

Storm Clouds Over Aviation As Safety Warnings Soar

Observer News Service

New Delhi: India's aviation sector is grappling with an escalating safety crisis following a deadly crash involving an Air India Boeing 787-Dreamliner and a rising wave of technical snags across multiple airlines, prompting urgent

questions over operational oversight and crew welfare. The crisis deepened after over 100 Air India pilots went on medical leave just days after the catastrophic Ahmedabad crash, which claimed 274 lives. The aircraft, en route to Delhi, lost thrust mid-air and slammed into a hostel

building two kilometres from the airport boundary.

Pilot Mental Health in Focus

Junior Civil Aviation Minister Murlidhar Mohol, addressing Parliament on Thursday, revealed that 51 Commanders | [More on P10](#)

Cockpit Glitch: AI Express Aborts Takeoff At Delhi

A Mumbai-bound Air India Express plane, with around 160 passengers onboard, aborted takeoff due to a technical snag | [More on P10](#)

Doha-Bound AI Flight Returns Mid-Air After Snag

An Air India Express flight to Doha returned to Calicut International Airport two hours after take-off on Wednesday | [More on P10](#)



Govt Staff Can Take 30-Day Elder Care Leave

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The service rules allow 30 days' leave to Central government employees, which can be availed for any personal reason including that of taking care of elderly parents, Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said in Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

The minister was asked whether there is any provision for government employees to avail leave to take care of their elderly parents.

"The Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972 provides for 30 days of earned leave, 20 days of half pay leave, eight days of casual leave and two days of restricted holiday | [More on P10](#)

'We Were Forgotten'

Terror Victims Speak Out As LG Steps In With Relief

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Grief, anger and long-suppressed voices echoed in Baramulla as survivors of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir confronted years of state neglect during an event where Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha handed over appointment letters to the kin of terror victims.

"No government ever cared to ask about our pain," said Suhail Yusuf Shah from Kupwara, whose mother was killed by terrorists. "For decades, J&K's ruling class empowered terrorists, played into ISI's hands and left



victims like us to rot."

The emotional gathering was part of the administration's initiative to rehabilitate families affected by Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. At least | [More on P10](#)

Youth Will Drive J&K's Peace, Progress: LG

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said the youth of the Union Territory are its most valuable asset and possess the power to drive a socio-economic revolution, as he addressed the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Program | [More on P10](#)

India Strikes Major Trade Pact with UK

Zero Duty On 95% Agri, Marine, Textiles & More

Press Trust Of India

London: India and the UK signed a landmark free trade agreement on Thursday, which, starting next year, will see 99 per cent of Indian exports enter the UK duty-free, while reducing tariffs on British products such as cars and whisky.

The deal, which comes days ahead of the US moratorium on higher tariffs coming to an end, aims to double the USD 56 billion trade between the world's fifth and sixth largest economies by 2030.

While India has opened its market to various consumer



goods, including chocolates, biscuits, and cosmetics, it will gain greater access to export products such as textiles, footwear, gems and jewellery,

sports goods, and toys. Also, Indian companies, such as TCS and Infosys, operating in the UK won't have to make | [More on P10](#)

What Gets Cheaper With India-UK Trade Deal?

On Thursday, the India-UK Free Trade Agreement was signed and formalised, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UK, where he met his counterpart Keir Starmer. The deal was signed by commerce minister Piyush Goyal and Jonathan Reynolds, his British counterpart. The trade deal had been under negotiations for three years and is expected to boost bilateral trade between the two economies by \$34 billion annually. The FTA will | [More on P10](#)

Historic Day For India-UK relations: PM

India and the UK on Thursday inked a landmark free trade pact that will increase market access, cut tariffs on British whisky and cars among other items and double bilateral trade by 2030 as the two strategic partners | [More on P10](#)

Pact Brings Hope For Kashmir's Handicraft Sector

While the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) does not mention Kashmir specifically, stakeholders in the region's traditional handicraft sector believe the deal | [More on P10](#)



Department of Culture
J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages

Organises

Weekend Theatre Plays
(Saptahik Rangdhara)

سپتہ ہیک رنگدھارا

Inaugural play

“Ek Panna Gumnaam”
ایک پنا گمنام

presented by

Viraj Kala Kendra

on 25th, July 2025
at 4:30 pm sharp

Venue : Tagore Hall, Srinagar

All are cordially invited

Entry Free
(on valid Identity Card/Adhaar Card only)

Additional Secretary (K)
JKAACL



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Culture
محکمہ ثقافت و تہذیب
J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages
جسٹس اینڈ کلتھیر اکیڈمی آف آرٹ، کلتھیر اینڈ لینگویجس

Organises

Saptahik Rangdhara
سپتہ ہیک رنگدھارا
(Weekly Theatre Plays)

Every Friday/Saturday at 4:30 PM Sharp

Venue : Tagore Hall, Srinagar

All are cordially invited

| S.No | Name of the Group | Play | Language | Duration (mins) | Director | Date/Day |
|------|--|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Viraj Kala Kendra, Jammu | Ek Pana Gumnaam | Hindustani | 65 | Ramesh Kumar Gupta | 25.07.2025 (Friday) |
| 2. | Vomedh Rang Manch | Lalleshwari | Kashmiri | 65 | Rohit Bhat | 02.08.2025 (Saturday) |
| 3. | Cultural Educational & Environmental Organization Budgam | Vathiv Badliv Panun Taqdeer | Kashmiri | 65 | Sheikh Altaf Hussain | 09.08.2025 (Saturday) |
| 4. | Mehak Dramatic Club | Mouj | Kashmiri | 65 | Farhat Siddique | 16.08.2025 (Saturday) |
| 5. | ACT for better tomorrow | Jheel Bula Rahi Hai | Urdu | 65 | Mushtaque Ali Ahmad Khan | 23.08.2025 (Saturday) |
| 6. | Kashmir Kala Manch, Srinagar | Phreteu-mut | Kashmiri | 65 | Tasleem Tabasum/Hakeem Javeed | 30.08.2025 (Saturday) |
| 7. | Yamberzal Youth Club, Brein Nishat Srinagar. | Tathae | Kashmiri | 65 | Shazad Shabir/ Khursheed Ahmad Mir | 06.09.2025 (Saturday) |
| 8. | Curtain Call, Batamaloo Srinagar | Secret Plan | Kashmiri | 65 | Sheikh Mohd Hanief/ Sameer Dar | 13.09.2025 (Saturday) |

All are requested to come with family and friends to be part of this Cultural Initiative.
(Kindly be seated at 4:15 PM)

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Secretary
JKAACL

Dated: 24-07-25
DIPK-NB-1318/25



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2

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son in his Adhaar card has been wrongly written as Musa Abdul Sami while his correct name is Mukarram Musa Bhat which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concern aadhar centre Jammu Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ab Sami Bhat
F/O Mukarram Bhat
R/O Bongam Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Discharge Certificate bearing Roll No: 224414. Now, I have applied for the issuance of a duplicate Discharge Certificate. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of the Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Magam, within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Shahzad Ali Hajam
S/o Ali Mohd Hajam
R/o Babapora, Magam

BMG

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old name) GAZALA KHAN to (New name) GAZALA WANI. In future I will be known as (New Name): GAZALA WANI.

If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

media line

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 Sufiyan Deedar s/o Mohammad Yousuf Deedar R/o Manz Moh Diguwari Tehsil Dooru district Anantnag with verified date of birth 26/04/2024 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

NOTICE

I have changed my name in Passport Bearing passport No:- S 9426236 from (old Name) Minaam Vajahat D/o Vajahat Hussain Byhaqui R/O Sheesh Bagh Illahi Bagh Buchpora Srinagar, 190006, to (New Name) Syed Minaam Vajahat D/o Syed Vajahat Hussain Byhaqui R/o House No:46 Sheesh Bagh, Illahi Bagh Buchpora Srinagar, 190006. In Future I will be known as (New Name) Syed Minaam Vajahat D/o Syed Vajahat Hussain Byhaqui R/o House No:46 Sheesh Bagh, Illahi Bagh Buchpora Srinagar, 190006. If anybody is having any objection, he/she may contact Regional Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Media Line Ads

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Sub: Application of Ab. Qayoom Bhat S/O, D/O, W/O, F/O: Late Mohd Sultan Bhat R/O: Saloosa Tehsil Kreeri for the issuance of Legal Heir certificate.

NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, in this context, a detailed report was sought from the patwari halqa concerned which reveals that Late Mohd Sultan Bhat S/O, D/O, W/O, F/O: Mohd Abdullah Bhat passed away on 19/02/2025. Moreover, the Death Certificate issued by the Competent Authority also depicts the same. Furthermore, the report of Patwari Concerned points out that the deceased has left behind the following Legal Heirs, tabulated as below:

| S. No. | Name of Legal Heir | Relation with Deceased | Age | Occupation | Marital Status |
|--------|--------------------|------------------------|----------|------------|----------------|
| 1 | Sayed Begum | Wife | 64 years | H/Wife | Married |
| 2 | Mohd Shafi Bhat | Son | 39 years | Labour | |
| 3 | Ab. Qayoom Bhat | Son | 38 years | Paint | |
| 4 | Shaheena Begum | Daughter | 45 years | H/Wife | |
| 5 | Hafiza Begum | | 43 years | | |
| 6 | Salila Sultan | | 37 years | | |

The applicant has applied for the issuance of a Legal Heir certificate. As such the instant matter is published through the newspaper, if anyone has any kind of objection, He/she may approach this office within 7 days (Seven Days) of the publication of this notice. After passing of stipulated time of 7 days (Seven Days), No objections will be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar Kreeri
fko

NOTICE

I Bashir Ahmad Bhat S/o Ghulam Rasool Bhat R/o Tengpora, Nawa Kadal, Srinagar have Lost my Number Plate of Car Bearing Reg. No JK01W4776 while Travelling From Soura to Zoonimar. Now I want to apply for its Duplicate. Regarding this, if anybody is having any objection may file the same to the RTO office Srinagar within a week's time after that no objection will be entertained.

9596011113

Media Line Ads

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the Registration No.JK01L-0305 issued in favour of SHEIKH MUKHTAR AHMAD Parentage SHEIKH NOOR MOHAMMAD Whereas an application has been recieved by one SHEIKH MUKHTAR AHMAD Parentage SHEIKH NOOR MOHAMMAD wherein he claimed that the address has been recorded in the records of Registration Certificate as 75-Rajbagh Srinagar Kashmir Which needs to be changed as Gulberg Colony Hyderpora Budgam, pin 190014

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

Regional Transport officer

Kashmir

mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420100010692 issued in favour of ABDUL RASHID KUMAR Parentage GHULAM QADIR KUMAR

Whereas an application has been recieved by one ABDUL RASHID KUMAR Parentage GHULAM QADIR KUMAR wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as AB RASHID KUMAR Parentage GH QADIR KUMAR Which needs to be changed as ABDUL RASHID KUMAR Parentage GHULAM QADIR KUMAR

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

Assistant Regional Transport officer

Budgam Kashmir

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my name AIJAZ AHMAD MIR S/O GH AHMAD MIR R/O KREERI . Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO Q212040000022 wants to be registered on my MOTHER'S name BAKHTI BEGUM W/O LATE GH AHMAD MIR R/O KREERI. If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication ofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name: BAKHTI BEGUM
M/O AJAZ AHMAD MIR
R/O KREERI DISTT..... BARAMULLA

fko

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of BINSHA QAYOOM W/O ZUBAIR HAMID SOFI for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar and Bakerwal) in favour of SELF R/O KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST. in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village KREERI and belongs to the BHAT caste and Gojer community, having annual income is 14,56,776 in wards (Fourteen lack Fifty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Six)the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

| | | | | |
|---|------------------|---------------|----------|------------------|
| 1 | ABDUL HAMID SOFI | Father in law | 68 | retired employee |
| 2 | RAFEEQA HAMID | Mother in law | 68 years | Retired employee |
| 3 | ZUBAIR HAMID | Husband | 35 years | private employee |
| 4 | BINSHA QAYOOM | self | 28 years | private employee |
| 5 | TAHA ZUBAIR | son | 1 Month | Minor |
| 6 | SANIA | sister in law | 25 years | student |

.The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay office of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this order within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

fko_r

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI KREERI

UNION TERRITORY

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENTDIVISION QAZIGUND

Email: qazigundphedivision@gmail.com (Phone No./Fax No. 01931-295040)

e-NIT No: 07 of 2025-26 issued under No/PHEQ/CC/1844-64 Dated: 22.07.2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies/ of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state, for the work mentioned below: -

| SLNo | Name of work | Adv Cost Rs in Lacs | Time of completion | EMD | Class of Contractor | Technical Sanction No | Cost of Tender doc. (In Rs) |
|------|---|---------------------|--------------------|------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Augmentation of pipes at Sehpora Dooru for WSS Dooru Town (Under District Capex for the year 2025-26) | 0.336 | 15 days | 1008 | DEE | PHQ/15 of 22.07.25 | 200 |
| 2. | Laying and fitting of pipes for New Colony Yot (Under District Capex for the year 2025-26) | 1.2347 | 20 days | 3704 | DEE | PHQ/16 of 22.07.25 | 200 |
| 3. | Replacing of 150 mm dia old pipes for Bimdoora & extension for length of 600 Mtrs (Under District Capex for the year 2025-26) | 1.4997 | 20 days | 4500 | DEE | PHQ/12 of 22.07.25 | 200 |
| 4. | Laying & fitting of pipes to the outgrowth/households at village Sadoora WSS Sadoora Old (Under District Capex for the year 2025-26) | 1.9728 | 20 days | 5918 | DEE | PHQ/14 of 22.07.25 | 200 |
| 5. | Extension of distribution network to newly developed habitations (Ard Colony, Peer Colony etc) of village Shistergam WSS Rural Qazigund (Under District Capex for the year 2025-26) | 1.22 | 20 days | 3660 | DEE | PHQ/13 of 22.07.25 | 200 |

Accord of Administrative Order No: 114-DDCA of 2025 Dated: 21.07.2025

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 given below.

01. Bids must be uploaded on JKetenders.gov.in with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Qazigund (Tender receiving authority).

02. Earnest Money equivalent to 3% of Advertised cost shall have to be uploaded by the tenderer in shape of CDR/FDR/BG without which the tender shall not be entertained.(Pledged Executive Engineer JSD Qazigund)

03. The quantity of items in the BOQ are purely on tentative basis just to arrive at a genuine / exact comparative cost. The quantity items in the BOQ can increase or decrease and shall not be mentioned in the allotment order.

04. The successful bidder shall have to respond within the minimum possible time (not more than 03 hours) to execute the requisite job falling which the Engineer In-charge or the authorized supervisory staff shall be at liberty to get the job executed / completed through any other means on the risk and cost of the allottee. If the allottee will fail to respond in time continuously for 03 turns his contract shall be deemed to have been cancelled and the job shall be put to fresh tenders after forfeiting of his performance security and shall be debarred to take part in any other tendering process of the Division.

05. The tenderer shall have to satisfy himself regarding all aspects like topography of the area, climatic conditions, geographical conditions within the peripherals of the area, before tendering for the stages of the particular area at his own expenses.

06. The tenderers have to submit the tender online without any addition or alteration in the rate schedule items or any conditions thereof. No conditional tender whatsoever shall be entertained even if the rates shall be lowest one.

07. The tenderer has to understand fully the nature of work or works as per proper nomenclature of items of work in rate/quantity schedule in the form of BOQ.

10. The tenderer has to sign a deed at the time of allotment and has to give full details of men and machinery available with him or he has to give a written bond duly stamped as per norms of providing men and machinery as required for execution of any of the work or works allotted to him.

Unbalanced Tender.

11. In case bidder uploads his bid with respective below percentage than the advertised cost , additional performance security in the shape of CDR /FDR/BG shall have to be uploaded along with the online bid by the bidder at the time of submission of his/her bid falling which , his/her bid shall be rejected. The Additional performance security deposit of the successful bidder shall be released after completion of work up to 50%. The additional performance security unbalanced bid shall be worked out as per following breakup.

e-NIT No: 07 of 2025-26 issued under No/PHEQ/CC/1844-64 Dated: 22.07.2025

| S. No. | Percentage of Unbalanced Tender viz advertised cost on account of low rates | Additional performance security |
|--------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Upto and including 15% below | 0% |
| 2 | Greater than 15% and upto 20% below | 5% |
| 3 | Greater than 20% and upto 25% below | 10% |
| 4 | Greater than 25% and upto 30% below | 15% |
| 5 | Greater than 30% | 20% |

The Payment to the concerned agency shall be made as per availability of funds.

The items which may not figure in the BOQ but found necessary for execution shall be paid as per SSR or lowest market rates decided by the contract committee of the Divisional Level.

12. Work done claims has to be supported with pre, during and post photographic evidence.

13. Critical dates :

| | | |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 01 | Date of Issue/Uploading of Tender Notice. | 23.07.2025 |
| 02 | Start of Downloading | 23.07.2025 |
| 03 | Bid Submission Start Date | 23.07.2025 |
| 04 | Bid submission end date | 30-07-2025 4.00 PM |
| 05 | Date & time of opening Bids (on line) | 31.07.2025 10.00 AM |

DIPK-4184/25
dated: 24-07-2025

Executive Engineer
JSD PHE Division Qazigund

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Mass Craze For ‘Saiyaara’: INOX Witnesses Packed Audiences

Idrees Bukhtiyar

SRINAGAR: The INOX multiplex in Srinagar is once again witnessing housefull shows, this time for the musical romantic drama Saiyaara.

Earlier, it was superstar Shah Rukh Khan's blockbuster Pathaan in January 2023 that drew packed audiences to the theatre.

"We are witnessing a good response for the film since its release. We are running housefull till Sunday," an official from INOX Srinagar told Kashmir Observer over the phone.

Due to the overwhelming response, five shows are being screened daily, with seven shows on weekends, according to BookMyShow.

Viewers say it's the film's music that drew them to the cinema.

"Though the film features new faces, its music is very appealing. It compelled us to watch it," said Shahjahan Ahmad, a Srinagar local who watched the film with his friends. "The shows are almost all housefull. People are coming in large numbers. We're seeing such a rush for the first time since Pathaan," he added.

The title track Saiyaara, which has gone viral on social media, has a special emotional connect with the valley, as it was composed

and sung by Kashmiri artists Faheem Abdullah and Arsalan Nizami.

Directed by Mohit Suri, the film marks the Bollywood debut of Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda. Released on July 18, 2025, the film has received positive reviews from both critics and audiences, with particular praise for the performances of Panday and Padda, Suri's direction, and the soulful soundtrack. Within just six days, the film has grossed over ₹150 crore.

With Saiyaara fever gripping Kashmir, many viewers have been seen emotionally reacting to the film, with some even making Instagram reels capturing their experience. The film is also receiving a warm reception across India.

In September 2022, after being closed for more than three decades due to militant threats and attacks, movie theatres in the valley reopened with a special screening of the Aamir Khan-starrer Laal Singh Chaddha. Until the late 1980s, Kashmir had nearly a dozen cinema halls, but all were forced to shut down due to militant threats.

Kashmir's first multiplex, run by INOX, houses three theatres with a total seating capacity of 520. The property also features a food court that promotes local cuisine.



Anti-Encroachment Drive Held In Karan Nagar, Kak Sarai

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) on Thursday carried out a major anti-encroachment drive in the Karan Nagar and Kak Sarai areas of the Srinagar city, targeting unauthorized constructions and illegal occupation of public spaces by commercial establishments.

Led by Chief Anti-Encroachment Officer Muhammad Sayed, the operation focused on dismantling extended portions of shops and businesses that had encroached upon footpaths and public areas. Notably, parts of several well-known business establishments, including Shakti Sweets, were removed during the action.

The SMC team, accompanied by enforcement personnel, instructed shopkeepers

to strictly refrain from occupying illegal portions outside their approved premises. They were also directed to stop the practice of displaying merchandise on footpaths, which hampers pedestrian movement and contributes to urban congestion.

During the drive, a quantity of illegally displayed merchandise was seized by the authorities as a warning against future violations.

According to KNT, the Chief Anti-Encroachment Officer Muhammad Sayed said that the operation was aimed at reclaiming public space and ensuring smooth pedestrian access in the busy commercial zones.

He stated that such drives will continue across Srinagar in the coming weeks, urging business owners to cooperate and avoid encroaching upon public land.

OVERCROWDING & VIOLENCE:

SMHS Hospital Incident Raises Serious Concerns



Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: The Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar has issued a renewed appeal for public cooperation and stricter regulation inside hospital premises after a resident doctor was assaulted in the emergency ward of SMHS Hospital. The incident, which took place on the night of July 22, has once again brought to light the growing tension between medical professionals and attendants in Kashmir's overcrowded healthcare facilities.

Terming the incident "unfortunate but revealing," SMHS Hospital Administrator Muhammad Ashraf Hakak said the assault underscores the urgent need for better crowd control and public discipline within hospitals. "One patient is usually accompanied by three to four attendants. Most of them play no role in the treatment process but end up overcrowding emergency wards and interfering with procedures," Hakak told reporters during a press briefing.

According to officials, the assault occurred when a critically ill patient was brought to the hospital's emergency wing. While doctors were attending to the case, one of the attendants allegedly attacked a junior



NOT A SINGLE SECTION WAS SHUT. Emergency care remained operational throughout. Our doctors responded with professionalism and restraint,"

doctor from behind. The moment, captured by CCTV cameras, quickly went viral on social media, sparking widespread condemnation. Though the accused was later seen apologizing in a separate video, an FIR has been formally registered against him.

Despite the disturbing nature of the assault, Hakak confirmed that all medical services continued without interruption. "Not a single section was shut. Emergency care remained operational throughout. Our doctors responded with professionalism and restraint," he emphasized.

Dispelling rumors of any press-related obstruction during the incident, the administrator said, "We fully respect and value the role of media as a public bridge. There was no official instruction to hinder media access." He also clarified that the brief closure of the hospital gates, which led to speculation, coincided with the end of routine OPD hours and was not linked to any administrative clampdown.

GMC Srinagar handles an over-

whelming patient load every year—over 27 lakh individuals across its associated hospitals, with thousands of surgeries conducted in a constrained infrastructure. "We are not short of manpower. But without proper entry regulations and a secure atmosphere, even the best teams struggle to function," Hakak pointed out.

He further noted that the hospital has a well-structured system in place, including full rosters, round-the-clock duty schedules, and department heads remaining present through the night.

Calling for a societal shift in how patients and attendants engage with the healthcare system, Hakak concluded, "This is not just about one incident. It's a growing pattern that threatens the safety of medical staff. Doctors must be allowed to work without fear, interference, or aggression."

The administration has pledged to intensify awareness efforts and seek community cooperation to prevent such incidents in the future.

Sakeena Conducts Midnight Inspection Of JVC Hospital Bemina



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a remarkable display of commitment to public service and healthcare accountability, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, conducted surprise midnight inspection of JVC Hospital Bemina and assessed the quality of medical services being delivered during night hours as well as availability of doctors and paramedical staff.

During the inspection, the Minister went from ward to ward well past midnight and personally reviewed the availability of doctors, nursing staff, medical supplies and emergency response systems. She took a detailed stock of the hospital's infrastructure, including emergency services, maternity care, cleanliness and the condition of patient wards.

She also interacted with the patients and their attendants, listening intently to their concerns, feedback and suggestions.

The Minister also checked the roster register of doctors and medical staff and gave strict directions for availability of doctors and medical staff as per roster register.

Interacting with the doctors, the Minister emphasized the importance of round-the-clock account-

ability in public health institutions. "Healthcare is not a 9-to-5 service, hospitals must be fully functional and responsive 24/7," she asserted.

The Minister further emphasized the need for enhanced accountability and consistent quality of care irrespective of the hour. She added that healthcare services must be patient-centric and responsive at all times, especially during the night hours when people are most vulnerable.

During the inspection, the public while interacting with the Minister, appreciated her for this surprise inspection during midnight and dedication towards improving the public healthcare infrastructure.

- 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)



PRAYERS

| | |
|--------|--------|
| FAJR | 3:58 |
| ZUHR | 12: 37 |
| ASR | 5:33 |
| Magrib | 7:41 |
| ISHA | 9:16 |

This Day In History

- 1261 - Constantinople recaptured by Nicaean forces under Alexios Strategopoulos for Emperor Michael VIII, re-establishing Byzantine Empire
- 1570 - Battle of Arnay-le-Duc, Burgundy: Huguenot victory forces Charles IX of France to agree to a peace treaty that ends the Third War of Religion
- 1652 - Nikita Minin becomes patriarch of Russian Orthodox Church
- 1670 - Austrian Emperor Leopold I expels 4,000 Jews from Vienna
- 1758 - Seven Years' War: the island battery at Fortress Louisbourg in Nova Scotia is silenced and all French warships are destroyed or taken
- 1759 - British capture Fort Niagara from French (7 Years' War)
- 1799 - French-Egyptian forces under Napoleon I beat Turks at Battle of Abukir
- 1835 - Ibrahim Pasha's army attacks Jewish settlers of Hebron Palestine
- 1837 - The first commercial use of an electric telegraph successfully demonstrated by William Cooke and Charles Wheatstone between Euston and Camden Town in London
- 1848 - 1st battle at Custoza: Austrians under Radetzky beat Italian
- 1850 - Gold discovered in Oregon (Rogue River)
- 1854 - Walter Hunt is awarded the first U.S. patent for a paper shirt collar
- 1898 - 1st US troops land & occupy Puerto Rico, at Guanica Bay
- 1907 - Korea becomes a protectorate of Japan
- 1943 - Benito Mussolini dismissed as Italian Premier and arrested on the authority of King Victor Emmanuel III
- 1944 - World War II: Operation Spring - one of Canada's bloodiest days, 18,444 casualties and 5,021 killed.
- 1956 - Jordan attacks UN Palestine force
- 1957 - Monarchy in Tunisia abolished in favor of a republic
- 1981 - Voyager 2 encounters Saturn
- 1987 - USSR launches Kosmos 1870, 15-ton Earth-study satellite
- 1987 - R. Venkataraman becomes the eighth President of India
- 1990 - US Ambassador tells Iraq, US won't take sides in Iraq-Kuwait dispute
- 1994 - Jordan and Israeli end 46 year state of war (Washington, D.C.)
- 1997 - Scientists announce the first human stem cells to be cultured in a laboratory using tissue taken from aborted human embryos
- 2000 - Air France Flight 4590, a Concorde supersonic passenger jet, F-BTSC, crashes just after takeoff from Paris killing all 109 aboard and 4 on the ground.
- 2001 - Faced with declining oil prices, OPEC ministers agree to cut crude oil production quotas by about 4%, or 1 million barrels per day
- 2007- Pratibha Patil is sworn in as India's 1st female President
- 2012- Italy's credit rating is downgraded to CCC+ by Egan-Jones
- 2012- Ivica Dacic is sworn in as Prime Minister of Serbia
- 2012- The 2012 Summer Olympics begin (Opening ceremony 27th)
- 2012- The double dip recession in the UK economy continues with a fall of 0.7% in GDP in the second quarter of 2012
- 2012 The UK economy returns to recession with a fall of 0.2% in GDP in the first quarter of 2012

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No:-770-W/01/WA/JAT/2025-26-15-2025-26-JAT-DRM-JAT(to be opened on 14.08.2025) acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 14.08.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to the closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through payment modes available on the IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card, etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheques, Deposit receipts, FDR, etc. are not allowed.

| Tender Type | Tendering Section | Bidding System |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Open | Works | Single Packet System |
| Date of Uploading Tenders | Bid Starting Date | Bid Closing Date/Time |
| 23.07.2025 | 31.07.2025 | 14.08.2025 |

| S.No. | Tender No. | Details of Tender | |
|-------|------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | 15-2025-26-JAT-DRM-JAT | Through Bridge Sleeper Renewal (H-Beam 3183 Nos) on Various Bridges No 24,26,42,43,112,133,137 (UP) & 42,43,112,133(DN) on BHRL-JAT section in the jurisdiction of ADEN-JAT | |
| | Advertised Value (Rs.) | Validity of offer | Period of completion |
| | 115227352.63 | 90 Days | 09 Months |

NOTE: Contractors are advised to check the IREPS website for any corrigendum issued against this tender before submitting the bids.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2240/25

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER

POSHAN PROJECT PAMPORE

EXTENSION NOTIFICATION

The Date of receipt of applications for the post of Sahayikas [Anganwadi Helpers] advertised vide notification number CDPO/PMP/Adv/2025/196-205 Dated:-12.07.2025 is hereby extended up to 27.07.2025.

| S.No | Name of Posh-an Project | Name of the Post | No of Posts | Name of AWC | Panchayat Halqa/Ward | Panch Constituency No/Ward No |
|------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 01 | Pampore | AWH (Sahayikas) | 02 | Munpora A | Androosa | Ward No-7 |
| 02 | | | | Awantipora-E | Barsoo | Ward No-10 |

No:-CDPO/POSHAN/Pmp/2025/233-248

Dated:- 23/ 07/2025

DIPK-4168-25

DT: 24/07/2025

Sd/=

Child Development Project Officer

Poshan Project Pampore

Columbia to Pay \$220M to Restore Federal Funding

Associated Press

Washington: Columbia University announced on Wednesday that it had reached a deal with the Trump administration to pay more than \$220 million to the federal government to restore federal research money that was cancelled in the name of combating antisemitism on campus.

Under the agreement, the Ivy League school will pay a \$200 million settlement over three years, the university said. It will also pay \$21 million to resolve alleged civil rights violations against Jewish employees that occurred following the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel, the White House said.

"This agreement marks an important step forward after a period of sustained federal scrutiny and institutional uncertainty," acting University President Claire Shipman said.

The school had been threatened with the potential loss of billions of dollars in government support, including more than \$400 million in grants cancelled earlier this year. The administration pulled the funding because of what it described as the university's failure to squelch antisemitism on campus during the Israel-Hamas war.

Columbia has since agreed to a series of demands laid out by the Republican administration, including overhauling the university's student disciplinary process and applying a contentious, federally endorsed definition

of antisemitism not only to teaching but to a disciplinary committee that has been investigating students critical of Israel.

Wednesday's agreement — which does not include an admission of wrongdoing — codifies those reforms while preserving the university's autonomy, Shipman said.

Columbia's reforms are a roadmap, Trump administration says

Education Secretary Linda McMahon called the deal "a seismic shift in our nation's fight to hold institutions that accept American taxpayer dollars accountable for anti-semitic discrimination and harassment."

"Columbia's reforms are a roadmap for elite universities that wish to regain the confidence of the American public by renewing their commitment to truth-seeking, merit, and civil debate," McMahon said in a statement.

As part of the agreement, Columbia agreed to a series of changes previously announced in March, including reviewing its Middle East curriculum to make sure it was "comprehensive and balanced" and appointing new faculty to its Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies. It also promised to end programmes "that promote unlawful efforts to achieve race-based outcomes, quotes, diversity targets or similar efforts." The university will also have to issue a report to a monitor assuring that its programs "do not promote unlawful DEI goals."

Trump Admin Targets Harvard Exchange Program in New Probe

Associated Press

BOSTON: In the latest in series of Trump administration inquiries targeting Harvard University, the State Department said Wednesday it is investigating whether the Ivy League school will remain part of a government program that provides American visas for students and researchers from other countries.

Harvard has faced mounting sanctions and scrutiny from Washington since rejecting demands from a federal antisemitism task force in April. Harvard has filed a lawsuit challenging \$2.6 billion in federal cuts and has accused the Republican administration of waging a retaliation campaign.

The statement from Secretary of State Marco Rubio did not say why his department was examining Harvard's eligibility to take part in the Exchange Visitor Program, which allows foreign nationals to study or work in the United States through cultural and education exchange programs.

It said all sponsors, such as Harvard, "are required to

fully comply with exchange visitor regulations, transparency in reporting, and a demonstrated commitment to fostering the principles of cultural exchange and mutual understanding upon which the program was founded."

"Harvard continues to enroll and sponsor international scholars, researchers, and students, and will protect its international community and support them as they apply for U.S. visas and travel to campus this fall," Newton said in a statement. He said the school is committed to complying with the program's rules.

Brett Bruen, a former director of global engagement under Democratic President Barack Obama, said there is no justification for the administration's action.

"It not only damages Harvard, but American higher education & industry that depend on the best & brightest wanting to come here," Bruen said in a post on X.

The State Department said the investigation will seek to ensure that its programs "do not run contrary to our nation's interests."



Showdown In The Gulf Iranian Chopper Forces US Warship to Back Off

Trans Asia News

Abu Dhabi — A tense naval encounter unfolded Wednesday morning as an Iranian military helicopter intercepted the USS Fitzgerald, a United States Navy guided missile destroyer, in the Gulf of Oman. The incident, captured in footage released by Iranian state media, marks the first direct confrontation between Iranian and American forces since last month's 12-day war between Iran and US backed Israel.

According to a statement issued by the Iranian military, the

fence Command intervened, declaring the helicopter under full protection of its integrated air defence network.

Undeterred, the helicopter maintained its position, continuing to issue warnings until the US destroyer ultimately reversed course.

"This shows the readiness and authority of the Islamic Republic's naval forces in defending the integrity of our waters," an Iranian Navy spokesperson said during a televised press briefing.

US Response Downplays Tensions



USS Fitzgerald was approaching waters monitored by Iran when a rapid-response SH-3 "Sea King" helicopter was dispatched from the Third Naval Region of the Iranian Army's Navy (NEDAJA). The helicopter issued multiple radio warnings in English, instructing the US vessel to change course.

"The destroyer moved out of the area upon continued warning," Iranian state media claimed, stating that the US ship ultimately altered its course southward after being confronted. Aerial footage released alongside the report shows the helicopter hovering in close proximity to the American destroyer, with a voice on the radio heard saying: "You are approaching Iranian territorial waters. Change your course immediately."

Standoff at Sea

Iranian reports suggest the situation at sea could have escalated further. The Fitzgerald reportedly threatened to engage the Iranian helicopter if it did not leave the area. In response, Iran's Army Air De-

Despite Tehran's characterization of the encounter as a "tense exchange," US military officials downplayed the confrontation. A spokesperson for US Central Command described the encounter as a "safe and professional interaction."

The US has not issued a formal public statement, though the incident has added to a growing sense of volatility in the strategically vital waterways near the Strait of Hormuz — a chokepoint for a significant portion of global oil shipments.

Escalating Tensions Following June Conflict

The naval encounter comes on the heels of heightened regional tensions following a brief but intense conflict in June between Iran and Israel. That conflict saw US forces actively support Israeli operations, including a series of controversial airstrikes targeting Iranian nuclear infrastructure.

While US President Donald Trump hailed the strikes as a "spectacular success" that "obliterated" Iran's nuclear capabili-

ties, independent assessments suggest that only the Fordow enrichment facility suffered significant damage. Iran maintains its nuclear program is solely for civilian energy and medical use — a claim it reiterated following the airstrikes.

A History of Maritime Friction

This latest incident underscores the long history of confrontations between Iranian and American naval forces in the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, and the Strait of Hormuz — dating back to the 1980s. The region has seen numerous close calls, including the 2019 downing of a US RQ-4A Global Hawk drone by Iran, which Tehran said had violated its airspace.

Iran regularly conducts military drills in the area, showcasing its missile capabilities and asserting its role as a regional power. In contrast, US naval presence in the Gulf is part of a broader mission to secure shipping routes and deter hostile actions.

Strategic Flashpoint

The Sea of Oman and its surrounding waters remain one of the world's most sensitive maritime zones. With both Iranian and American forces operating in close proximity, observers warn that any future misunderstanding — even over a few nautical miles — could spark a larger military escalation.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addressed the nation later on Wednesday, reiterating that Tehran is prepared to defend its sovereignty but remains committed to a peaceful nuclear program.

"I am not optimistic about the ceasefire," he warned, referencing the uneasy calm following last month's US-Israeli operations.

Diplomatic channels between Washington and Tehran remain limited. With the naval encounter occurring against a backdrop of unresolved nuclear tensions and fresh memories of the June conflict, analysts say more flashpoints are likely.

As one senior Gulf-based diplomat put it, "We are entering a period where every move at sea, every radar lock, every warning call — carries geopolitical weight far beyond its tactical importance."

Need To Assess Impact Of New Technologies On Society: RSS Chief

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Wednesday called for an assessment of the impact of emerging technologies on society and the labour market, saying it must be ensured that they do not impact work opportunities.

Addressing an event held here to mark 70 years of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh's foundation, Bhagwat underscored the need to pay greater attention to the unorganised sector to ensure that workers do not face any exploitation by their employers.

Union Minister for Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya was present at the event, attended by a large number of delegates, including representatives of various trade unions.

"Technology is coming ... When new technologies come, they bring many new questions as well. What will happen to unemployment? Will it reduce unemployment, or increase?" Bhagwat said in an apparent reference to Artificial Intelligence and concerns around its use.

He said technology makes mankind's nature a "bit harsh" and "somewhat" reduces the respect for labour.

"Technology can't be rejected. New technology will come. But how to handle it

and ensure that it doesn't affect the labour sector needs to be looked into," he said.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief said the use of new technologies should bring happiness in society, instead of creating "new problems." "That's why there is a need to ponder over (this issue) and act. We will have to do this," he added.

The Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) is an affiliate of the RSS.

Addressing the event, Mandaviya said different trade unions have different work cultures, which align with their ideologies, but the BMS has prepared their working culture according to the Indian lifestyle, "which is reflected in their discussion on labour issues with me." It is the workers who make roads, bridges and other infrastructure, and it is this strength that is driving the development and economic growth of the country, he said.

The minister said a delegation, led by the BMS International Labour Conference, presented the India Model at the International Labour Organisation.

"We have managed Covid with the India Model and succeeded. Service of mankind is our nature, and that is why India managed the COVID pandemic very well," the minister said.

SC Moved to Cut Age of Consent from 18 to 16



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has been urged by amicus curiae and senior advocate Indra Jaising to read down the statutory age of consent from 18 to 16 years.

Jaising, who is assisting the top court in "Nipun Saxena v. Union of India" case, has filled her written submissions challenging the blanket criminalisation of sexual activity involving adolescents aged 16 to 18 under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012 and Section 375 of IPC.

She has argued the current law criminalises consensual romantic relationships among adolescents and violates their constitutional rights.

Jaising said the legal framework wrongly equates consensual relationships between adolescents with abuse,

ignoring their autonomy, maturity, and capacity to consent.

There is no rational reason or empirical data to justify the increase in the age of consent from 16 to 18 years, Jaising submitted, noting that the age had remained at 16 for over 70 years until it was raised by the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013.

She pointed out the increase came without debate and went against the Justice Verma Committee's recommendation to retain 16 as the age of consent.

The amicus curiae submitted adolescents today attain puberty earlier and are capable of forming romantic and sexual relationships of their choice.

Scientific and social data, including findings from the National Family Health Survey, indicate sexual activity among teenagers is not uncommon, she said.

Press TV

Washington: Attorney General Pam Bondi reportedly informed US President Donald Trump in May that his name appears multiple times in the US government's sealed records on dead convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

According to a Wall Street Journal report published Wednesday, officials told Trump that the material includes sensitive information, such as child pornography and personal data of victims, prompting a decision not to release further records to the public.

Trump was told of the DOJ's intent to withhold the files at the time. According to the Journal, he expressed willingness to defer to the department's judgment. Public acknowledgment of this decision came only in July, sparking frustration among some of Trump's supporters who had previously been led to expect transparency.

In 2002, Trump told New

Report: Trump Quietly Briefed on Epstein Link

York Magazine, "I've known Jeff for 15 years. Terrific guy ... He's a lot of fun to be with. It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side." He later distanced himself from Epstein, calling him "creepy."

Epstein, a wealthy New York socialite, died in prison in 2019 after confessing to his crimes. Some reports link his sex-trafficking network to Israel's Mossad. His death was ruled a suicide, but the circumstances have remained controversial.

Responding to the Journal report, Senator Adam Schiff (D-CA) called for Bondi and FBI Director Kash Patel to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee. "We need to bring Bondi and Patel into the



Epstein, a wealthy New York socialite, died in prison in 2019 after confessing to his crimes. Some reports link his sex-trafficking network to Israel's Mossad.

Judiciary Committee to testify about this now," Schiff said in a video posted on X.

Meanwhile, a key House subcommittee voted Wednesday to subpoena the Justice Department over the Epstein files. The motion, introduced by Representative Summer Lee (D-PA), aims to pressure Republicans to clarify their stance on whether the documents should be released.

The Justice Department declined to comment on the Journal's report. However, in a joint statement, Bondi and Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche said the files were reviewed thoroughly and that "nothing in the files warranted further investigation or prosecution."

On July 15, when asked by ABC News whether Bondi had told him specifically that his name appeared in the files, Trump said, "No, no, she's — she's given us just a very quick briefing," before suggesting, without evidence, that the records were fabricated by political adversaries.

NEWS MAKERS

Man Opens Fake Embassy, Creates 4 Fictitious Nations

Press Trust Of India

Lucknow : "West Arctica", "Saborga", "Lodonia", "Poulvia" — these were among fictitious nations a Ghaziabad man claimed to have represented as a self-styled diplomat while operating their bogus embassies from his rented house less than 35 km from Delhi.

A cursory internet search reveals that "West Arctica" is a non-profit body for climate action and an unrecognised micronation in Antarctica, Lodonia is a micronation (a self-declared entity but not officially recognised as nation) in southern Sweden. Similar searches for Saborga and



The Ghaziabad house from where fake embassy was being run. Photo: PTI

Poulvia yielded little result.

The "diplomat" was working out of the "consulate", which also hoisted "flags" of these "nations" and a fleet of luxury cars with special blue coloured number plates parked outside, the police said.

The conman's elaborate

deception, however, came to an end on Tuesday when the Uttar Pradesh Police's Special Task Force (STF) arrested Harsh Vardhan Jain and uncovered a stash that included Rs 44.7 lakh in cash, foreign currencies, multiple forged diplomatic passports and 18 fake diplomatic number plates.

How Delhi’s Courtroom
Restored Balance In Bandipora

After months of delay and official inaction, a cement brick unit near a school in Kashmir is finally shut, thanks to the National Green Tribunal’s intervention.

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: It took more than two years, countless petitions, and the intervention of the country’s top environmental court to shut down a cement brick unit in Naidkhai, Bandipora.

The unit stood just next to a government higher secondary school and private homes. Despite clear violations of environmental laws, local officials looked the other way.

Zahoor Ahmad Dar, a resident of Naidkhai, first raised concerns in 2022 when construction began next to the school. Dust from the site filled classrooms. Noise disrupted lectures. The school principal wrote to the local tehsildar. A report was ordered, but no action followed.

The matter bounced from the SDM’s desk to the DC’s office, and eventually landed in the Governor’s Grievance Cell.

In May 2024, the J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) finally stepped in. It found the unit in violation of both the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1981. A closure order was issued on May 27, 2024.

That should have ended the matter. It didn’t.

The owner of the plant went to the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) in Srinagar, who stayed the

closure. Legally, civil courts have no authority in such matters. Yet the stay remained, and the plant kept operating.

JKPCC, oddly, did not appeal the CJM’s order.

With local and legal remedies exhausted, Zahoor Ahmad Dar took the fight to New Delhi. On January 21, 2025, he and his son appeared before the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Justice Prakash Srivastava and Expert Member Dr. Afroz Ahmad ruled that the CJM had no jurisdiction.

The NGT cited Section 58 of the Water Act, which bars civil courts from interfering in cases handled under the Pollution Control framework. They advised the JKPCC to approach the CJM for modification of the order.

The CJM vacated the stay on July 15, 2025. Days later, on July 22, the Tehsildar sealed the unit.

“After being ignored by every office, we had almost given up,” said Zahid Zahoor, the petitioner’s son. “What should’ve taken one visit to the DC ended up at the NGT.”

For residents of Naidkhai, the issue was simple: a brick plant had no place next to a school.

For officials, however, the problem dragged on through bureaucratic silence and legal loopholes. In the end, it took Delhi’s courtroom to restore Bandipora’s balance.

Hajj 2026: J&K Sees Low
Response As Deadline Nears

Only 2,244 Forms Received Against Expected Quota Of 7,896: Officials

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: With only a week remaining before the July 31 deadline for Hajj 2026 applications, Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a significantly low response, with just 28.42% of the expected applications submitted so far, officials said on Thursday.

According to data from the Jammu and Kashmir Hajj Committee, the Union Territory has been allocated a provisional quota of 7,896 pilgrims. However, as of July 24, only 2,244 applications have been received.

Officials expressed concern over the sluggish response, especially since the final quota confirmation from the Saudi government is still pending.

District-wise data shows that Srinagar has submitted the highest number of applications – 527 against its expected 1,113, reflecting a 47.34% response rate. Pulwama follows closely with 194 applications out of 408 (47.60%). Samba district, however, leads in percentage terms, with 87.61% of



its expected applications submitted (19 out of 22).

In contrast, several districts have shown alarmingly low participation. Poonch has recorded just 10.08% of its expected applications, Doda 12.26%, and Kishtwar 17.46%.

“So far, only 28% of applications have come in. We expect a last-minute surge, but the final quota from Saudi Arabia is still awaited,” an official said.

Last year, 3,606 pilgrims from J&K performed Hajj. Officials noted that around 10% of selected applicants typically withdrew before departure.

The data indicates a continuing downward trend in

Hajj participation from J&K. A comparative analysis of applications submitted for Hajj 2024 and 2025 shows a marked decline across all districts.

Trade leaders and economic observers attribute the drop to rising travel costs and broader economic distress in the region. “People are grappling with financial hardships, and pilgrimage is becoming increasingly unaffordable,” a local businessman said.

With the deadline fast approaching, officials remain hopeful for a late surge in applications, but concerns persist over whether J&K will meet its expected Hajj quota for 2026.

Inside Srinagar’s Coaching Hubs:
Anxiety, Isolation, & Invisible Pain

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As thousands of young Kashmiris pour into Srinagar chasing dreams of IITs, NEETs, and civil services, a silent crisis is unfolding in cramped hostels and buzzing coaching centres. Behind the glow of topper posters and motivational slogans, many students are sinking into anxiety, isolation, and burnout—what mental health professionals are now calling a “crisis in the making.”

Dr Mohd Abrar Guroo, a leading psychiatrist in the city, sees these signs daily.

“They don’t talk about academics when they visit. They talk about chest pain, sleepless nights, panic attacks, and overwhelming anxiety,” he said.

“Most of them live alone, away from home and emotional support. The rooms they stay in smell more of loneliness than freedom.”

One of his recent patients, a 17-year-old from Shopian, was convinced he was having a heart attack. But the diagnosis was anxiety brought on by prolonged isolation. “He hadn’t spoken to anyone for two days,” the doctor said. “His roommate was a stranger.”

In another case, a girl from Baramulla shared: “I don’t manage anything. The institute manages me.” She followed a strict 12-hour study regimen daily.

The city’s high-pressure coaching culture is now drawing comparisons with Kota—the north Indian coaching hub infamous for student stress and mental health challenges.

“These are invisible drop-outs,” said Dr Abrar. “They haven’t failed exams, but they’ve checked out mentally long before the tests. They hide their suffering behind silence, fearing that vulnerability is weakness.”

With little to no emotional outlets, many adopt harmful coping mechanisms. “Some pick up smoking, turn to cannabis, misuse sedatives, or spend hours glued to screens. These are not bad kids. They’re exhausted children without support,” Dr Abrar said.

He called for urgent reforms. Coaching institutes must reduce toxic schedules and bring in trained counsellors, he said. Hostels should create spaces that encourage healthy peer interaction. Parents, too, need to check in emotionally, not just academically.

“Struggling or feeling low isn’t failure, it’s part of the process,” he said. “A child’s worth can’t be defined by a rank. The real cost of this obsession may be their emotional well-being.”

“We celebrate toppers,” Dr Guroo concluded, “but it’s time we also see those silently falling apart, and reach them before it’s too late.” (KNO)



CS Discusses Key Highway
Projects With NHAI Chief

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Thursday held a meeting with the Chairperson of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Santosh Kumar Yadav, to review the status and expedite the implementation of critical highway infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

The NHAI Chairperson, who called on the Chief Secretary at the Civil Secretariat, was accompanied by the Regional Officer, NHAI Jammu, and other senior officials.

The deliberations focused on both ongoing projects and newly sanctioned road infrastructure initiatives aimed at enhancing all-weather connectivity, supporting regional development, and strengthening the strategic road network in the UT.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underlined the

immense importance of these vital road links for a region like J&K, which remains heavily dependent on external supply chains due to its geographically sensitive and climatically challenging terrain.

He emphasized that uninterrupted road connectivity is essential for ensuring the smooth movement of essential commodities, especially during the harsh winter months when weather-related disruptions frequently impact mobility.

Special attention was drawn to the NH-44 stretch between Banihal and Ramban, where the Chief Secretary stressed the need for timely completion of tunnels and viaducts to mitigate disruptions caused by adverse weather. Highlighting the strategic and economic relevance of the region, Dulloo noted that J&K’s key sectors tourism, horticulture, and agriculture are closely tied to robust road infrastructure.

Ashok Koul Chairs Organizational
Meeting In Pulwama



Observer News Service

PULWAMA: Jammu & Kashmir BJP General Secretary (organization) Ashok Koul chaired a key meeting of District Office Bearers at the party office in Pulwama, aiming to review ongoing organizational activities and discuss future strategies to strengthen the party’s grassroots presence.

Present during the meeting were State Secretary Wani Mudasir, Spokesperson Altaf Thakur, Social Media Incharge Sajad Raina, and District President Er. Syed Showkat Gayoor Andrabi, among other senior functionaries.

During his address, Ashok Koul emphasized the importance of dedicated ground-level work and the

need for effective communication with the public regarding the BJP’s policies and welfare initiatives. He called upon the cadre to remain connected with the people, especially the youth, and to actively address local issues with sincerity and commitment. Koul reviewed the district’s organizational structure, recent outreach programs, and booth-level preparations, urging office bearers to strengthen their presence in every panchayat and urban ward.

District President Er. Syed Showkat Gayoor Andrabi briefed the General Secretary on recent developments and ongoing party activities in Pulwama. He assured full commitment of the district team towards furthering the party’s objectives in the region.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB
TRANSMISSION DIVISION-IIND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

Tender Notice eNIT No STD-II / 24 of 2025-26 Dated 19-07-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tender (In Two Cover System) is hereby invited from class-BEE and class-CEE Civil contractors/registered firms enlisted with PWD/CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency for "33 kV Yard Concreting/ Metaling of Receiving Stations Narbal, Beerwah, BK Pora, Magam and Chadoora of sub Division 3rd Rawalpura" in District Budgam

| SNO | Description of Work | Earnest Money (In Rs) | Estimated Cost (In Lacs) | Last date of submission of e-bid |
|-----|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01 | 33 kV Yard Concreting/ Metaling of Receiving Stations Narbal, Beerwah, BK Pora, Magam and Chadoora of sub Division 3rd Rawalpura. | 46308.00 | Rs 23.15 Lacs | 11-08-2025; 4:30pm |

1.

Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.

2.

The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document seek clarification and submit their e-Bid on line up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below

| A | Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document | The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 22-07-2025; 4:30pm |
|---|---|--|
| B | Sale of Bid Document (Start) | 22-07-2025; 4:30pm |
| C | Sale of Bid Document (End) | 11-08-2025; 4:30pm |
| D | e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format) | 22-07-2025 4:30pm |
| E | e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format) | 11-08-2025; 4:30pm |
| F | Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time | 12-08-2025; 2:30pm |
| G | Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders) | Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders |
| H | Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids | The office of Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar |
| I | Cost of e-bid document | Rs 1000.00(Rupees One Thousand Only) |
| J | Amount of Earnest Money Deposit | Rs 46308.00 (Rupees Forty-Six Thousand Three Hundred and Eight Only) |

3.

The bidders need to submit the proof/ Cost of e-Bid document as stated above through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II,Rajbagh. Srinagar to be credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids. No demand Draft shall be accepted.

4.

All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR / FDR only pledged to the Executive Engineer, STD-II,Rajbagh, Srinagar. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.

a.

Hard Copy of e-bid (complete) shall have to be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II. Rajbagh, Srinagar only from the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bids.

b.

The date and time of opening of financial bids shall be notified on web site <http://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same web site at the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II,Rajbagh, Srinagar.

5.

The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder' representative will be required to be produced.

6.

The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e- Bids/ the e- Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.

7.

In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being a holiday/ closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the same time and place.

8.

All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be up loaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD

9.

To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)'c lass III(b) As per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.

10.

Hard Copy of requisite documents shall be required to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer along with original CDR and e-Challan/Treasury Receipt instantly after opening of e-NIT pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar

11.

The Name of the Work/Job along with e-NIT reference should be superscripted in bold letters on the envelope and the Name/ Firm should be clearly written on the cover.

The name of the bidder and e-NIT no shall be clearly written on the cover Other details can be seen in the bidding documents Any other information regarding e-tendermg process can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer. STD-II Rajbagh Srinagar

No: STD-II/5642-44/TS
Dated: 19-07-2025

Executive Engineer.
Sub Transmssion Division-II
Rajbagh Srinagar

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION
CORPORATION LTD. O&M DIVISION PULWAMA

Email: xenedpulwama@gmail.com Tel No.01933-241228

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No: O&M/Pul/08 of 2025-26, dated:23-07-2025

INVITATION:

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, O&M Division Pulwama, invites online e-bids from experienced, registered electrical A-Class contractors/ companies for:

"Creation of 63 KVA Substation along with HT/LT Network at Bunpora Rahmoo near Hanfiya Jamiya Masjid, under UT Capex for the year 2025-26".

1.

Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful/ conscious study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.

2.

The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

| e-bid submission start date and time | 23.07.2025; (4:00 PM onwards) |
|--|---|
| e-bid submission end date and time | 07.08.2025; (upto 10:00 AM) |
| Commercial and Technical Bid opening date & time | 07.08.2025; 12:00 PM |
| Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified Bidders) | Any convenient date after evaluation of technical bids in the office of undersigned. |
| Venue of opening of techno-commercial Bids | Office of the Executive Engineer, O&M Division Pulwama, Kashmir Pin Code 192301, near DC office Pulwama Kashmir |
| Tender Value | Rs. 10.20 Lacs |
| Cost of e-Bid document | Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only) (Non-Refundable) |
| Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) | Rs. 20400/= (Rupees Twenty Thousand Four Hundred only) |

3.

The bidder/tenderer needs to submit the cost of e-Bid document in the government treasury under MH 0801-PDD and upload the challan/receipt as proof of cost of tender document. Any tender uploaded without the scanned copy of the challan/receipt is liable to be rejected.

4.

Bidders must quote for all the particulars of the item in the Technical Bid and in the price schedule/BOQ of financial bid. The bids of Bidders who will not quote for all the particulars for any item in technical and financial bids shall be liable to be rejected at the discretion of the Employer keeping in view the interest of the KPDCCL.

5.

All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/ FDR/ Bank Guarantee only from any Nationalized/ Scheduled bank only pledged to Executive Engineer O&M Division (KPDCCL) Pulwama. No Interest shall be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.

6.

The hard copy of original instrument of EMD is required to be submitted by the successful bidder to the office of Executive Engineer, O&M Division Pulwama within two days after opening of techno-commercial bid.

7.

The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://jktenders.gov.in>. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same Web Site.

8.

The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of Bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table. An authority letter of Bidder's/OEM representative will be required to be produced.

9.

The Engineer O&M Division (KPDCCL) Pulwama reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof if any major lapse/ deviation is found. The decision of the Engineer O&M Division (KPDCCL) Pulwama will be final and binding.

10.

In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday for KPDCCL office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.

11.

All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidders electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.

12.

To participate in e-bidding process, Bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.

13.

The bidders must visit the site before quoting rates to acquaint themselves about the topography of site.

14.

The successful bidder shall have to furnish test certificates of key material viz. transformer, poles, Conductor duty signed by representative of PMA or department along with Challans/Gate passes at the time of bill submission or whenever asked for the same.

15.

The contractor shall have to follow all SOPs during execution. Any deviation and consequent un-toward incident shall be sole responsibility of the contractor.

16.

The work shall be completed within 30 days from the date of issuance of LOI/LOA.

17.

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents (SBD).

18.

MSME bidders should submit/ upload BID FEES and EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT (EMD).

19.

The successful bidder/executing agency shall procure all materials exclusively from vendors duly approved by the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCCL). During material inspection, the departmental representative (officer/official) shall ensure that the materials are sourced only from approved vendors and that all material receipts are cross-checked against the approved vendor list. The contractor shall submit the material purchase receipts at the time of bill submission, duly verified and signed by the officer/official who has inspected the materials.

20.

As per Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Finance Department Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 dated 08-07-2025, all participating bidders/ suppliers/ contractors shall mandatorily disclose the bank account number that is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payment shall be released by the Department to any bank account other than the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. Submission of a GST-linked bank account is a mandatory precondition for participation/processing in the tender and for the release of any payment thereafter.

21.

The bidders shall upload an affidavit regarding acceptance of terms and conditions of this e-NIT & SBD.

No. KPDCCL/O&M/PUL/TS/2343-48.
Dated. 23-07-2025.

DIPK-NB-1301-25
DT: 24/07/2025

SD/-
Executive Engineer
KPDCCL O&M Division Pulwama

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KO VIEW

Growth Sans Jobs

Kashmir's skyline is changing. From Srinagar's outskirts to the valleys of Baramulla and Anantnag, new buildings are rising at a stunning pace. Glossy advertisements promise "smart homes" and modern gated colonies. Developers from Delhi, Punjab, even Dubai are also looking to invest in what looks, from a distance, like a region on the rise.

But take a closer look, and the situation isn't as optimistic as far as the economy goes. These homes, many complete or nearing completion, are largely empty. Entire apartment blocks have one or two caretakers living alone, guarding homes that were never lived in.

What Kashmir is witnessing is a housing boom anchored to economic reality. The truth is that the unemployment is rampant in the Valley, and it is a crisis that is aggravating by the day.

Engineers go to Bangalore. Nurses fly to the Gulf. Teachers, MBAs, and skilled workers follow opportunity across the country and abroad. They are not leaving for greener pastures but to escape the joblessness in the Valley, and the consequent bleak future.

Unemployment in Kashmir is not just a statistic. With a literacy rate of 67.16 percent, Kashmir offers its youth little beyond rare government job exams, underpaid private roles, and a long wait for something better. It's no surprise that migration is now a norm.

This leaves Kashmir with a stark contradiction: a region in the throes of an apparent construction boom but no substantive economic growth that could provide its educated youth employment. If this pattern continues, Kashmir risks becoming a ghost town in disguise, glittering on the outside, empty on the inside.

So, there's an urgent need for job creation. We need industries, and sustainable livelihoods. The proposal to set up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Kashmir is timely and necessary. SEZs focused on IT, handicrafts, horticulture, and food processing can be employment engines. Investment, whether government or private-led, should flow not just into Srinagar but into smaller towns to extend job opportunities to the youth also incountryside..

The government has a critical role: it must treat job creation as a priority. But this is something that doesn't seem even distantly on its agenda. Right now, youth in Kashmir have no option but to pack up and leave. While this is not entirely a bad thing, we must find reasons for them to stay. We must ensure that they don't leave because of the hopelessness at home.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Money Smart Kashmir

Financial literacy isn't an option. It's how Kashmiris can survive, save, and thrive.

Irshad Mushtaq

Money often slips through fingers faster than it's earned in Kashmir. A paycheck comes in, and soon it's gone, to flashy purchases, sudden expenses, or social pressure. Then comes the struggle: a medical bill, a school fee, a family emergency. And no savings to fall back on.

Financial literacy changes that. It's not complex math. It's knowing how to track your spending, plan your budget, and avoid traps like debt and impulse buying. In a place where incomes are unstable and inflation bites hard, this knowledge is essential.

Kashmir's economy runs on small businesses, government jobs, and seasonal work. Yet many families don't make budgets. They don't compare needs against wants. They spend without a plan, often to keep up appearances. This mindset drains savings and builds stress.

Being money smart means buying what you need, not what looks good on sale. It means planting vegetables at home, cutting down on utility bills, and fixing what you can instead of replacing it. These choices add up, and they build independence.

Many don't use government schemes that offer real help. Programs like Ayushman Bharat can cover major health costs. Yet few families know how to access them. That gap in awareness is costly.

Financial education must start early. Schools should teach kids how to save, spend, and invest. Communities should talk openly about money. Financial wisdom isn't about being rich. It's about staying ready, and steady.

A financially literate Kashmir is a stronger Kashmir.
The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Dr Inam Malik

It starts like this. You've been on your feet for 14 hours straight. You've stitched wounds, resuscitated a cardiac patient, scribbled prescriptions with half-shut eyes, and comforted a mother who just lost her child. It's past midnight. You're drained, but still alert, still showing up.

Then a man storms in, furious. He shouts that you're ignoring him. Before you can reply, he slaps your colleague across the face. And no one blinks.

That's the part that haunts me most.

Doctors in Kashmir are no longer just healers. We're targets. The emergency room is no longer just a place of urgency, it's a pressure chamber, where grief, fear, and frustration explode.

And more and more, the blows are landing on us.

The fresh assault at a Srinagar hospital wasn't an isolated incident. It's just one more entry in a long, growing list. We are witnessing a shift: slow, dangerous, and deeply unsettling.

This region has seen pain before. Conflict, loss, endless cycles of uncertainty. But something is different now. We're not just burdened. We're breaking.

And it's showing up in the worst place possible: the hospital.

Places like SMHS in Srinagar

At SMHS Hospital in Srinagar, emergency services lately came to a standstill. The reason: a differently-abled doctor was assaulted on duty. The doctors walked out, the administration took an emergency call, and the public was divided.

What unfolded wasn't just a protest. It was a mirror held to a healthcare system that's been limping for years. And it reopened a question Kashmir has faced before: should doctors ever go on strike?

Across the world, doctors have left their posts in protest over delayed salaries, violence at work, or burnout after months on the frontlines.

These strikes always spark debate. One side sees a profession defending its dignity. The other sees abandonment of duty.

Amid this competing narrative, we tend to forget that doctors are human. They bleed, break down, burn out. They're often the first to arrive and the last to leave, even in chaos.

When they protest, it's rarely spontaneous. It's after memos go unread, complaints unaddressed, and basic security denied.

This cycle is too familiar in Kashmir. There's trauma in treating trauma with no protection and support.

Global ethicists have argued that under rare conditions, a strike can be justified. If emergency services are kept running, if there's consensus, and if protest follows every failed attempt at dialogue, it may be morally defensible.

In some ways, speaking up against

have always stood tall through chaos: shutdowns, protests, curfews, even pandemics. We've delivered babies in candlelight, treated blast wounds with limited supplies, carried stretchers through tear gas.

Through it all, the doctor's white coat stood for something: a symbol of calm in a storm.

Now, that coat feels like a target. And let's be honest, it's not just the system that's collapsing. It's us, the people.

We're losing patience, trust, and the basic civility that holds a society together. The valley that once lived by the wisdom of saints like Sheikh Noor-ud-din Noorani and Lal Ded now reacts with rage before it listens.

Empathy is fading, suspicion is rising, and we, the ones who show up to heal, are bearing the brunt of that change.

Yes, the system is broken. The doctor-to-patient ratio is one of the worst in the country. In some areas of Kashmir, a single doctor may be responsible for more than 2,200 people. We work with outdated machines, late ambulances, short supplies, and chaotic environments.

But here's the truth: We keep going, because we've made a promise to help, even when it hurts.

Yet that promise feels harder to keep when violence becomes routine. We're shouted at, filmed without consent, blamed on social media,

or physically attacked, sometimes by those we're trying to save.

Just recently, a senior surgeon in Srinagar paused a scheduled operation after discovering abdominal adhesions. It was the right medical decision. But what followed was public outrage.

News outlets called it negligence. Social media called him a "butcher." No one waited for an inquiry, or asked for facts. A reputation built over decades was torn down in hours.

This isn't accountability. It's mob justice, disguised as public concern.

What's happening in our hospitals is bigger than just broken infrastructure. It's a mirror. It reflects who we're becoming. Our hospitals have become the final line between order and collapse, and even they're starting to give way.

So what can be done?

First, we need to talk about respect, the basic understanding that doctors are human. We're not magicians or miracle workers. We make mistakes, but slapping, shouting, or threatening won't save lives.

Hospitals must have proper grievance cells. Complaints should be addressed quickly, transparently, and fairly. Accountability is necessary. But anger is not justice.

Doctors, too, must step up, with empathy. We must speak more clearly. Listen more fully. A rushed sen-

tence or a cold tone can often do more damage than a wrong diagnosis.

I grew up hearing stories about how Dr. Ali Jan treated his patients, how he looked them in the eye and made them feel truly seen. In hard times, that kind of care is often where healing begins.

The government must finally recognize that this is not a minor issue. We need a national protection law for healthcare workers, with fast-track courts and strong deterrents.

We need de-escalation teams in hospitals, and public officials to speak out after every attack.

And the media must act responsibly. Cover medical stories with care. Don't rush to blame. A doctor's reputation shouldn't be destroyed by hashtags and headlines.

When we start attacking the people who save us, something fundamental is lost: hope.

Kashmir has already seen too much loss, mistrust and pain. Through all of it, the hospital remained one of the last safe spaces. That sanctuary is now cracking.

So we must ask: What kind of society attacks its own healers? And what kind of society stays silent while it happens?

We still have time to answer wisely. But not forever.

Dr. Inam Malik is a medical doctor based in Srinagar. He can be reached at Imalik87@gmail.com

VIEW

Strikes Can't Cure

At the heart of Srinagar's hospital crisis lies a moral dilemma: can a caregiver protest without betraying the patient?

Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili

unsafe systems is a form of care, because staying silent enables rot.

But there's a line.

Every strike risks a life. In Kashmir, where public hospitals are overloaded and private care out of reach, even a few hours of shutdown can mean tragedy.

Patients often arrive at tertiary hospitals as their last hope. A closed emergency room doesn't just delay treatment. It closes the door on survival.

Strikes aren't equal in their impact. The rich will find alternatives. The poor won't.

Those who live in far-off villages or refugee camps don't have backup plans. That's where the ethical weight falls hardest.

Critics argue that protest should not come at the cost of care. The Hippocratic Oath isn't about conditions. It's about commitment.

And when doctors walk out, even briefly, that sacred trust frays. If the public begins to see doctors as negotiators first and caregivers second, trust crumbles.

So where's the line between resistance and responsibility?

In the Srinagar case, the situation was handled delicately. Hospital management opened talks. Senior doctors were pulled in to cover gaps. Commitments were made. Still, many condemned the initial walkout. Some called it "unbecoming" of the profession. Others blamed a larger system that leaves doctors exposed and unsupported.

Doctors, meanwhile, felt betrayed, mostly by those who were silent.

Where was the outrage when staff were assaulted, when protection was promised and never delivered?

Many feel society demands martyrdom from its doctors, but refuses to fight for their safety.

Social media erupted. Some stood with the doctor. Others with the patient's family. A few with the journalist who reported it.

Lost in the noise was the deeper crisis: a hospital built for hundreds, now treating thousands, run by staff

COUNTER VIEW

Letter to Editor

What We've Done to Marriage in Kashmir

A Kashmiri wedding used to mean a prayer, a promise, and two families coming together. Today, it often means debt.

Across the valley, thousands of women remain unmarried. They aren't waiting for the right person. They're waiting for the finances to line up.

In a place where culture once valued simplicity and faith, marriage has become a public performance, with meat-heavy feasts, dowries dressed as gifts, and expectations that grow more punishing each year.

The numbers are stark. More than 65,000 women in Kashmir have crossed the traditional age of marriage. In Srinagar alone, over 45,000 women over 30 remain unmarried. This isn't due to a lack of education,

faith, or character. It's because their families can't afford what society now treats as minimum requirements: gold, lavish functions, designer wear, and long guest lists.

Parents, especially fathers, carry this burden. Many suffer in silence, knowing that even a simple, sincere marriage will invite judgment. A modest ceremony is seen as a social failure. The whispers follow, about status, respect, and whether the daughter was "worth celebrating."

The girl, through no fault of her own, ends up believing she is a burden. This isn't just about women. Expectations placed on men are equally suffocating. A young man with strong values and a decent job is often overlooked unless he's in government service, owns property, or comes from a well-known family. A

government badge now matters more than compassion or compatibility.

The tragedy is layered. These inflated standards don't just hurt families, they distort the meaning of marriage itself. Our faith teaches that a nikah should be simple, accessible, and rooted in mutual respect. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "When marriage becomes expensive, adultery becomes easy." That's not a metaphor. It's a warning. And it's coming true.

Many families take out loans just to keep up with expectations. Some never recover. Others are shamed for choosing restraint. Rituals once based on joy now feel like transactions. And the sacred bond of marriage is treated more like a luxury than a right.

We need to step back. The Qur'an

warns us against extravagance for a reason. Weddings shouldn't be about impressing guests. They should be about beginning a life.

This shift won't come from one family or one sermon. It has to come from the community. Imams must speak up. Teachers and elders must break the silence. Families must agree that a daughter's dignity is not measured in gold weight, and a son's worth is not based on a job title.

Marriage should be a door, not a wall. It should offer a future, not debt, shame, or delay.

Sincerely,

Amaar Mir
Researcher
amaarmir77@gmail.com.

Guilty Favours

In a crowded Kashmir hospital, a young woman’s call for help leads to guilt, reflection, and a brush with invisible rules of fairness and favour.

Aisha Hasnain

The neurologist came late. My turn was going to get delayed by about two hours. The same fateful day, I got my period after over two months. My back was aching and my stamina was dropping.

I have been feeling quite terrible for the past month, feeling empty in my heart, crying a few times, holding back at other. When I finally got my period, it occurred to me that the disruptions in my mood could have been a consequence of some hormonal disturbances which led to the delay in my monthly cycle.

I am trying to do things independently as Baba has a lot to take care of already. I asked my younger sibling to accompany me to the hospital. It is a private hospital. I was on time but upon arrival, I came to know that the doctor had seen only a few patients. I was angry. To make things worse, the hospital was full and I did not have a place to sit. I took the support from the backrest of the hospital bench while standing and waiting.

“Should I go back?” My brain was in a low-key survival mode. But how could I? I had already invested money and energy into making it to the hospital. Dilemmas are scary. Same day early morning, I made several phone calls to the hospital for an hour to get my hands on an early appointment. But those people did not

answer any of the calls, until they did and gave me one of the last serial numbers.

“Should I call Baba and ask him to come around?” No. This is not why I was trying to do things on my own.

My little sibling could see I was not doing well. I was feeling weak and a panic attack felt doing rounds up and down my throat.

“Should I call Doctor Uncle and ask him to help me with my turn?” After waiting for 40 lengthy minutes, I gave up and called him. He is a much respected senior doctor in the valley and my father’s friend.

“I need help, only if possible. I am not feeling well,” I insisted. “I will see if it is possible,” he told me. After half an hour, Doctor Uncle called back saying that he spoke with the doctor.

I do not like such privileges. If I were a VVIP, I would respectfully want to wait for my turn like every other person. Those are my morals and principles. I was not feeling good about making this phone call. I tried to recall how many rules I had broken in my life. I remembered breaking a red signal when the road was empty. But a gentleman rode by my side and in a fatherly manner told me that it was not a good thing. I took that advice to my heart and never ran a red light again. It feels like the Cosmos has its way to remind you of your values. Somehow, it felt that it would happen again if I was doing wrong.

Doctor Uncle had already made the call when a young man standing in front of me complained to the receptionist that people were entering the doctor’s office out of their turns. He was anguished and told the other patients that if he rose his voice

against this unfair treatment, he would be seen as the wrong person because the receptionist was a female. He was only adding to my guilt because as a woman I know it to be true. Matriarchy prevails over here. He kept complaining and my heart kept sinking because I knew they were about to call my name. I was unable to look the other patients in the eyes. I wished they never called my name. But it was too late already.

This young man went inside the clinic on his turn. Now there was one more patient and I standing at the door. After a few minutes, the doctor came out of his office and asked, “Who is Aisha here?” I entered with the other patient waiting at the door. I asked the doctor to kindly see the other patient first.

“Your reference came via Sir,” the doctor told me.

“And I am not feeling good about it. I did not want to do it,” I replied.

“It’s okay,” he said.

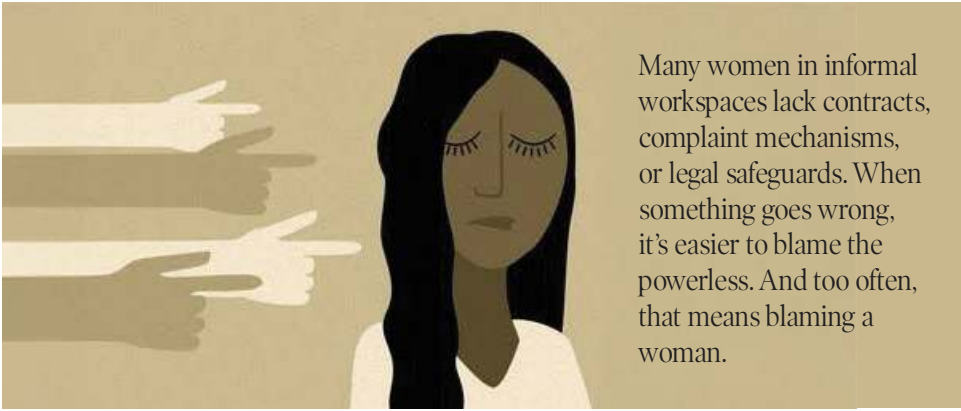
The same day I was watching a horror movie, after a long time. I needed a shift in the kind of emotions I was feeling. I watched The Nun. I hoped that in the night when I turned the lights off, the scary nun does not feel real.

I was very tired that evening. I was drifting into sleep when the tall and paranormal nun came to my mind and oddly enough, all I could imagine was she sitting by my side and giving me a back massage, hoping she had strong hands. Now that is scary. My conscience was heavy with stress from pain and guilt.

The author writes under the pen name Aisha Hasnain and can be reached at aishahasnain02@gmail.com.

Framed Innocence

A false accusation cost me my job, my dignity, and my place in society. I chose to fight back, with truth and work.



Many women in informal workspaces lack contracts, complaint mechanisms, or legal safeguards. When something goes wrong, it’s easier to blame the powerless. And too often, that means blaming a woman.

Nusrat Hassan

I come from the margins. My father labored to earn daily wages, and I stitched clothes in a small tailoring unit in Kashmir to support my family.

We weren’t rich, but we lived with dignity. I liked the rhythm of my work, the feel of fabric under my fingers, the chatter of women hunched over sewing machines, the comfort of routine.

One morning, everything changed. There had been a theft at our workplace. Someone had taken something. I still don’t know what it was, and the blame fell on me.

They said I brought the thief in. And that I was the link.

My heart pounded as the accusations flew. I kept explaining, my voice hoarse from trying to convince them. I didn’t steal. I didn’t know who did. I begged them to believe me.

No one listened. That single allegation shattered everything I had built. My employer dismissed me. People who once greeted me with warmth now looked through me. Some whispered behind my back. Others openly blamed me. I lost not just my job, but my standing.

In a place like Kashmir, where social reputation is tightly woven into survival, that loss was devastating. The shame clung to me like smoke.

I remember walking back home in tears, my back aching from work, my body heavy with exhaustion and my mind heavier still.

I became invisible in a community where word travels fast and forgiveness travels slowly.

For days, I stayed home, afraid to step out. I stopped visiting friends. My family, already burdened by financial strain, didn’t know how to help. I could feel them struggling to believe me, even as they comforted me. That doubt cut deeper than the accusation.

And yet, amid all the silence, something stirred inside me. Maybe it was rage. Or maybe it was the old resilience I inherited from women who survived curbs, and curdled dreams in this valley. I told myself: if they won’t give me a chance, I’ll

make one. I’ll work again. I’ll rebuild. I’ll carry this wound and still walk forward.

That is what I did.

I took up small stitching assignments at home. A neighbour gave me fabric to hem. Someone else needed suit tailored. My hands got busy again. Slowly, I kept my earnings under my mattress. With each finished piece, I was sewing back not just fabric, but my sense of self.

What happened to me wasn’t an isolated incident.

In our homeland, where unemployment among women remains among the highest in India and patriarchal norms still shape judgment, a woman’s character is often treated like glass. One whisper, and it cracks.

Many women in informal workspaces lack contracts, complaint mechanisms, or legal safeguards. When something goes wrong, it’s easier to blame the powerless. And too often, that means blaming a woman.

What struck me most was how quickly people believed the worst. I’ve seen dishonest people deflect blame onto others to protect themselves.

In our society, doing good doesn’t always protect you from harm. In fact, being kind, being helpful, can sometimes make you more vulnerable.

So here’s what I’ve learned: don’t let someone else’s lie define you. The truth may take time to surface, but it doesn’t rot. It waits. It shines through your work, your actions, your persistence.

And when you’ve felt pain deeply, you learn never to be the cause of someone else’s suffering.

I still live with that false label. Some people continue to avoid me. But I carry my story now with strength, not shame. I’ve turned the sting of accusation into the steel of survival.

Life is rarely easy in the valley, especially for women at the margins. But I want others like me to know: one accusation isn’t the end. You can stand again. You can rise.

And you must.

The author is an undergraduate student at GDC Ganderbal.

The Woman Who Trains Strength

Guided by empathy and endurance, Muskaan Bashir’s sessions offer far more than fitness in a culture still coming to terms with women’s agency.

Gowher Bhat

At 6:45 a.m., Go Fitness Gym in Baghat Barzulla hasn’t opened to the public yet. But on the second floor, under soft tube lights and the low hum of heating, Muskaan Bashir is already adjusting barbells, lining up mats, and checking the playlist on her phone.

A group of women wait by the mirror wall, water bottles in hand. Some are college students. Others are mothers. Most have never trained seriously before this.

By 7:05, the room is moving. Deadlifts, squats, push-ups. Form corrections. Breath counts. Sweat begins to bead across foreheads. So do stories, of breakups, weight gain, back pain, insomnia, fear.

And in the center of it all is a 29-year-old trainer who’s doing more than coaching bodies. She’s holding space.

Muskaan Bashir isn’t a typical gym coach. She never planned to be one. Her early years were spent mastering martial arts, karate, specifically.

Raised in Srinagar’s Rawalpura neighborhood, she remembers childhood in motion: sunrise runs, bruised knees, disciplined limbs.

“Karate didn’t just teach me how to punch. It taught me how to get up when everything in you says stay down,” she said.

She became a certified national karate coach before she was 25, a state-level referee by 27. Her room holds medals few have seen. “Those medals are symbols,” she said. “They mean I stayed.”

But sometime in 2019, after an injury forced her off the mat, Muskaan

stepped into a gym and felt something shift.

There was structure, silence, and the possibility of strength without combat. She trained silently, learned weights, and realized that what mattered wasn’t how fast she moved, but how steadily she could help others stand.

When she joined Go Fitness in 2020, Kashmir was still limping through the aftermath of political lockdowns and a pandemic. Gyms were shuttered. So were most women’s aspirations.

But the two-storey air-conditioned gym in a busy Srinagar neighbourhood, had begun to carve space for female trainers. Muskaan became its anchor.

In a region where fewer than 30 certified female trainers exist across all districts, her presence mattered. Many women in Kashmir still avoid gyms due to conservative norms, lack of privacy, and internalized shame.

At Go Fitness, the female section has mirrors, mats, and machines. More importantly, it has Muskaan.

“She never once commented on my body,” said Alia, a 32-year-old schoolteacher who joined Muskaan’s sessions in 2022 after a miscarriage. “She asked how I slept. What I ate. Whether I was breathing okay. That’s when I started to trust her.”

Muskaan doesn’t advertise results. She doesn’t talk about six-pack abs. “Most of my girls don’t care about the mirror,” she said. “They want to sleep better. Carry groceries without pain. Feel safe in their skin.”

Her daily batches include women from different social classes. Some take shared cabs from the outskirts.



Others come straight from university lectures.

In one group, a mother of four trains beside a teenager recovering from an eating disorder. The workouts are customized, but the message is the same: strength is personal.

“She never forces,” said Farhat, a 26-year-old from Batamalo. “She reminds us that progress isn’t a parade. It’s when you breathe a little easier after a flight of stairs.”

That philosophy shapes Muskaan’s approach to mental health too.

She regularly holds Sunday sessions on menstrual fitness, stress release, and injury prevention. In 2023, she began collaborating with local counselors to offer referral support for women showing signs of anxiety and depression.

According to a 2022 study by the Government Medical College, Srinagar, over 40% of women in the valley suffer from some form of psychological distress.

“Therapy isn’t accessible to many girls here,” she said. “So I try to turn the gym into a safe zone. Sometimes, lifting weights is their therapy.”

Her Instagram feed avoids filters. Instead, it features progress clips, food tips, and small wins.

A recent video showed a first-time lifter attempting 15kg deadlifts while wiping away tears. “This is where healing begins,” the caption read.

Muskaan’s impact now reaches beyond city limits. In Kupwara, a group of young girls began a self-organized fitness club after watching her videos. In Pulwama, a mother contacted her for home workouts after her daughter developed PCOS symptoms. NGOs working on ado-

lescent health have approached her to conduct school-based awareness drives.

Still, the journey isn’t free from resistance. “Some men stare through the glass. Others say gyms make girls arrogant,” she said. “Even some women say this isn’t our role. That we’re trying to be men.”

She shrugs it off. “Let them talk. I don’t train for applause.”

In recent months, Muskaan has begun designing an all-women’s training curriculum rooted in Kashmiri routines, incorporating local diets and body patterns often overlooked by urban models.

“Fitness advice copied from Delhi or Mumbai doesn’t always work here,” she said. “Our girls fast differently. Their energy dips differently. They need their own blueprint.”

Inside Go Fitness, the 8 a.m. batch is winding down. Someone plays a song on Bluetooth. Two women high-five over a successful plank hold. Another pulls her dupatta tighter and wipes her face.

And in the back, Muskaan is adjusting weights for a girl who couldn’t lift 5kg last month. Today, she’s at 10.

This is the moment Muskaan waits for. “That moment when a girl realizes she’s stronger than her past,” she said. “That’s when change begins.”

In a region long defined by limits - conflict, silence, shame - Muskaan Bashir is building something different: a room full of women who no longer wait for permission to feel powerful.

The author is a Pulwama-based educator and storyteller.

'4-Day Workweek Boosts Well-Being in High-Income Nations'

Press Trust Of India

A four-day work-week might help with an employee's well-being, according to a study that trialled the intervention in organisations across the US, UK, Canada, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. Researchers from Boston College in the US and University College Dublin in Ireland found that workers reported an improved well-being with lower levels of burn-



out, a better job satisfaction and physical and mental health -- this was not seen among employees of 12 organisations where a reduced work-week was not trialled. For the study, published in the journal Nature Human Behaviour, nearly 2,900 employees across 141 organisations in the six high-income countries worked four days a week for six months without a pay reduction. To maintain productivity, workplaces were re-organised with efficiency and collaboration improvements prior to start of the trial. The authors wrote, "Analysis of pre- and post-trial data from 2,896 employees across 141 organisations in

Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the UK and the USA shows improvements in burn-out, job satisfaction, mental health and physical health -- a pattern not observed in 12 control companies." The improved well-being was attributed to three factors -- an enhanced perception of one's own work ability, reduced sleep problems and lower levels of fatigue. "The results indicate that income-preserving four-day workweeks are an effective organisational intervention for enhancing workers' well-being," the team said. Countries around the world have been experimenting with interventions, such as a shorter workweek or reduced working hours in a week, to improve work-life balance and boost productivity. However, a country's labour laws and economic conditions, along with how work and leisure is culturally perceived are other factors influencing a potential shift away from traditional work routines. France legally mandated a 35-hour work-week in the early 2000s, while Bhutan is said to be amongst the countries with the most working hours per week -- over 50.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE)
MECHANICAL DIVISION (NORTH) SOPORE
Email: phe.mdns2@gmail.com
Short term e-Tender

NIT No: PHE/MDNS/NIT/E-11 of 2025-26

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, sealed e-tenders in two covers are invited from experienced, reputed and registered firms/ genuine manufacturer/ authorized distributors/ dealers/ workshop holders / SSI Unit holders for the following work:

| S. No. | Name of work | Cost of tender document | Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs) | Earnest money | Time of completion | Programme Head | Technical Sanction No. and Date | AAA |
|--------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Electrical repairs to 12.5HP Submersible Motor at WSS Bulgam old under M and R | Rs 50.00 | Rs 0.187 | 02% of the estimated cost of work | 02 Days | M and R | 40 of 07/2025 | Budgetary provision under M and R |
| 2. | Electrical repairs to 50HP VT Motor at WSS Maharajpora Stage 1stand 20HP VT motor at Sidiq Colony Stage 1st under M and R | Rs 50.00 | Rs 0.648 | | | | 41 of 07/2025 | |
| 3. | Replacement of damaged HT cable termination kits at WSS Asham Zoonipora Stage 1stand foot valve at WSS Naidkhai 2nd and Shahgund 2nd and other allied works under M and R | Rs 50.00 | Rs 0.324 | | | | 42 of 07/2025 | |
| 4. | Replacement of damaged pump bearings and providing of standby bearings for Horizontal pumping unit at WSS Quil Muqam under M and R | Rs 50.00 | Rs 0.712 | | | | 43 of 07/2025 | |
| 5. | Repairs to be taken at different Water Supply Schemes in District Kupwara under M and R | Rs 100.00 | Rs 0.965 | | | | 44 of 07/2025 | |
| 6. | Electrical repairs to 7.5HP Submersible Motor at WSS Kanisathu New under M and R | Rs 50.00 | Rs 0.102 | | | | 30 of 07/2025 | |

The tenders consisting of qualifying/eligibility criteria, technical specifications, general and commercial terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the web-site <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 23-07-2025 (02:00 pm) to 30-07-2025 (6:55 pm). The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 23-07-2025(02:00 pm) to 30-07-2025 (6:55 pm). Prequalification bids shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore on 31-07-2025 at 11:00 am after which the financial bids of qualifying bidders shall be opened. In case offices happen to be closed due to holiday, or any other reason, on the schedule date of opening, the bids will be opened on the next working day. The complete bidding shall be online. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids.

No. PHE/MDNS/DB/2135-40
DIPK-4190/25 Dated: 24-07-2025

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

Email ID: xenbemina@gmail.com
Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B DIVISION BEMINA SRINAGAR.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No.22/EE/R&B/BM/CS/2915-22 2025-26 DATED:22.07.2025

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

| S.No. | Name of Work | Adv. Cost (In Lacs) | Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees) | Earnest Money (In Rupees) | Time of completion | M.H of Account | Class of Contractor |
|-------|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Raising of Boundary wall on the front side of State Motor Garages, Bemina, Srinagar | 5.39116 /- | 300/- | 10,783/- | 90 days | 4059- Capital outlay | "DEE/CEE" |

Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of funds: Available
Project Authority: Directorate of State Motor Garages Department, Bemina .
1.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 given below:-

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 22.07.2025 |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 23.07.2025 from 10.00 AM |
| 3 | Bid submission Start Date | 23.07.2025 from 10.00 AM |
| 4 | Bid Submission End Date | 04.08.2025 upto 4.00 PM. |
| 5 | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) | 05.08.2025 at 12.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar. |

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender inviting authority)(The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date)pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

2. At the time of tendering, all the 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 Division Bemina Srinagar (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

3. Unbalanced bid:

| S.No | Percentage of unbalanced bid viz-a-viz Adv.cost | Additional performance security to be deposited on quoted bid by |
|------|---|--|
| | | L1 |
| 1 | Upto and including 15% below | Nil |
| 2 | >15% upto and including 20% below | 5% |
| 3 | >20% upto and including 25% below | 10% |
| 4 | >25% upto and including 30% below | 15% |
| 5 | >30% below | 20% |

The bidder declared as L1 has to Provide additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the break up given above at the time of allotment.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

c) The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

d) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Bemina Srinagar.

No.: EE/R&B/BM/CS/2915-22
DIPK-4197/25 Dated:24.07.2025

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

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Indian Users Can Now Use UPI On Foreign Land, Sites Via PayPal World



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- In a major boost to cross-border digital payments, Indian users will now be able to use the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to make payments internationally through PayPal.

The global payments company 'PayPal' has announced the launch of "PayPal World", a new platform that aims to connect the world's largest payment systems and digital wallets.

The platform will start by offering interoperability between PayPal and Venmo, and include UPI as part of its initial launch. This means Indian consumers can now shop from international merchants and pay using the UPI option they are already familiar with.

For example, an Indian user browsing an online store in the United States to buy a pair of sneakers will now see a UPI button after clicking the PayPal option at checkout. This allows them to complete the transaction using their UPI account, just as they would for any domestic payment.

Ritesh Shukla, Managing

Director and CEO of NPCI International Payments Limited, welcomed the development. He said, "The integration of UPI on PayPal World's platform will mark a significant step in expanding UPI's global footprint. It aligns with our vision to make cross-border payments more seamless, secure, and inclusive. This collaboration will enhance convenience for Indian users making payments abroad and enable global businesses and merchants to tap into a growing base of UPI users."

The company stated that collaboration includes global partners representing nearly two billion users worldwide. These include Mercado Pago (MOU signed, further details being scoped), NPCI International Payments Limited (UPI), PayPal, Tenpay Global, and Venmo.

The platform also benefits users from other countries. For instance, a PayPal user traveling to China can make payments at a cafe that accepts Weixin Pay simply by scanning the code using their PayPal app. Similarly, a Venmo user in the US can send money to a friend in Germany by typing in the phone number and selecting the PayPal wallet.

This step marks a new beginning for global digital payments, especially for Indian users who rely heavily on UPI for everyday transactions. With PayPal World, sending money or shopping across borders will be easier than ever.

India's Mobile Phone Exports Rise 127 Times To Rs 2 lakh Crore In 10 Years

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Export of mobile phones from India increased by 127 times to reach Rs 2 lakh crore in the last 10 financial years, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

According to data shared by Minister of state for Electronics and IT Jitin Prasada in a written reply to Lok Sabha, the export of mobile phones "increased 127 times" from India from Rs 1,500 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 2 lakh crore in 2024-25.

"The PLI Scheme for LSEM has already attracted a cumulative investment of INR 12,390 crore, led to a cumulative production of Rs 8,44,752 crore with exports of Rs 4,65,809 crore and generated additional employment of 1,30,330 (direct jobs) till Jun'25," the minister said.

The production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing was mainly meant for mobile phone manufacturing.

The minister said that 75 per cent of the total mobile phone demand in the country was met through imports in 2014-15, which has now dropped to 0.02 per cent in 2024-25.

"PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing has

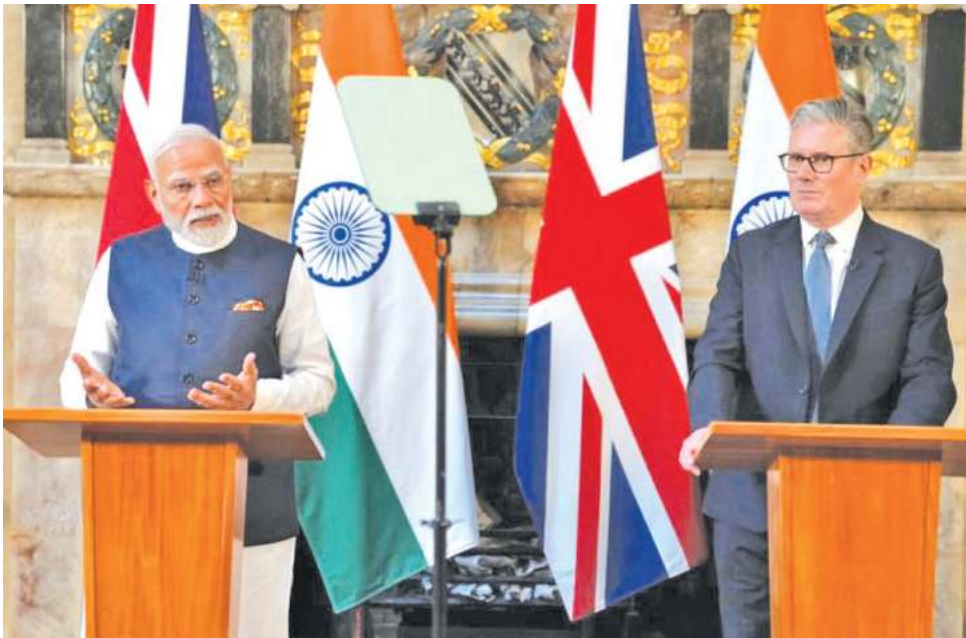


significantly impacted the mobile manufacturing sector in India particularly in transforming India from a net importer to a net exporter of mobile phones. Bharat is now the second largest mobile manufacturing country in the world," the minister said.

Mr Prasada said the PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT hardware has attracted a cumulative investment of Rs 717.13 crore, led to a cumulative production of Rs 12,195.84 crore and generated additional employment of 5,056 (direct jobs) till June.

"Total FDI in the field of electronics manufacturing in the last 5 years (i.e. since FY 2020-21) is USD 4,071 million, cumulative FDI of USD 2,802 million has been contributed by MeitY PLI beneficiaries," the minister said.

Historic Day For India-UK Relations: PM Modi On Free Trade Deal



WE AGREE THAT FORCES WITH EXTREMIST ideologies cannot be allowed to misuse democratic freedoms,"

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- India and the UK on Thursday inked a landmark free trade pact that will increase market access, cut tariffs on British whisky and cars among other items and double bilateral trade by 2030 as the two strategic partners vowed to chart a new growth path amid growing global concerns over Washington's trade policies.

Today is a historic day in India-UK relations, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who witnessed the signing of the trade pact along with his British counterpart Keir Starmer.

After many years of hard work, a comprehensive economic and trade agreement has been inked between India and the UK, he noted, with Starmer by his side at Chequers, the country residence of the British PM. The two leaders held a tete-a-tete before holding serious talks.

The deal is expected to benefit 99 per cent Indian exports from tariff.

In his remarks, Starmer said it is the biggest and economically most significant trade deal that the UK has signed since leaving the European Union.

In his media statement, Modi thanked the UK for its strong condemnation of the Pahalgaam terror attack and said both sides are united that "there is no place for double standards in the fight against terrorism."

"We agree that forces with extremist ideologies cannot be allowed to misuse democratic freedoms," he said.

Modi said security agencies of India and the UK will continue to enhance cooperation and coordination on matters such as the extradition of economic offenders.

On the free trade pact, Modi said it will create new opportunities in the British market for India's agricultural produce and processed food industry, and that it will be particularly beneficial for India's youth, farmers, fishermen,

and MSME sector.

Indian textiles, footwear, gems and jewellery, seafood, and engineering goods will gain better market access in the UK, he added.

Modi said India and the UK are also firming up the "Vision 2035" roadmap to give new momentum and energy to the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two sides in the next decade.

The Prime Minister also touched upon the overall situation in the Indo-Pacific.

"We have continued to share views on peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and the situation in West Asia," he said.

The Prime Minister asserted that respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries is essential.

The demand of today's era is not "expansionism, but developmentalism," he said.

Modi also condoled the deaths of several British citizens in the Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad last month.

PM Seeks UK's Cooperation In Extradition Of Economic Offenders To India

Press Trust Of India

LONDON- With India seeking extradition of a number of billionaire fugitives from the UK, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the concerned agencies of the two sides will continue to work in "close" coordination and co-operation on the matter.

The prime minister made the remarks after meeting his British counterpart Keir Starmer at Chequers, the countryside residence of the British PM.

"On the matter of extradition of economic offenders as

well, our agencies will continue to work together in close coordination and cooperation," Modi said in his media statement.

India has been raising with the UK the issue of extradition of economic offenders such as Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Lalit Modi.

At a media briefing, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said PM Modi sought the UK's co-operation to bring to justice the economic offenders and fugitives.

Nirav Modi, the fugitive

diamond merchant, is wanted in India to stand trial on fraud and money laundering charges in an estimated USD 2 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) loan scam case.

Mallya, who fled to the United Kingdom in March 2016, is wanted in India over a default of Rs 9,000 crore that was loaned to Kingfisher Airlines (KFA) by several banks.

Lalit Modi is also wanted by Indian probe agencies for his alleged involvement in money laundering and violating the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA).



CM Omar Takes Serious View Of Misbranded Machine-Made Carpets

Stresses on protection of Kashmiri Handmade Carpets

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday took a serious note of counterfeit machine-made carpets passed off as authentic Kashmiri hand-knotted products and gave instructions to Industries & Commerce department to take strong action against showrooms and retail outlets which are selling machine-made carpets under the label of Kashmir handmade carpets. CM observed that these fakes would damage the globally renowned brand of Kashmiri hand-made carpets and adversely affect the artisan families who depend on this craft for their livelihood.

A delegation of Carpet Export Promotion Council, Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Meeras Carpet Weavers Cooperative, Kashmir Carpet Cluster Development Organization & Kashmir Carpet Manufacturers Association met the Chief Minister at Civil Secretariat Srinagar calling for prohibiting sale of machine-made carpets in all handicrafts-registered showrooms and stronger enforcement mechanisms. They also raised the issue of some unscrupulous traders making use of fake GI label on machine-made

carpets. They called for preserving this craft, Kashmir's identity and livelihood of artisans.

A delegation from Manigam, Ganderbal called on Chief Minister requesting for safe-guarding parcel of land in their area for future Institutional use. A delegation of HR agency voiced their grievance regarding their pending emoluments with J&K Housing Board. A delegation of Dental surgeons submitted their demand for creation and filing up of posts of dental surgeons.

MLA Sopore, MLA Trehgam also met the Chief Minister to discuss issues concerning their constituencies.

Another delegation of Private Schools' Association raised several issues concerning private schools before the Chief Minister such as establishment of the State School Standards Authority (SSSA), bringing ease and expediting issuance of NOCs by departments to private schools, requirement of having 10 years lease-deed for schools operating in rented accommodations, ensuring that students get minimum number of working days in an academic calendar, representation to private schools' bodies in various Government committees on education and other matters of concern.

CS Reviews Progress On Compliance Reduction Measures

Says timely implementation of reforms essential for promoting ease of doing business in J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress on compliance reduction and deregulation reforms recommended by the national Task Force headed by the Cabinet Secretary, Government of India.

Senior officers present at the meeting included Principal Secretary, Power Development Department; Commissioner Secretary, Forest; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department; Secretary, Law and Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu, among others.

During the meeting, the

Chief Secretary took stock of priority reform areas flagged by the Task Force and assessed both the completed compliances and those returned with observations. He emphasized the urgent need to upload the evidentiary proof of compliance across all priority areas without further delay.

Highlighting the broader vision behind these reforms, Dulloo noted that such efforts are critical to enhance the ease of doing business in Jammu and Kashmir. He called for mission-mode implementation of the required regulatory changes. He directed the Industries & Commerce Department to ensure that all necessary documentation is completed and report submitted to him about the same.

ED Raids In Rs 3,000-Cr Bank Loan 'Fraud' Against Anil Ambani Group Companies

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday conducted raids at multiple locations as part of an alleged Rs 3,000 crore worth bank loan fraud-linked money laundering case against the companies of Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani, official sources said.

Some more bank loans taken by these companies apart from certain alleged undisclosed foreign assets are under the scanner of the agency.

More than 35 premises in Mumbai belonging to 50 companies and 25 people were searched under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Some documents and computer peripherals have been recovered, they said. The investigation is being carried out by a Delhi-based investigation unit of the ED.

ED sources said they are primarily probing allegations of illegal loan diversion of around Rs 3,000 crore, given by the Yes Bank to the group companies of Ambani between 2017-2019.

Two group companies, Reliance Power and Reliance Infrastructure, said in separate but identical regulatory filings that the ED action has had "absolutely no impact" on their business operations, financial perfor-

mance, shareholders, employees, or any other stakeholders.

"The media reports appear to pertain to allegations concerning transactions of Reliance Communications Limited (RCOM) or Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL) which are over 10 years old," the companies said.

The ED, the sources said, has found that just before the loan was granted, Yes Bank promoters "received" money in their concerns. The federal probe agency is investigating this nexus of "bribe" and the loan.

Sources said the ED is also probing allegations of "gross violations" in Yes Bank loan approvals to these companies including charges like back-dated credit approval memorandums, investments proposed without any due diligence/credit analysis in violation of banks credit policy, the sources said. The loans are alleged to have been "diverted" to many group companies and "shell" (bogus) companies by the entities involved.

The agency is also looking at some instances of loans given to entities with weak financials, lack of proper documentation of loans and due diligence, borrowers having common addresses and common directors in their companies etc., the sources said.

The money laundering case stems from at least two CBI FIRs and reports

shared by the National Housing Bank, SEBI, National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) and Bank of Baroda with the ED, they said.

These reports indicate, the sources said, that there was a "well-planned and thought after scheme" to divert or siphon off public money by cheating banks, shareholders, investors and other public institutions.

The Union government had informed the Parliament recently that the State Bank of India has classified RCOM along with Ambani as 'fraud' and was also in the process of lodging a complaint with the CBI.

A bank loan "fraud" of more than Rs 1,050 crore between RCOM and Canara Bank is also under the scanner of the ED apart from some "undisclosed" foreign bank accounts and assets, the sources said.

Reliance Mutual fund is also stated to have invested Rs 2,850 crore in AT-1 bonds and a "quid pro quo" is suspected here by the agency.

Additional Tier 1 (AT-1) are perpetual bonds issued by banks to increase their capital base and they are riskier than traditional bonds having higher interest rates. An alleged loan fund diversion of about Rs 10,000 crore involving Reliance Infrastructure too is under the scanner of the agency.

OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER, VAILOO

Subject: - Tentative selection list for engagement as Seasonal Education Volunteers.

Whereas this office published an advertisement of 03 posts for the engagement of Seasonal Education Volunteers (SEVs) in the approved 03 (three) Seasonal Behaks vide this office Notification No. ZEO/V/626/24 dated: 14/08/2024 and accordingly 03 candidates are tentatively selected by the selection committee.

Whereas, this office framed selection committee vide this office No. ZEO/V/SmS/Seasonal/Evs/25/286-290 Dated: 12/07/2025 entrusted with thorough securitization of documents submitted by the applicants for issuance of the tentative selection list.

Whereas, the selection committee after thorough securitization of documents submitted by the applicant's recommended selection of following candidates marking annexure "A" to this notification. It is further notified that:

- The tentative selection list is issued subject to the production of all documents in original by the selected candidates at the time of joining the post of Seasonal Education Volunteer. Mere figuring in the tentative selection list shall not confer any right to the candidate for the final selection.
- The tentative selection is purely provisional and subject to verification of original documents at the time of joining. Mere inclusion in the list shall not confer any right to final engagement.
- The selected candidates shall be required to report personally to the office of the undersigned with their original documents for verification prior to issuance of the formal engagement order.
- Any objection(s) / grievance(s) related to this tentative list, duly supported by documentary evidence, may be submitted to this office within seven (07) days from the date of issuance of this notification, excluding holidays from the publication of the tentative selection list. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated period.
- No representations/claims shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period, and the list shall be treated as final thereafter.
- In case of any misrepresentation, falsification, of facts, the candidature of the concerned individual shall be cancelled ab initio and the office reserves the right to take legal action as warranted under rules.
- The engagement of SEVs is purely temporary, co-terminus with the academic session, and shall not confer any right for regularization or continuation in any future.
- The selected candidates shall abide by the rules, regulations, and code of conduct as prescribed by the School Education Department and any violation thereof shall invite immediate disengagement.
- The Zonal Education Office reserves the right to make any amendments/modifications to this list or cancel the selection process without assigning any reason thereof.

ANNEXURE "A"

| S.No. | Name of the Seasonal Behak | Name of the Candidate | Parentage | Residenace | DOB | Category | Minimu Qualification |
|-------|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------|----------|----------------------|
| 1 | Nag behak | Shaista Jan | Abdul RasheedChara | Dandipora | 4/1/2003 | ST | 10+2 |
| 2 | Chountwadi | Mohdlqbal Chichi | Mohd Ibrahim Chichi | Dandipora | 12/3/1995 | ST | 10+2 |
| 3 | SobaleBehak | Shafqat Bashir Seer | Bashir Ahmad Seer | Guridrama | 15/2/1988 | ST | 10+2 |

No. ZEO/V/SmS/Seasonal/EV/ 299
Dated:23 / 07/2025

DIPK-4171-25
DT: 24/07/2025

Zonal Education Officer Vailoo
Vailoo

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Storm Clouds Over

and 61 First Officers submitted medical leave requests four days after the incident. Highlighting the psychological toll of such tragedies, Mohol emphasized the need to prioritize mental health assessments for aviation personnel.

He said that in February 2023, the government directed airlines to adopt “quick and effective methods” for assessing pilot mental health. Operators were also instructed to roll out customised mental health training and establish peer support groups for both flight crew and air traffic controllers.

DGCA Issues Fresh Notices to Air India

Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued four show-cause notices to Air India on July 23, citing multiple violations related to:

Cabin crew rest and duty time limits,

Training deficiencies

Lapses in operational procedures.

These notices stemmed from voluntary disclosures made by Air India in June, which detailed lapses on ultra-long haul flights operated between April 27 and May 2, and other operations in July 2024, October 2024, and April 2025.

An Air India spokesperson confirmed the notices and reiterated the airline’s “commitment to crew and passenger safety.”

This brings the total to 13 safety-related notices served to Air India in just six months.

String of Incidents Raise Alarm

Several recent Air India incidents have alarmed passengers and regulators alike:

On Tuesday, an Airbus A321 from Hong Kong to Delhi caught fire in its auxiliary power unit after landing. The blaze was quickly contained.

On Wednesday, an Air India Express flight from Kozhikode to Doha was diverted back after a technical snag shortly post take-off.

Earlier in the week, AI 2403 (Delhi-Kolkata) aborted take-off after a cockpit warning during the take-off roll. All 160 passengers were safely evacuated.

On the same day, AI 2744 (Kochi-Mumbai) veered off the runway during landing amid heavy rains, damaging one engine.

Industry-Wide Safety Concerns

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister Mohol disclosed that five Indian airlines had reported 183 technical snags just this year, as of July 21. The Air India Group, including AI Express, topped the list with 85 defects.

Other carriers reporting issues include:

IndiGo: 62 snags
Akasa Air: 28 snags
SpiceJet: 8 snags
Data also shows that Air India Group has recorded 541 technical snags over the past five years, the highest among Indian carriers.

Mounting Passenger Worries

With multiple high-profile incidents in a short span, Indian air travelers are growing increasingly uneasy. Aviation analysts say the pattern suggests deep-rooted structural problems, including overburdened crew, training lapses, and insufficient regulatory enforcement.

As investigations into the Ahmedabad crash continue, experts are calling for urgent reforms, enhanced safety audits, and better mental health safeguards for aviation professionals.

Cockpit Glitch: AI

at the Delhi airport on Wednesday evening, according to a source.

An Air India Express spokesperson said the crew of the airline's one of the flights from Delhi elected to reject takeoff, prioritising safety following a minor technical issue.

A source said the pilot decided to abort takeoff as there was a glitch with the screens displaying the speed parameters in the cockpit. The flight was to be operated with an A320 aircraft.

Passengers were deboarded and accommodated in an alternative aircraft that had departed for Mumbai, the spokesperson said on Thursday.

The spokesperson regretted the inconvenience while reiterating that safety remains paramount.

On Wednesday, an Air India Express en route to Doha had returned to Calicut after being airborne for a couple of hours due to a technical snag. (PTI)

Doha-Bound

due to a technical issue, officials said. They said an alternative flight was later arranged for the stranded passengers.

Flight IX 375, carrying 188 people including crew, took off from Calicut at around 9.07 am but turned back and landed safely at 11.12 am, an airport official said.

“There was some technical issue in the aircraft’s cabin AC. It was not an emergency landing,” the official said.

The airline described the return as a “precautionary landing” and confirmed that all necessary protocols were followed.

The alternative flight to Doha departed with the passengers at 2.16 pm.

“One of our flights returned to Kozhikode after take-off due to a technical issue. We arranged an alternative aircraft on priority, provided the guests with refreshments during the delay and the flight has since departed.

“We regret the inconvenience and reiterate that safety remains our top priority in every aspect of our operations,” the airline said in a statement. (PTI)

Govt Staff Can

per annum, apart from other eligible leaves to a Central government employee, which can be availed for any personal reasons, including that of taking care of elderly parents,” Singh said in a written reply.

‘Chhari Mubarak’

prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir,” he said.

As per the schedule, the holy mace will be taken to ‘Sharika Bhawani Temple’ at Hari Parvat on Friday to seek blessings of the goddess.

On Sunday, the ritual of Chhari-Sthapana will be performed at Amareshwar temple Dashnami Akhara located at Budshah Chowk; a religious site particularly known for the Chari-Sthapana ceremony for the Amarnath Yatra, followed by Chhari-Pujan on Nag Panchami on Tuesday.

It is worth mentioning, the final journey of the Chhari Mubarak to the Amarnath cave shrine will begin with night halts at Pahalgam, Chandanwari, Sheshnag and Panchtarani. In the meanwhile, the Mahant will perform puja inside the cave on Shraavan Purnima, marking the culmination of the annual pilgrimage.

Notably, the pilgrimage will conclude with the “visarjan” (immersion) of the mace in Lidder River at Pahalgam.

9,000 perform darshan on Thursday

Meanwhile Amarnath Yatra continued on Thursday with around 9,000 pilgrims paying obeisance at the cave cave shrine.

With this, the cumulative figure of devotees who have undertaken the pilgrimage since its commencement on July 3 has reached 3.52 lakh.

What Gets Cheaper

bring significant benefits to India by opening new avenues of growth, skill development, and employment opportunities for Indians across multiple sectors.

The FTA will benefit not just the youth looking to build careers in information technology, financial services, professional services, management consultancy, architectural and engineering, and more, but will also support young entrepreneurs, and Indian graduates to pursue careers in the UK.

“Our landmark trade deal with India is a major win for Britain. It will create thousands of British jobs across the UK, unlock new opportunities for businesses and drive growth in every corner of the country, delivering on our Plan for Change,” said PM Starmer.

26 British companies have announced new business in India.

How India benefits from the trade deal

Now, Indian industries and people will be able to access medical devices, aerospace parts made and imported from the UK at a much cheaper cost.

British products such as soft drinks, cosmetics, chocolates, biscuits, lamb, salmon and cars will also be easily accessible to Indians, as the average tariffs will drop from 15 per cent to 3 per cent after the free trade agreement comes into effect. Electric vehicles will see a tariff cut from 110 per cent to 10 per cent within a quota.

After the trade deal comes into operation, it will be easier for British firms to export whisky and other products to India per PTI. Import duty on whisky will fall from 150 per cent to 75 per cent immediately and to 40 per cent over 10 years.

Apart from products, the trade agreement also makes it easier for Indians to live in the UK as firms and freelancers will have access to 36 service sectors in the UK with no ‘Economic Needs Test’.

Indian professionals will now be able to work in 35 sectors in the UK for 2 years even without an office in the country. The commerce ministry has stated that the move could benefit more than 60,000 IT professionals each year. Major beneficiaries include TCS, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, and Wipro.

Indian professionals will also be exempted from UK social security payments for 3 years under the agreement.

The deal also helps professionals such as chefs, yoga teachers, musicians and other contract-based workers by helping them enter the UK job market.

How UK benefits from the trade deal

The deal will lead to major cuts in Indian tariffs with reductions secured on 90 per cent of tariff lines. In 10 years, 85 per cent of these will be exempt from tariffs.

UK businesses will gain expanded access to public procurement opportunities in India.

British companies will be able to bid on non-sensitive government tenders valued above Rs 2 billion. This means, the UK can potentially participate in 40,000 tenders each year, collectively worth around Rs 4.09 lakh crore.

The UK will be able to create over 2,200 jobs as a direct result of the trade agreement.

UK workers will also see a wage hike of up to 2.2 billion pounds each year.

British people will see cheaper prices and more choice on clothes, shoes, and food products.

Terror Victims

40 families received job appointments on July 13, within 15 days of LG Sinha's assurance in Anantnag last month.

Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh from Sheeri, Baramulla, who lost his father to terrorist violence, said repeated promises by past regimes amounted to nothing. “No one can imagine our pain,” he said. “They made us run in circles with fake assurances and endless verifications. We urge LG Sinha to reserve jobs for survivors, we have suffered enough.”

A woman from north Kashmir, whose husband and only son were killed by terrorists, said she was never offered help. “I was left alone to raise two grandchildren in pain and poverty. No one came,” she said.

Responding to the survivors' accounts, LG Sinha said families of terror victims had been ignored for decades while those connected to militants were given jobs and political cover. “That era is over,” he said. “The real victims are finally being heard and rehabilitated.”

In his address, LG Sinha said the government is committed to correcting past wrongs and dismantling the long-standing “terror ecosystem” that allowed perpetrators to thrive while victims were forgotten.

“For almost three decades, conflict entrepreneurs ruled the roost. They painted terrorists as victims and India as the aggressor. That false narrative has been demolished,” the LG said. “We are now identifying those who supported terrorism and removing them from government jobs. Justice belongs to the real victims.”

To institutionalize support, the J&K administration has launched a dedicated web portal to document and process claims from families affected by terrorism. It will track pending grievances, verify property encroachments, and fast-track compensation and job appointments. Toll-free helplines have also been set up in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

Special Monitoring Cells in the Chief Secretary's and DGP's offices will oversee and coordinate resolution of claims. The LG said the administration is also investigating cases involving Kashmiri Pandits killed by terrorists in the 1990s.

“We’ve received complaints from the ‘90s where even FIRs were never filed. I assure the people that the culprits will not be spared,” Sinha said, urging citizens, civil society, and the media to support the process of justice.

Youth Will Drive

at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora.

Yuva Connect is a flagship initiative under the Viksit Bharat-Yuva Connect Program launched by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor lauded the transformative platform for youth engagement which aims to bridge the gap between young citizens and policymakers while empowering youth to become active stakeholders in nation-building.

He said the initiative is a step toward fostering structured youth engagement and building a stronger link between young citizens and policymakers.

“Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Program aims to create a platform where youth can share ideas, engage in policy dialogues and be inspired to contribute actively to India's development journey towards Viksit Bharat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had outlined four main objectives for Youth Connect: Engage, Encourage, Enable and Inspire. Leveraging the MY Bharat platform, the program emphasizes fostering dialogue, participatory governance, and leadership development among India's youth, thereby preparing them to contribute effectively to the country's growth and development journey towards 2047.

The program is designed to inspire young minds to engage actively in civic and national issues. It creates structured opportunities for youth to share their ideas, participate in policy dialogues, and articulate their perspectives on matters of national importance,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor encouraged the youth of J&K to lead India's development journey and provide innovative solutions to the nation's pressing challenges.

“Youth will create a brighter future of J&K and ensure long-lasting peace and prosperity. In this 21st century, despite constant change and challenges, it is our youth—our most valuable asset—who possesses the power to drive the socio-economic revolution. Jammu and Kashmir, brimming with infinite possibilities, is empowering its aspiring youth with abundant resources and opportunities,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Move ahead with the resolve of Nation-First. Adopt the Hon'ble Prime Minister's “Panch Pran” resolution. Qualities like Initiative, Leadership, Self-Confidence, Persistence, Imagination and Courage to learn from failure will guide you on the path of Viksit Bharat's journey, the Lieutenant Governor told the youth.

He congratulated the Vice Chancellor and faculty members of IUST for implementing progressive reforms in the last few years which contributed to transform J&K's higher education sector and also inspiring the higher educational institutions across the country. This is the right time IUST should work on establishing a semiconductor lab, he said.

“We can achieve the resolution of Viksit Bharat only when J&K is Viksit, when our districts are Viksit, and most importantly our Universities are Viksit and play an important role in our economic growth. I am proud that the IUST is working with this resolve in true letter and spirit,” the Lieutenant Governor further said.

Paying tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Lieutenant Governor urged the youth to dedicate themselves fully to building a brighter future for India and an inclusive society, as envisioned by Sardar Patel.

The Lieutenant Governor also reiterated his resolve to combat the drug menace, taking a firm pledge to make every university in Jammu and Kashmir drug-free.

He emphasized that only drug-free campuses can contribute to nation-building, a goal achievable through a few key initiatives.

The anti-drug drive must begin at the admission level, encouraging every student to take an oath to stay away from drugs. Every university should establish a ‘Say No To Drugs Student Committee’, supervised by faculty members, which will serve as an Early Warning Mechanism.

Universities must create a confidential reporting system and provide needy students with assured access to support via helplines like Tele-Manas. In addition to counselling and support systems, drug de-addiction content should be incorporated into the academic curriculum, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated the winners of pre-events including Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament, Debate Competitions, and extended his best wishes for the upcoming main event on August 12th. This significant day will see the formal launch of the “Viksit Bharat – Yuva Connect Program” by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will simultaneously engage with students and faculty across 1,339 universities.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor administered Viksit Bharat Shapath, a collective pledge affirming their commitment to the nation's progress. He also released the University's publication and IUST's institutional development plan for achieving academic excellence and making the university future ready.

Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor IUST presented a special presentation on how the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 is being integrated into the university's Institutional Development Plan (IDP), covering administrative, academic, research, and outreach activities down to the department and center levels.

Yuva Samvad, an open dialogue session among the students was also held, focusing on civic responsibilities, national development, and current issues, followed by the screening of the “Sardar @150” video, a visual tribute to the life and legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, Basharat Qayoom, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama; Prof. A. H. Moon, Dean Academic Affairs; Prof. Abdul Wahid, Registrar, IUST; senior officials, HoDs, faculty members and students were present.

India Strikes

social security contributions for up to three years for employees who move from India.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and his British counterpart Jonathan Reynolds signed the agreement at a ceremony in UK Prime Minister's country residence Chequers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who flew in to mark the occasion, hailed the pact as “a blueprint for our shared prosperity”.

“On the one hand, Indian textiles, footwear, gems and jewellery, seafood, and engineering goods will get better market access in the UK... On the other hand, people and industries in India will be able to access products made in the UK, such as medical devices and aerospace parts, at

affordable and attractive prices,” he said.

In his remarks to the media, Modi said the UK and India are “natural partners” and said the nations were “writing a new chapter” in their history.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer termed it “the biggest and most economically significant” trade deal Britain has made since Brexit.

“The UK has been negotiating a deal like this for many years, but it is this government that got it done, and with it, we’re sending a very powerful message that Britain is open for business, and that is already generating huge confidence,” he said.

For India, the FTA represents its most significant strategic partnership with an advanced economy and could serve as a model for future agreements, including a potential deal with the European Union.

Under the pact, which has been termed Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), tariffs on Scotch whisky will be reduced from 150 per cent to 75 per cent immediately, and further lowered to 40 per cent by 2035.

On automobiles, India will reduce import duties to 10 per cent over five years, down from the current rate of up to 110 per cent, under a gradually liberalised quota system.

In return, Indian manufacturers will gain access to the UK market for electric and hybrid vehicles, also within a quota framework.

India has provided duty concessions to the UK auto exporters only on large petrol and diesel vehicles and high-priced EVs, while protecting sensitive segments of the domestic automotive industry, especially mid and small cars and low-priced EVs, under the trade pact.

No concessions are given to electric, hybrid, and hydrogen-powered vehicles in the first five years of the agreement.

On the other hand, India will get duty-free access to several agri goods in the UK, such as fruits, vegetables, cereals, turmeric, pepper, cardamom, and processed goods like ready-to-eat food, mango pulp, pickles, and pulses.

Over 95 per cent of agricultural and processed food tariff lines will attract zero duty. Marine products such as shrimp, tuna, fishmeal, and feeds, currently taxed between 4.2 per cent and 8.5 per cent at present, will become completely duty-free once the pact comes into force. It may take about a year, as it requires approval from the British parliament.

In the textiles segment, India is facing a duty disadvantage vis-a-vis Bangladesh, Pakistan and Cambodia, which have duty-free access to the UK market. Now this FTA would eliminate the tariff on textile imports from India, thereby enhancing its price competitiveness in the UK market.

Products that are poised for exponential growth include RMG (ready-made garments), home textiles, carpets, and handicrafts, where the removal of duties would create competitive advantages.

India is expected to gain at least 5 per cent additional market share in the UK within 1 to 2 years of the implementation of the deal.

The pact also announced tariff elimination (from 18 per cent at present) for Indian engineering exports to the UK. It could help double domestic exports in the next five years to over USD 7.5 billion by 2029-30.

India's exports of generic medicines and medical devices, such as X-ray systems and surgical instruments, will get a major boost with Britain agreeing on zero duty under a free trade agreement.

On the services front, the agreement will enable Indian financial services players to expand their footprint in Britain, enhance their competitiveness and serve the Indian diaspora and businesses.

For digitally delivered financial services, the UK has provided market access with respect to the various sub-sectors under both insurance and insurance-related, and banking and other financial services.

With regard to the insurance sector, the agreement is expected to enable non-life insurance services and insurance intermediation (maritime shipping and goods in international transit), reinsurance and retrocession, and services auxiliary to insurance to expand their operation in India.

India has also secured an agreement on the Double Contribution Convention, which will exempt Indian professionals and their employers from social security payments in the UK for up to three years, improving the cost competitiveness of Indian talent.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that it will provide duty-free access to several domestic sectors such as leather, electrical machinery and chemicals in the British market, thus unlocking nearly USD 23 billion in opportunities.

“Duty-free access for about 99 per cent of Indian exports unlocks nearly USD 23 billion in opportunities for labour-intensive sectors, marking a new era for inclusive and gender-equitable growth,” Goyal said in a post on X.

Commenting on the deal, India Inc said that the pact marks a transformative moment in the global economic landscape, laying down the blueprint for a modern, values-led partnership.

Historic Day For

vowed to chart a new growth path amid growing global concerns over Washington's trade policies.

Today is a historic day in India-UK relations, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who witnessed the signing of the trade pact along with his British counterpart Keir Starmer.

After many years of hard work, a comprehensive economic and trade agreement has been inked between India and the UK, he noted, with Starmer by his side at Chequers, the country residence of the British PM.

The two leaders held a tete-a-tete before holding serious talks.

The deal is expected to benefit 99 per cent Indian exports from tariff.

In his remarks, Starmer said it is the biggest and economically most significant trade deal that the UK has signed since leaving the European Union.

In his media statement, Modi thanked the UK for its strong condemnation of the Pahalgam terror attack and said both sides are united that “there is no place for double standards in the fight against terrorism.”

We agree that forces with extremist ideologies cannot be allowed to misuse democratic freedoms, he said.

Modi said security agencies of India and the UK will continue to enhance cooperation and coordination on matters such as the extradition of economic offenders.

On the free trade pact, Modi said it will create new opportunities in the British market for India's agricultural produce and processed food industry, and that it will be particularly beneficial for India's youth, farmers, fishermen, and MSME sector.

Indian textiles, footwear, gems and jewellery, seafood, and engineering goods will gain better market access in the UK, he added.

Modi said India and the UK are also firming up the “Vision 2035” roadmap to give new momentum and energy to the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two sides in the next decade.

The prime minister also touched upon the overall situation in the Indo-Pacific.

We have continued to share views on peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and the situation in West Asia, he said.

The prime minister asserted that respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries is essential.

The demand of today's era is not “expansionism, but developmentalism,” he said.

Modi also condoled the deaths of several British citizens in the Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad last month.

Pact Brings Hope

could bring new global opportunities, especially with the zero-duty access on 99 percent of Indian exports, including labour-intensive sectors like textiles, leather, footwear and handicrafts.

Signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, details reveal that the agreement is hailed as a major step in economic integration.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal stressed that the pact would empower artisans, women-led enterprises and MSMEs, which form a vital part of India's export ecosystem.

Stakeholders believe this could positively impact Kashmir's traditional sectors as well. Globally renowned crafts such as Pashmina shawls, Sozni embroidery, Papier-mache, walnut wood carving and Kani weaving are likely to benefit from easier access to the UK market, reduced export costs and expanded demand.

Local entrepreneurs and exporters see the development as a positive step.

Abdul Rashid Wani, a carpet exporter from Srinagar, said that if properly implemented, this agreement can be a turning point for Kashmir's artisan community.

He said the UK has always had a demand for handmade Kashmiri products. “With zero duty, our pricing becomes competitive,” he said.

Officials believe the agreement opens new avenues for 'Kashmiri women entrepreneurs and youth-led startups', many of whom are engaged in craft, fashion and design. The Ministry of Commerce has indicated that efforts will be made to link regional industries with global value chains under the new framework.

Traders and exporters say the deal could help address the already existing slowdown in Kashmir's export sector, particularly as machine-made alternatives increasingly threaten traditional handmade products.

Notably, with Kashmir's artisan economy already supporting thousands of families, stakeholders hope CETA will not only drive economic benefits but also aid in the preservation of craft traditions, making them more viable in the global marketplace.(KNO)

England End Day Two At 225/2, Trail India By 133 Runs

Press Trust of India

MANCHESTER: England were comfortably placed at 225 for two at stumps after bowling out India for 358 on the second day of the fourth Test here on Thursday. Openers Ben Duckett (94 off 100 balls) and Zak Crawley (84 off 113 balls) led England's strong response with a brisk 166-run partnership, as the home team trailed India by 133 runs in their first innings at close of play.

Ollie Pope (20) and Joe Root (11) were at the crease at stumps.

Earlier in the day, Rishabh Pant batted with a fractured toe to score a half-century before the Ben Stokes-led England ended India's first innings post lunch.

The injured Pant, who walked in awkwardly to a standing ovation a day after retiring hurt on 37 after copping a blow on his right foot, braved pain to make 54 off 75 balls even as Stokes finished with excellent figures of 5/72.

Resuming on 264 for four, India were dealt an early blow as



Ravindra Jadeja edged a Jofra Archer outswinger to Harry Brook at second slip in only the day's second over.

Shardul Thakur (41) and Washington Sundar (27) added 48 runs for the sixth wicket after England opted to take the

second new ball at the start of the day's play.

Brief scores:

India 1st innings: 358 all out in 114.1 overs (Sai Sudharsan 61, Yashasvi Jaiswal 58, Rishabh Pant 54, Shardul Thakur 41; Ben

Stokes 5/72).

England 1st innings: 225/2 in 46 overs (Ben Duckett 94, Zak Crawley 84).

'Pant Batting With Broken Foot Will Be Remembered For 50 Years'

Indian vice-captain Rishabh Pant coming out to bat with a fractured foot is a testimony to his commitment for his team and an act of bravery that will be remembered for years to come, just like Anil Kumble dismissing Brian Lara with a broken jaw back in 2002, feels Sanjay Manjrekar.

Pant retired hurt on the opening day of the fourth Test against England after trying to reverse sweep Chris Woakes. He was well set on 37 then. Scans revealed that he had fractured his right foot.

On the second day, he was back at the crease and playing through excruciating pain, scored a half-century and also had a hand in two partnerships which cumulatively yielded 35 runs.

"When you do things like this — gestures like Anil Kumble bowling with his jaw strapped, those are moments in history you remember 50 years from now. It shows how keen he is to turn up for India," former India batter Manjrekar told Jio HotStar.

District Level Cricket Tournament Kicks Off At Budgam

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam kick-started its much-anticipated Inter-Zonal District Level Cricket Tournament for Boys Under-19 at the open ground Batpora here. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of students representing various government and private schools across the district.

The tournament was officially inaugurated by the Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO) Magam, Ghulam Nabi Lone, under the overall supervision and guidance of District Youth Services and Sports Officer

Budgam, Ghulam Hassan Lone.

"The vibrant opening ceremony reflected the growing passion for cricket among youth, with players displaying sportsmanship, energy, and determination. The event aims to foster healthy competition, promote physical fitness, and provide a platform for budding talent to shine at higher levels of competition," the department said in a statement.

"The Department of Youth Services and Sports, Budgam continues its commitment to nurturing sports culture across all zones and encouraging maximum student involvement in physical and extracurricular activities," it added.



United Elegant Win Kashmir Super League 2025 League Stage



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 15th and final league-stage matchup of the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025, powered by Athwas Hyundai and J&K Sports Council was held on Thursday.

Arco United FC edged past United Elegant FC 1-0 at TRC Ground here after a decisive

2nd minute strike from Sahil Khurshid sealed the win for Arco United.

Despite the result, United Elegant FC were officially crowned League Winners of the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025, having maintained an exceptional run throughout the season.

Nadeem Ali won the Khyber Cement Game Changer Award, while Sahil Khurshid took the Khyber Cement Player of the Match. Athwas Golden Moment Award was won by Shoaib Haneef, while Events Emporio X Factor Excellence Award went to Tajamul Islam.

The post-match felicitation ceremony was attended by dignitaries, including Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council; Qaisat Jamshed, MLA Lolab; Showkat Hussain Ganai, MLA Zainapora; Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo, MLA Chanapora; Mohammad Yousuf Dar, former international footballer; Kaiser Bhat, Downtown Heroes FC; and Javid Ahmad, representing Khyber Cement.

Girls' Zonal District Level Kho Kho Begins In Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag conducted its Inter-Zonal District Level Kho-Kho Tournament for Girls on Thursday at sports grounds of MS Bona Dailgam here. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation and competitive spirit from various zones of the district, showcasing budding talent and sportsmanship among young girls.

A total of six high-energy matches were played during the day, with the following results:

Zone Anantnag emerged victorious by a huge margin of 1 innings and 2 points,

displaying superior agility and tactical gameplay over Zone Qazigund.

In another match between Zone Verinag and Zone Mattan, Zone Verinag edged past Zone Mattan by just 1 point, making it one of the most thrilling encounters of the day.

In another battle Zone Achabal dominated the match against Zone Ashmuqam with a convincing win by 16 points and 1 innings. Zone Bijbehara registered a solid win by 4 points against Zone Doru. In another match, Zone Bidder defeated Zone Shangus by a margin of 1 innings and 4 points. In the last match of the day, Zone Achabal defeated Zone Anantnag by 1 innings and 2 points.

Provincial Level Kabaddi Tournament Inaugurated In Pulwama



Observer News Service

PULWAMA: District Administration Pulwama on Thursday inaugurated Inter-District Provincial Level Kabaddi Tournament at Mehjoor Memorial Boys Higher Secondary School here.

The event is being organised by Joint Director Youth Services & Sports Kashmir and is hosted by District Youth Services and Sports Office Pulwama.

A total of 128 student players from all 10 districts of Kashmir will participate in the competition. The tournament will feature competitions across Under-14,

Under-17 and Under-19 categories.

The event is being held at MMBHSS Pulwama under the close observation of deputed selectors and departmental officials to identify and select promising talent for the next level of the competition.

Speaking on the occasion, ACR Pulwama urged the youth to actively take part in sports and fitness activities.

Among others, the inaugural session was attended by District Youth Services & Sports Officer Pulwama, Principal MMBHSS Pulwama and other officials from the Youth Services and Sports department.

Upgradation Of Gulmarg's Winter Sports Infra Discussed

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Minga Sherpa on Thursday chaired a meeting at the DC Office Complex Baramulla to review proposals for upgrading Gulmarg Ski Resort into a fully equipped, internationally competitive winter sports destination.

The meeting focused on improving key infrastructure and operational capacities, including safety systems, emergency response, slope enhancements, and snowmaking technology to extend the ski season.

Officers from the concerned departments presented various inputs aimed at enhancing visitor experience and aligning facilities with international standards.

During the meeting, Managing Director, J&K Cable Car Corporation, Syed Qamar Sajad, presented a proposal outlining specific interventions such as avalanche mitigation systems, air ambulance services, weather monitoring equipment, and FIS-compliant trail development.

DC issued directions for time-bound planning, inter-departmental coordination, and strict adherence to safety and environmental norms.

Managing Director Cable Car Corporation J&K, Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Development Authority, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Gulmarg, Assistant Director Tourism, Tehsildar Tangmarg, Divisional Forest Officer Tangmarg, and other concerned officers were present during the meeting.

India To Play 5 T20s, 3ODIs In England In 2026

India will travel to England next year for a white-ball tour, including five T20Is and three ODIs, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced on Thursday.

India's tour will begin with a T20 on July 1 in Durham, followed by matches in Manchester (July 4), Nottingham (July 7), Bristol (July 9) and Southampton (July 11).

The three-match ODI series between the two sides will start at Birmingham from July 14, followed by matches at Cardiff, on July 16 and Lord's at July 19.

The Indian women team will also engage with England women in a three-match T20I series and a one-off Test. The T20 series will begin at Chelmsford on May 28, followed by games at Bristol on May 30 and Taunton on June 2.

The lone Test will be played at the Lord's from July 10.

The Ben Stokes-led England men's Test team will also welcome New Zealand and Pakistan in two Rothmans Test series, while Harry Brook's white-ball side will host Sri Lanka besides India in ODIs and T20Is.

AIFF Chief Chaubey Assures ISL Will Be Held This Season

All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey on Thursday assured that the Indian Super League (ISL), which has been put on hold for the time being, will be held this season, though he did not specify on a start date of the top-tier domestic competition.

He also said that a new head coach of the Indian men's senior football team will be appointed within the next 10 days after the technical committee sent three shortlisted candidates to the AIFF executive committee on Wednesday to pick from.

"As AIFF president, I assure you that the league will take place. But time is of the essence, there is international calendar, FIFA windows, home and away matches, so time is a factor," Chaubey told PTI at the sidelines of a press conference hosted by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

"If the league doesn't take place, it is not only footballers but the people who are associated with football will be affected. It's thousands of people who will be affected. So, we will put our best effort to ensure that the league happens," said Chaubey who is also a joint secretary of the IOA.

Pro Wrestling Icon Hulk Hogan Dies At Age 71

Hulk Hogan, the mustachioed, headscarf-wearing icon in the world of professional wrestling, has died at the age of 71, Florida police and WWE said Thursday.

In Clearwater, Florida, authorities responded to a call Thursday morning about a cardiac arrest. Hogan was pronounced dead at a hospital, police said in a statement on Facebook.

Hogan, whose real name was Terry Bollea, was perhaps the biggest star in WWE's long history. He was the main draw for the first WrestleMania in 1985 and was a fixture for years, facing everyone from Andre The Giant and Randy Savage to The Rock and even company chairman Vince McMahon.

He won at least six WWE championships and was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2005.

WWE posted a note on X saying it was saddened to learn about Hogan's death.

"One of pop culture's most recognizable figures, Hogan helped WWE achieve global recognition in the 1980s. WWE extends its condolences to Hogan's family, friends, and fans," it said. (AP)

BCCI To Host Asia Cup In UAE, India-Pak Match Likely

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI/DHAKA: The high-intensity cricketing rivalry between India and Pakistan will resume briefly in September as decks have been cleared for the BCCI to host the upcoming Asia Cup T20 tournament in the UAE, sources in the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) said on Thursday.

The decision was taken at an ACC meeting attended by all 25 member nations. BCCI was represented by its vice-president Rajeev Shukla, who attended the meeting to discuss the venue, virtually.

"The BCCI will host the Asia Cup in the UAE. India is likely to play

all its matches in Dubai. There are still deliberations on scheduling," an ACC source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The tournament is being held in UAE as India and Pakistan have mutually agreed to play all their matches across all multi-nation events till 2027 at neutral venues.

This edition of Asia Cup is being held in T20 format since the next ICC World Cup will be in the shortest format in India and Sri Lanka in February 2026.

The tournament will be held for a little over fortnight in September.

It has to end before the final week of the month as India's Test

series against West Indies is also scheduled around the same time. Out of the three international grounds, one at Dubai and other at Abu Dhabi is expected to be used for the tournament.

Keeping the interests of broadcasters as well as sponsors in mind, there is every chance that India and Pakistan will be clubbed in the same group and there will be minimum two games — group league and Super Six if not the final if both teams happen to qualify.

"Our vice-president Rajeev Shukla attended the ACC meeting. He will brief the members. I don't believe in speculations so you will get to know officially in a few

days time," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told PTI.

In Dhaka, ACC chairman and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) head Mohsin Naqvi also kept cards close to his chest when asked about a possible Indo-Pak match at the continental event.

"We will announce it shortly. We have had discussions with the BCCI and there are a few issues that we will resolve shortly. All 25 members attended the meet either physically or virtually. We are all on same page," Naqvi told reporters.

It is also learnt that due to BCCI's pressure, only two out of 10 items on the agenda, were discussed.

The only item in the agenda that was passed relates to grant for the developing nations under ACC's aegis.

"We have all decided to work for cricket. None of us wants politics in our organisation and we had very good meeting, hope we will continue working like this," Naqvi added.

When asked about his reaction about BCCI representative not attending the meeting in person, Naqvi didn't want to make much of it.

"That is not an issue. Recently, I couldn't attend the ICC Annual Conference in Singapore," Naqvi said.



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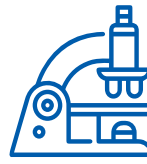
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