMIR SUPER LEAGUE

New JK United, Arco United Battle To A Goalless Draw

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The third and final Round 1 match of the Kashmir Super League 2025 delivered a high-octane and tactically sound performance on Saturday. New JK United FC and Arco United FC battled at TRC Ground, which ultimately in a goalless draw.

Despite the 0-0 scoreline, fans were treated to an intense display of football marked by tight defensive lines, swift midfield play, and heroic goalkeeping.

The match stood out for its competitive tempo and commendable sportsmanship. Nirdosh, the goalkeeper of New JK United FC, emerged as the standout performer of the evening, bagging both the Khyber Man of the Match and Golden Save Award for his exceptional shot-stopping



Arco United's Nirdosh (left) is congratulated by teammates after a save during the match between New JK United and Arco United at TRC Ground, Srinagar, on Saturday.

District Level Kabaddi, Handball Tournaments Begin In Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The District Youth Services and Sports Office Anantnag inaugurated its District Level Kabaddi and Handball Tournaments for Boys in Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 age categories on Saturday. These district-level competitions are being held across multiple venues in the district and have witnessed overwhelming participation and energetic performances from student-athletes.

At BMHSS Bijbehara, the U-17 Boys' Kabaddi Tournament was formally inaugurated by Principal Mohammad Iqbal Ganie in the presence of field officials of the YSS Department. On the opening day, five exciting matches were played where teams from Anantnag, Bijbehara, Achabal and Bidder registered victories.

Simultaneously, the U-14



Boys' Kabaddi Tournament was conducted smoothly at HSS Brakpora, where six matches were played. The teams from Achabal, Dooru, Mattan, Verinag and Bijbehara emerged victorious in their first-round matches, showcasing skill and determination.

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